

Politics, Violence and the Republican Imagination: Lucan and His Legacy
Princeton University • October 3-5, 2003

ABSTRACT

Diane Purkiss, Keble College, Oxford: *Hags and battles: Erichtho and the writing of civil war and disorder*

This paper will be about the influence of Lucan's hag Erichtho on civil war representations of feminised disorder, and in particular on the representation of witchcraft and witches as a way of thinking about or writing about conspiracy and subversion. Beginning in the early Stuart era, the paper traces the evolution of the figure of Lucan's hag in rhetorics of order and disorder, and then examines the proliferation of the figure in Civil War writings, both literary and nonliterary, learned and popular. Texts discussed will include Marston's *Sophonisba*, several masques, Cowley's *Civil War*, Milton's *Paradise Lost*, and a number of satirical pamphlets.