

The Fifty-Seventh Season of the  
**TORONTO RENAISSANCE AND  
REFORMATION COLLOQUIUM**

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**Sara Beam and Colin Rose**  
(University of Victoria) (Brock University)

**“Homicide between Family and State  
in Early Modern Europe”**

**Thursday, 14 October 2021  
4:00 p.m. (Toronto time)  
via Zoom**

To attend this talk, please send an email to [dgolds@yorku.ca](mailto:dgolds@yorku.ca) and include your name. One day before the event you will receive an email containing access information to the lecture and other event details.

Assault and homicide were ubiquitous in early modern Europe and, though some perpetrators were convicted and executed, many others were pardoned and reintegrated into society. Patterns of prosecution and patterns of punishment reveal not only the historical reality of violence but also the ways in which the state sought to corral the nobility and impose a “more just” and centralized system of control over wayward subjects. These two studies explore these themes in seventeenth-century Bologna and Geneva, both smaller polities struggling with external and internal pressures to temper their approach to criminal justice. Family, gender and social class were all important factors in the ways that homicide was experienced as a lived reality in early modern Europe.



Sara Beam is Professor of History at the University of Victoria. Her most recent publication is *The Trial of Jeanne Catherine: Infanticide in Early Modern Geneva* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2021). She is currently working on a manuscript on the practice of judicial torture in seventeenth-century Europe.

Colin Rose is Associate Professor of History at Brock University. His most recent book is *A Renaissance of Violence: Homicide in Early Modern Italy*. He is currently researching a geospatial analysis of police prosecution, surveillance and brutality in sixteenth-century Florence.

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