The Department of Medieval Studies and the Department of Gender Studies of Central European University cordially invite you to the public lecture of

Montserrat Cabré
Universidad de Cantabria

A hidden history: Women's politics and the adornment of the female body in Renaissance Europe

17:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 8, 2014
CEU–Faculty Tower #409
Budapest, V. Nádor u. 9.

Reception to follow!

This lecture seeks to show how the formation of women's political thinking is not a modern phenomenon rooted in the Enlightenment but rather grounded in Renaissance Europe, when women articulated political discourses on the significance of their participation in the public space. It will analyze the positions formulated by Nicolosa Sanuti, Laura Cereta and Christine de Pizan on a theme that is still at the center of socio-cultural and political debate: the control of the public appearance of the female body. The question of female adornment was a concern for these three 15th century women of diverse backgrounds, to the extent that the issue was to be found at the very heart of their vindication of women’s value. Their positions were in agreement with regards to the defense of women’s authority to speak up in public; however, their stances diverged in regards to female adornment.

This lecture is sponsored by The Lila Wallace – Reader’s Digest Endowment Fund at Villa I Tatti, Harvard University, Florence.

Montserrat Cabré holds a PhD in Medieval History from the University of Barcelona and is Associate Professor of the History of Science at the University of Cantabria, Spain, where she founded and directed the gender and women’s studies program between 2004-2010. She has been a visiting scholar at various European and North American universities, including Cambridge (UK), Toronto (Canada) Harvard and MIT (USA). She is actively involved in diverse national and international professional associations and has been the executive secretary of the Spanish Association for Research on Women’s History. She is currently on the editorial board of the journal of women’s history Arenal, a member of the advisory board of the book series Feminismos (Cátedra-University of Valencia) and director of the series Fenárete (University of Cantabria). She is the co-director of the journal of the history of science Dynamis. She has published extensively on diverse aspects of medieval and renaissance culture, especially in relation to the history of the body and women’s health practices, as well as on the history of women's thinking, particularly around the Spanish, French and Italian authors who participated in the querelle des femmes.