



early modern

Social networks

Thanks to our sponsors:

College of Letters and Sciences
Division of Humanities and Fine Arts
Graduate Division
Graduate Students' Association
Interdisciplinary Humanities Center
Department of English
Department of History
Department of French and Italian
Department of Philosophy
Comparative Literature Program

Early Modern Center
Winter Conference
March 16-17, 2012

McCune Conference Room
HSSB Room 6020

Interdisciplinary two-day conference featuring:

Ann Blair *History, Harvard University*

Book Historical Approaches to Early Modern
Authorship

Elizabeth Eger *English, King's College, London*

Weaving the social network: Elizabeth Montagu and
the culture of connection

James Raven *History, University of Essex*

Forms of Enlightenment: Early Modern Social and
Economic Networks and the Perils of Print Culture

The word “network” is more likely to call to mind computer connection than the “**glittering net-work**” of a spider-web (E. Darwin, *The Botanic Garden*, 1781) or a “**Mantle of blacke silke**” (*Book of Robes*, 1600). What is the link between such “**curious Piece[s] of network**” (Addison, *Spectator* 275, 1712) and contemporary social networking? These older uses of network illuminate the development of early modern **techniques of loose connection**. By contrast with a chain-of-being model, networks are versatile, allowing for manifold modes of association.