

Special Issue

Realpolitik in Renaissance and Early Modern British Literature

Message from the Guest Editor

This collection of essays will offer innovative readings of British literature of the Renaissance and early modern period that reflect the influence of realpolitik, especially as embodied in Machiavelli's writings, and *The Prince* in particular. Topics of interest for this volume may include (but are not limited to) the following:

- the depiction of major Machiavellian tenets;
- the contrasting of the traditional concept of the divine right of kings with the secular view of power;
- the portrayal of women as astute Machiavels;
- the concealment of secret plotting through literal and figurative disguises, with the characters who are most adept at dissembling being the most challenging to detect as political strategists;
- the appearance of Machiavellian strategies in literary works that are not overtly political in nature;
- the subversiveness of literary texts that explore early modern politics;
- the literary depiction of conspiracies and planned invasions, like those occurring in early modern England.

Guest Editor

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (31 October 2024)



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Editor-in-Chief

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manuscripts are peer-reviewed and a first decision is provided to authors approximately 36.1 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 3.6 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the first half of 2025).

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