Religion and Deception in Renaissance Literature

The *American Boccaccio Society* and the *International Machiavelli Society* warmly invite submissions for a co-sponsored session on the theme, *Religion and Deception in Renaissance Literature,* to be held at the Renaissance Society of America's 2026 Annual Conference, San Francisco.

Renaissance literature explores the intersections of religion and deception from a variety of perspectives and across diverse literary genres. The writings of Italian authors such as Giovanni Boccaccio and Niccolò Machiavelli are prime examples. The theme of false piety, for instance, emerges as early as the first tale of Boccaccio's *Decameron*, through the character of Ser Ciappelletto. Machiavelli, for his part, examines the relationship between religion and deception in both his literary works (e.g., *The Mandrake*) and his political writings, notably in his reflections on Numa Pompilius in *Discourses on Livy* I.11. To foster a comparative dialogue, this panel invites papers that explore how Renaissance authors engaged with the nexus of religion and deception. We welcome submissions focusing on one or more texts by Boccaccio, Machiavelli, and/or other Renaissance writers.

Paper proposals should be uploaded via Google Form by August 1, 2025, at noon at this link:

A.B.S. and I.M.S. Religion and Deception in Literature

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