

2007 Call for Contributions for a Collection of Essays
Gendered Spiritualities: Catholic Women's Experiences of the Divine (1520s-1900)

Encouraged by the growing interest in the field of female Catholic spirituality, the editors are issuing a call for contributions for an edited collection of essays entitled *Gendered Spiritualities: Catholic Women's Experiences of the Divine (1520s-1900)*. This collection will examine British and Irish Catholic spiritualities, focusing on female relationships with piety and religious vocations and exploring, in particular, the concepts of norms and margins. Papers dealing with institutional or vocational orthodoxy, and with notions of faith and gender are particularly welcome.

- Papers concerned with institutional orthodoxy will raise issues such as Catholic women's positions regarding canonical conformity, religious rules and clerical authority. Women's choices to conform to, differ from or simply to ignore canonical prescriptions for female religious were often linked to their relationships with ecclesiastical authorities. When confronted with difficulties in securing the futures of their new foundations, how did women relate to institutional rules?
- Papers may also focus on Catholic women's positions regarding gendered moral, social and vocational constructs. When women embarked upon certain religious vocations, they often went against gendered preconceptions of morality and social respectability, which had an impact upon the perceived acceptability of their vocations. Thus, the work of novel communities, which at times overstepped the boundaries of the roles prescribed for women in the Church, will fit well in our conceptual framework, whilst cases of women who purposefully made choices which conformed with prescribed roles will be equally relevant.
- Contributions analysing Catholic women's reflections upon their female self will be most welcome. Considerations upon the nature of woman in the religious context will be particularly relevant: how did women view their abilities and failings, qua women, as part of the Church? Did they differentiate themselves from male religious, and in what ways? Papers may also dwell upon typically female relationships to the divine, maybe in the context of heightened spirituality and mysticism, or Catholic women's relationships with their physical femininity, with their bodies, or with notions such as virginity and motherhood.

Abstracts (maximum of 400 words) should be sent by Friday 30 March 2007 to either Carmen Mangion: c.mangion@history.bbk.ac.uk or to Laurence Lux-Sterritt: sterritt@up.univ-aix.fr

Proposed schedule:

Completed essays (8,000-11,000 words), to be submitted by 15th September 2007.

Edited essays returned to authors: December 2007

Reworked essays returned to editors: February 2008

Second edit: April 2008

Final review: June 2008

Manuscript to editors: September 2008