

## The Worlds of William Penn

November 19-20, 2015

Rutgers University, New Brunswick

### REQUEST FOR RESUBMISSIONS DUE TO TECHNICAL PROBLEMS WITH SUBMISSION SITE

**NOTE: Due to a technical problem with the email address dedicated to receiving submissions for the “Worlds of William Penn” conference, we are re-posting this announcement with a request for colleagues to resubmit submissions made to the conference prior to May 4, 2015. We apologize for the inconvenience and thank you, in advance, for your patience. We will accept submissions until June 1, 2015.**

The Rutgers British Studies Center invites proposals for “The Worlds of William Penn,” a two-day conference that will revisit the contexts and controversies that made Penn’s life and times so compelling and offer new perspectives on the early modern Atlantic world that shaped him and that he in turn did so much to shape.

Although we are interested in Penn as a figure who participated in a wide array of events in the early modern world, we especially hope to use his life and career as a window onto broader contexts for the making of the British Atlantic. At the height of his public career, between 1685 and 1688, William Penn was one of the best-known Dissenters in England, confidante of King James II, and governor of a bustling American colony. At its depths, he was imprisoned on suspicion of Jacobite plotting, and served time in debtors’ prison. But between the late 1660s, when he burst onto the public scene as a young agitator for popular liberties, and the second decade of the eighteenth century, when declining health removed him from political life, William Penn played an outsized role in English politics, the development of Quakerism, the articulation of religious liberty as a fundamental component of legitimate government, and the launching and governance of a major American colony.

We welcome proposals for papers that take up the complex world in which Penn operated, and that reflect on the ongoing legacies of the early modern world to broader questions and concerns across a wide range of disciplinary and interdisciplinary domains. Topics might include, but are by no means limited to:

- Anglo-American political thought
- Quakerism and Dissent
- Gender, law, religion, and society
- Literature and the Restoration stage
- Colonization and plantation: Ireland and America
- Immigration, trade, and the flow of people and goods
- Science and natural philosophy
- Cities and urban life
- Empire, enslavement, and encounters with indigenous populations
- Conflict, violence, persecution, martyrdom
- Material and visual culture and the folkways of early modern life

Proposals should include a one-page abstract describing the paper as well as a short curriculum vitae, and should be submitted as email attachments (PDF or MSWord, please) to [worldsofwilliampenn@sakai.rutgers.edu](mailto:worldsofwilliampenn@sakai.rutgers.edu) **no later than June 1, 2015**. Please direct any questions to Andrew Murphy, the conference’s convener, at [armurphy@polisci.rutgers.edu](mailto:armurphy@polisci.rutgers.edu). Funds may be available to help defray costs for graduate student presenters.