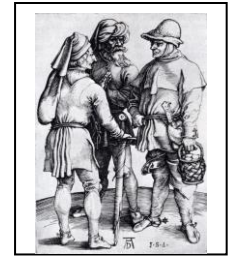


The Fifty-Fourth Season of the
**TORONTO RENAISSANCE AND
REFORMATION COLLOQUIUM**

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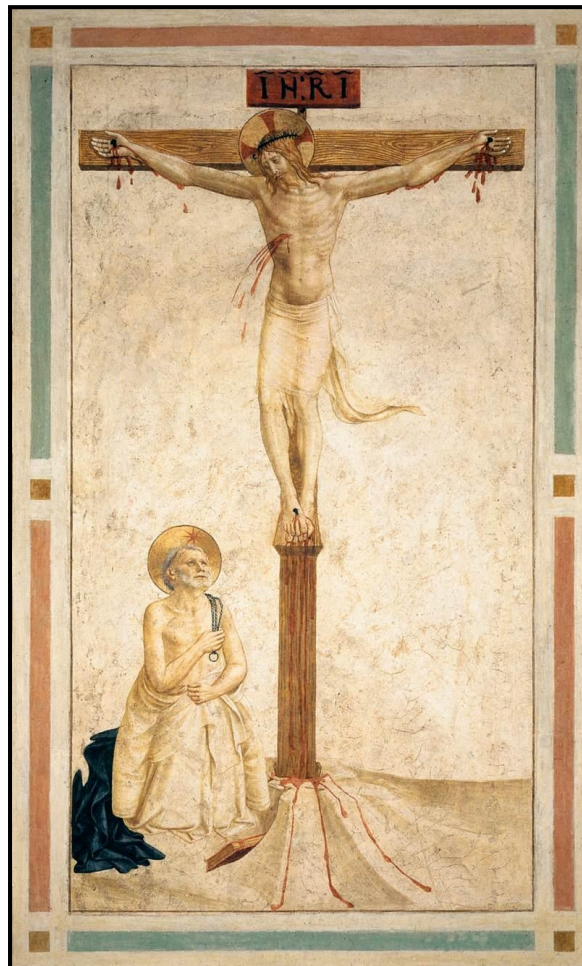


Marco Piana
(University of Toronto)
“Savonarola, Blood, and Prophecy”

Thursday, 17 January 2019, 4:00 p.m.
Carr Hall 405, St Michael’s College, 100 St Joseph’s Street

This lecture is presented in partnership with the Emilio Goggio Chair in Italian Studies

This talk will examine how the Dominican friar and Church Reformer Girolamo Savonarola (1452-98) used blood as a religious and visionary symbol. Savonarola’s prophetic imagination is especially important for understanding just how deeply rooted the devotional symbol of blood was in early modern Italy. The talk will thus analyze one of the most vivid examples of Savonarolan blood devotion, found in the friar’s commentary to Amos and Zacharias, in Sermon 44 (1 April 1496). Savonarola’s vision of Christ’s blood as a symbol of conversion will be put in relation with the works of Fra Angelico, Saint Catherine of Siena, and the movement of the flagellants. It will also be used to explain the friar’s legacy and cases of blood devotion among his followers.



Dr. Marco Piana is a Post-doctoral Fellow in Italian Studies at the University of Toronto. His research focuses on the literary representation of Otherness, gender, and religious identity in Early Modern Europe, with special attention to the works of Gianfrancesco Pico della Mirandola, Renaissance Neoplatonism, and pro-woman literature. Dr. Piana is also a research associate on the project “Equality and superiority in Renaissance and Early Modern pro-woman treatises” led by Professors Marguerite Deslauriers and Laura Prelipcean and on the project “Early Modern Conversions” led by Professors Paul Yachnin and Stephen Wittek.

Image: Fra Angelico, “Crucifixion with St. Dominic Flagellating Himself”
(c. 1442) Convento di San Marco, Florence