# ROBBERSON CONFERENCE PRESENTATION and CREATIVE EXHIBITION TRAVEL GRANT

## APPLICATION FORM

(Please TYPE the required information)

**Incomplete or incorrect applications will not be considered.**

Place this form on the front of the application packet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last name</th>
<th>First name</th>
<th>Middle Initial</th>
<th>amount Requested</th>
<th>Grad. Department</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>OU E-mail Address</th>
<th>English</th>
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<tr>
<th>Major/Professor or Advisor</th>
<th>Name of Conference/Exhibition</th>
<th>Start/End Date of Conference/Exhibition</th>
<th>Title of Presentation or Creative Exhibition</th>
<th>Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

"Let Not Thine Hearts Be Troubled": Body & Soul in Donne's

**Author(s):** List all authors in the order they are shown on presentation.

**# of Graduate Hours Currently Enrolled:** (If less than full-time please explain)

**Authorship:** How was the order of authorship determined? (briefly explain)

**Single author**

Describe the format of your presentation

- [ ] Poster
- [x] Paper
- [ ] Fine Art Performance
- [ ] Other creative activity

Have you ever received a Robberson Travel or Research Grant?  
- [ ] Yes  
- [ ] No

If Yes:  
- [ ] Travel  
- [ ] Research;

Date received:  
- Month  
- Year

Level of degree sought at time of award:  
- [ ] Masters  
- [x] Ph.D.

Are you a graduate fellow receiving professional development funds from the Graduate College?  
- [ ] Yes  
- [ ] No

## Verification

The undersigned have read and fully understand the specifications of the Graduate College Robberson Grant Policy. In addition, the undersigned represent that the applicant meets the eligibility requirements as stated herein and understand that if the application fails to meet the specifications on this form and the Application Guide in any way, then it will be ineligible for consideration. Furthermore, the undersigned represent that the student is in good academic standing with the department.

## Notice of Compliance

It is a violation of Oklahoma State Law and the University of Oklahoma Student Code to knowingly omit other sources of funding. If an applicant receives or learns that he or she will receive funding for this conference, research, or creative activity, the applicant must immediately notify the Assistant Dean of the Graduate College of the source and amount of the funding. Failure to do so will result in the revocation of the award and the applicant may be charged with a violation of the Student Code.

Your signature below also verifies that you will not accept reimbursement (from all funding sources combined) in an amount greater than your total expenses.

**Student's Signature:**

**Date:**

**Department Chair or Liaison (Please Print):**

**Department Chair or Liaison Signature:**

**Date:**

**Direct completed application packets to:**

Dr. Janis M. Paul, Associate Dean  
Attn: Suzanne Peters  
Graduate College  
Robertson Hall Room 213  
Norman, OK 73019

**Updated:** July 2016 SP
Dear [Name],

Congratulations! I am happy to inform you that your submission for the 2017 Newberry Center for Renaissance Studies graduate student conference has been accepted by the organizers. You were chosen from a strong field of submissions for only 60 spots. I am sending a copy of this message to your school's faculty representative and the person you identified as the director of graduate studies in your department.

We will need you to accept or decline this invitation by Tuesday, November 15.

We encourage all presenters to attend the entire conference, January 26 to 28, but if you know now that one of these days will conflict with your schedule, please let me know. Although we cannot guarantee that the final schedule will accommodate your preference, we will try.

As a student at a member university of the Center consortium, you may be eligible to apply to your school for partial or full consortium travel funding to attend the conference. Each member institution sets its own policies, limits, and deadlines for granting funds. If your ability to accept is dependent on such funding, please contact your faculty representative as soon as possible to inquire. This web page has more information about these grants: [www.newberry.org/newberry-renaissance-consortium-grants](http://www.newberry.org/newberry-renaissance-consortium-grants).

The organizers are currently working on creating cohesive sessions of three papers each from the papers accepted. Once that task is complete, the chair of your session will contact you.

Once I have received your commitment to attend, we will send you more information about preparing your paper, registering for the conference, and so forth. We will be updating the conference web page as well ([https://www.newberry.org/01262017-2017-multidisciplinary-graduate-student-conference-nlgrad17](https://www.newberry.org/01262017-2017-multidisciplinary-graduate-student-conference-nlgrad17)).

Congratulations again, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincere best wishes,

Lia
Lia Markey, PhD
Director

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Chicago, IL 60610-7324
phone: 312-255-3565
markeyl@newberry.org
www.newberry.org/renaissance
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BUDGET JUSTIFICATION FORM
(Please TYPE the required information)

Instructions and eligible budget expenses can be found on page 2 of this application packet.

Name: ____________________________ OU ID # __________________________

Conference Name & Location:
Newberry Center for Renaissance Studies Graduate Student Conference

Estimated Travel Expenses

- Airfare: $350
- Lodging: $300
- Per Diem: $225

Other (must provide justification below): $125--Conference Registration fee

Total:
$1000.00

Funding requested from the Graduate College:

Other sources of funding:
Source: TAP (CAS) Amount: $500 requested
Source: English Dept. Amount: $300
Source: ______________________ Amount: ______________________

Justification: This conference will provide me with peer critique/feedback on a topic that is directly related to my thesis, which I will defend in the Spring 2017 semester. I have spent a considerable amount of time revising and editing the paper that I will present, but I feel as if I need a fresh perspective on the topic. My graduate committee is confident that one chapter of the thesis, which I am currently working on, is publishable, and therefore the feedback received at this conference could be both beneficial to my research and the University of Oklahoma. The Shakespeare article I am working on for publication is an ambitious topic, considering the desirability of scholars in my field to publish on Hamlet. Because the projects are interrelated, feedback on the conference paper will help further my other project, ideally leading to two articles that are publishable, due to a gap in research. As a full-time graduate student in the English department, teaching fellow for the Center for Teaching Excellence, and a single parent, it will be unlikely that I can attend this conference without funding from this grant. Your strong consideration is greatly appreciated.

Updated: July 2016 SP
Early modern scholars have difficulty reconciling the routine inconsistencies throughout the canon of poet and theologian John Donne, a major figure in the Western canon of literary studies. Death is one of the major themes that Donne experiments with throughout his career, in interesting and often irreconcilable ways. Donne understands mankind to be in a state of fallenness, both body and soul. He is interested in the relationship between the two, and some scholars argue that his works as a whole demonstrate his understanding of the body as merely a prison for the soul. In *Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions*, however, Donne explores themes of sickness and death by considering the relationship between the physical body and the incorporeal soul as a partnership, which is problematic for the state of the soul, upon the death of the physical body. These types of theological questions were common in England during the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, and although scholars have argued that the Protestant Reformation ushered in monotheistic religious attitudes, with the establishment of the Anglican church, revisionist historians in recent years have demonstrated that religious attitudes in England during and following the Reformation are not so easily categorized. Reconsidering the attitudes of early modern people, concerning the removal of Catholicism and establishment of a new church, raises new questions for literary critics. Renowned Shakespeare scholar, Stephen Greenblatt, author of *Hamlet's Purgatory*, is one of many to begin revisiting major authors of the Western canon and introducing new research that fills a gap in scholarship that has primarily explored literature of the period from the perspective of a monotheistic society. I posit in this research project that authors such as Donne and Shakespeare, whose themes and attitudes are often difficult for scholars to reconcile, are responding to attitudes concerning religious change following the Reformation. While this concept on a broad scope is not revolutionary in literary criticism, it does force scholars to ask new and interesting questions about particular works and particular themes.

This presentation explores the theme of death and salvation, and the relationship between the body and the soul, in John Donne’s *Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions*. I will argue that Donne is unconventional in his stylistic approach concerning the separation of the body and the soul, and although inconsistencies exist throughout his body of work, in these particular writings Donne is confused about this symbiotic relationship and offers little resolve, deviating from his approach in other works. These writings confirm his fear and confusion of the post-death/pre-salvation state of the body and the soul due to post-Reformation religious anxieties in England that result due to shifting attitudes about Purgatory. They reveal a personal narrative, exploring moments of sickness as a result of mankind’s fallen nature, and Donne is concerned with the connection between the body and the soul in non-traditional ways, reconciling his life-long interest in death. In *The Devotions*, Donne’s anxiety in his state of sickness acts as a vehicle for exploring a problem involving the relationship between the body and soul, death and salvation, in post-Reformation England. This research contributes to the field of early modern scholarship in several ways: First, it reconciles competing claims from previous scholars that struggle to understand the opposing ways that Donne handles the theme of death in his works. Second, it invites new scholarship concerning religious attitudes by other major figures of the canon. And finally, this research invites interdisciplinary work from scholars across fields such as religious studies, history, history of the sciences, and literature.

Attending the Newberry Center for Renaissance Studies conference will allow me to engage with scholars in my area, from multiple fields. It will provide fresh perspective on a topic that I have spent a considerable amount of time working on and plan to continue with. The peer review/critique process will help further my research both on this particular paper as well as the current thesis chapter that I am working on for publication. Ultimately, I believe this conference will be a key component in achieving my academic goals here at The University of Oklahoma and will aid in getting my research published during my tenure here. I appreciate your time and consideration.