

**Revisiting the Death of Charles IX and its Aftermath:  
Continuity and Change in French Politics, Society, and Culture,  
c. 1574-1584**

**15 May 2024, Maison Française d'Oxford**

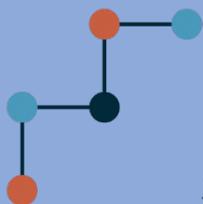


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Organised by Christian Martens (Geneva / Warwick) and Ingrid De Smet (Warwick)

With the support of the Swiss National Foundation for Science (SNFS)

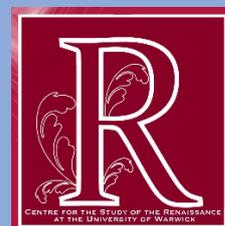
With a Keynote Address by **Mark Greengrass** (Sheffield)



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## Argument

After Queen Elizabeth II's death, the United Kingdom crowned a new king and entered the New Carolean Age. Such renaming of the future is a practice typical of monarchies, as they break with the past and open up the present. Similarly, the **death of Charles IX** on May 30, 1574, unleashed a flurry of potential new avenues for action and discourse. The **450th anniversary** of his passing offers us the opportunity to revisit that event's significance. As king he disappointed all the parties involved in the French Wars of Religion. At the moment of his death, the political situation was uncertain and rumours swirled that he had been poisoned.

Taken in isolation, the death of Charles IX forces us to reconsider what happened in the light of what could have been. It suggests **a recasting of the event and of its influence** on the next decade of the Wars of Religion. Was there any hope the heir, Henri, would not come back? Did the king's passing change the political calculus of the rebellious nobility? How did the complex and ever-changing European geopolitical chessboard react to another French monarch dying so young? Was the fated death of a hated king fêted by the Huguenots, or resented for its political consequences? Was there hope for change or fear of a break? To put it starkly, did the direction of history seem unsettled, or was the king's agony another sign of French decadence?

## Program

<b>9:30AM</b>	Welcome Coffee	
<b>10AM</b>	Christian Martens	Introduction
<b>First panel</b> (chair: Ingrid De Smet)		
<b>10:15AM</b>	Penny Roberts (University of Warwick)	'In the shadow of his mother and his brother'? A reassessment of Charles IX's reign c. 1568-74
<b>10:45AM</b>	Jérémie Ferrer-Bartomeu (Université catholique de Louvain / Université de Liège)	Dans les plis du temps. Le coup de majesté d'une reine régente, 8 août 1574
<b>11:15AM</b>	Coffee Break	
<b>Keynote Address</b> (introduction by Penny Roberts, University of Warwick)		
<b>11:30AM</b>	Mark Greengrass (University of Sheffield)	La chronique d'une mort (à moitié) attendue. Le décès du roi Charles IX à travers la correspondance du lieutenant du roi en Dauphiné, Bertrand Simiane de Gordes
<b>12:30PM</b>	Lunch Break	
<b>Second panel</b> (chair: Neil Kenny, University of Oxford)		
<b>1:30PM</b>	Sara Barker (University of Leeds)	Pamphlet production and design in France, c.1574-c.1584
<b>2PM</b>	Luc Racaut (University of Newcastle)	Charles IX's desacralized body: cruentation, autopsy and othering in the religious wars
<b>2:30PM</b>	Coffee Break	
<b>Third panel</b> (chair: Richard Cooper, University of Oxford)		
<b>3PM</b>	James McNamara (University of Innsbruck)	External perspectives on the death of Charles IX: William Camden's Annales of Elizabeth I
<b>3:30PM</b>	Christian Martens	François Hotman v. Charles IX: Narrating a Tumultuous Reign Between Polemics and Diplomacy
<b>4PM</b>	Ingrid De Smet	Conclusion
<b>4:30PM</b>	End of the day	

Attendance is free, but **prebooking** is required. Please contact: [Christian.Martens@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:Christian.Martens@warwick.ac.uk)