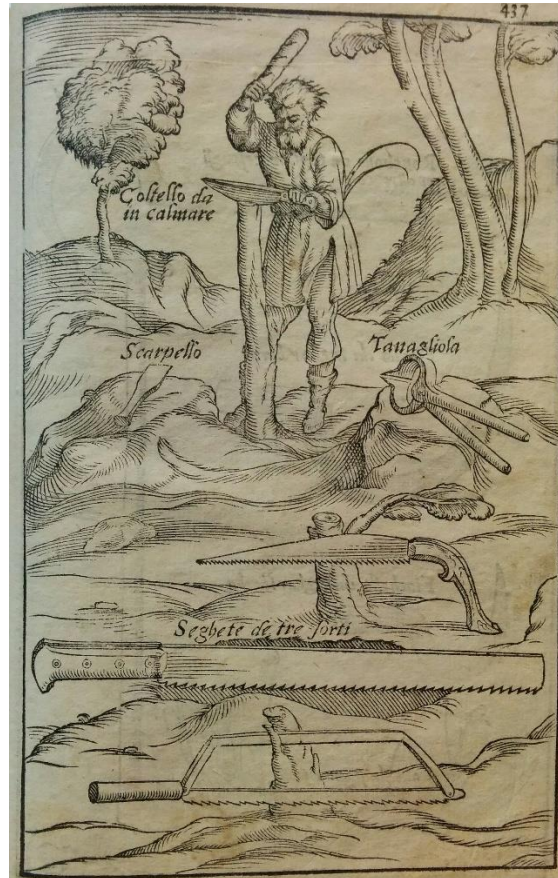


# RENAISSANCE SKIN

Artisans of the Surface in Early Modern Europe, 1450-1750

20-21 September 2018, King's College London

## Programme



Agostino Gallo, *Le venti giornate dell'agricoltura et de' piaceri della villa* (Venice, 1572)

This workshop focuses on the practices of a range of artisans and their relationships with the fields of meteorology, botany, natural history, medicine, earth sciences, and veterinary medicine. These artisans and their practices shared a set of skills related to the observation and manipulation of human and non-human surfaces. We will explore how, and if, practical knowledge about the surface of things and bodies (and their storage and preservation in relation to specific environmental conditions) led to the concept of nature and matter as composed of layers, and how such a framework contributed to the demise of traditional Galenic and Aristotelian views on nature.

This workshop also aims at getting past the dichotomies between quantitative and qualitative knowledge and between natural philosophy and the arts, and so we intend to broaden the focus to include a set of artisans who have traditionally remained invisible from accounts of this 'age of the new'. We will explore the many different ways in which 'modern science' emerged, the relationships between social and cognitive practices, and the contribution that non-mathematical sciences gave to the mental habits of observing, collecting, experimenting with, and manipulating natural matter.



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## Thursday 20 September

- 2.00pm Welcome and introductions
- 2.30pm Marta Ajmar, V&A Research Institute (VARI)  
*Like the skin follows the limbs': multilayered ceramics between geology, anatomy and natural philosophy in Renaissance Italy*
- 3.00pm Carla Benzan, McGill University  
*Avian surfaces and artisanal knowledge in Spanish Milan*
- 3.30pm Coffee break
- 4.00pm Maria Conforti, La Sapienza Università di Roma  
*Under the surface of the earth: metals, antiquities and knowledge of the body in 17<sup>th</sup>-century Naples*
- 4.30pm Jason Nguyen, University of Southern California  
*Monuments, quarries, and stone surfaces*
- 5.00pm Drinks and discussion
- 5.30pm Day 1 ends

## Friday 21 September

- 10.00am Elaine Leong, MPIWG, Berlin  
*Attending to the surface: recipes, material and techniques in the early modern household*
- 10.30am Jennifer Park, University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
*Artisans of the skin and the preservative arts: candying, cosmetics, and embalming in early modern England*
- 11.00am Coffee break
- 11.30pm Carolin Schmitz, European University Institute  
*Skilled over licensed? Medicinal knowledge and performances of unlicensed skin-and-bone artisans in early modern Spain*
- 12.00pm Brad Bouley, UC Santa Barbara  
*Making sausage: butchers, regulation, and occasional cannibalism in early modern Italy*
- 12.30pm Closing discussion
- 1.00pm Lunch
- 2.00pm Workshop ends

