

The ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions (Europe 1100-1800) and the History Discipline of The University of Melbourne present:

Public lecture

Luther and Dreams

By Professor Lyndal Roper

University of Oxford



Luther regularly labelled superstition, Catholic dogma, and the beliefs of the Turks and the Jews, as 'dreams'. '*Lauter somnia*', pure dreams, was one of his favourite insults, and he liked nothing better than to debunk them. Yet Luther was also fascinated by signs and portents, and though he often joked about dreams, he too noted important dreams. Dreams also happened to be recorded at key turning points of the Reformation, and they give rare insight into Luther's deepest anxieties and feelings. Discussed collectively, Luther and his followers used dream interpretations to communicate concerns they did not discuss explicitly. This lecture explores how historians can make use of dreams to understand the subjectivity of people in the past.

PROFESSOR LYNDAL ROPER is Regius Professor of History, Oriel College, University of Oxford, and one of the world's most renowned historians of early modern times. She is the first woman, and the first Australian, to hold the Regius Chair, and in 2016 she received the prestigious Gerda Henkel prize for her 'trailblazing' work on social, gender, and psychological history in the age of the Reformation. Her latest book, *Martin Luther: Renegade and Prophet* (Random House, 2017), is the first historical biography of Luther to be published in English for many decades. She is now writing a history of the German Peasants' War (1524–1525), the greatest uprising in Western Europe before the French Revolution. Professor Roper is a Fellow of the British Academy, the Australian Academy of the Humanities, and the Brandenburg Akademie der Wissenschaften; she is also a member of the International Advisory Board of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions.

DATE: Monday 4 December 2017
TIME: 6.15–7.30pm
VENUE: Room 153 (Forum Theatre)
Level 1, Arts West North Wing
The University of Melbourne
Parkville VIC 3010

REGISTRATIONS:
<http://alumni.online.unimelb.edu.au/lutheranddreams>

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This lecture marks the 1517–2017
quincentenary of the European
Reformation, set in motion by
Martin Luther in the German
university town of Wittenberg.