



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

PRESENTS

A seminar

by

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“Vicious Multitudes or Honest Plain Folk? Social Theory, Criticism, and Protest in the Early Modern Mid-Atlantic”

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries intellectuals and government authorities in English America regularly incorporated ideas from Renaissance and Enlightenment Europe into analyses of colonial society. Civic humanist and republican values like virtue, patriotism, and the common good were frequently expressed alongside fears of an innately disorderly and rebellious commons. Over the same period, traditional populist critiques of avaricious and oppressive authorities grew in prominence in colonies in which social relations were increasingly strained by conflicts concerning labor, debt, and currency. By the middle decades of the eighteenth century, economic expansion and demographic growth, in tandem with new expressions of social distinction and an emerging print culture, produced novel adaptations of traditional forms of criticism. This presentation examines competing and oppositional ideologies in the unique social and cultural contexts of the mid-Atlantic region of North America between 1664 and 1750, with special emphasis on the cities of New York and Philadelphia.

DATE: 9 May 2013, Thursday

TIME: 17.00

VENUE: A130, FEASS Building