

## *Power and perspective*

*Society for Seventeenth-Century French Studies Annual Conference*

*Dublin, 11-13 September 2008*

This conference aims to continue the investigation into a question which has interested generations of scholars, namely the operation and construction of power in the early modern period – its dynamics, structures, interdependencies, representations, subversions, resistances. More specifically, our interest lies in the dynamic between power and perspective, as a philosophical, aesthetic, and epistemological paradigm. The juxtaposition of an understanding of *power* as a network of relations in the early modern world, and the notion of *perspective* as an ordering principle, a way of fashioning that world, conjures up some fruitful axes of investigation. What is the link between power and perspective in royal ceremonial? In official historiography? In literary and visual portraits? In theatre and set design? In the *livre à figures*? In architectural and garden design? In representations of the Self and of the Other? How do temporal and spatial order interlink with constructions of power? What rhetorics of power underpin the creation of meaning in official political discourses? These are some of the questions which the conference papers of 38 researchers from France, Ireland, Germany, the UK, Cyprus, and the USA will be addressing. Papers are in either French or English. For a full programme, contact [derval.conroy@ucd.ie](mailto:derval.conroy@ucd.ie).