**From:** FICINO: FICINO Discussion - Renaissance and Reformation Studies <[FICINO@listserv.utoronto.ca](mailto:FICINO@listserv.utoronto.ca)> on behalf of Richard Raiswell <[editor@CHASS.UTORONTO.CA](mailto:editor@CHASS.UTORONTO.CA)>  
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**Subject:** CFP: Beyond Words: The Unknowable and the Unutterable in early modernity

\*Call for Papers\*  
  
\*Beyond Words: The Unknowable and the Unutterable in early modernity\*  
  
  
Friday 1st June 2018,  
  
CREMS, University of York  
  
  
This conference will explore the parameters of the Unknowable and the  
Unutterable in early modernity. It will range across the theological, the  
literary and the scientific, to attend to what early modern thinkers  
deemed beyond what they could find words for. If this apophatic  
inheritance – the language of what can’t be said - was a  
theological-mystical mode of thinking, what happened to it in the  
post-reformation climate of thought? Did natural philosophy understand the  
knowable limits of nature in the manner of the apophatic? How did emergent  
science negotiate the edges of what could be thought? What uses did early  
modern writers find for the apophatic traditions, Dionysius, Cusa, or John  
Scotus Eriugena? How did early modern poetry attend to the ineffable and  
that which was beyond words? The conference invites papers on the  
unknowable, the unutterable, the unthinkable and the unsayable, all  
broadly considered, in the sixteenth and seventeenth century, whether  
English or European.  
  
Keynote speaker: William Franke (Vanderbildt)  
  
Author of ‘On What Cannot be Said’ and ‘A Philosophy of the Unsayable’  
(among others).  
  
  
Please send abstracts (c. 250 words) to Kevin Killeen  
([kevin.killeen@york.ac.uk](mailto:kevin.killeen@york.ac.uk)), by \*Friday 10th November \*(or send expressions  
of interest).  
  
  
  
This symposium is part of the lax and diffuse Thomas Browne Seminar series  
  
<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.york.ac.uk%2Fenglish%2Fnews-events%2Fbrowne%2F&data=02%7C01%7Ctizbicki%40LIBRARIES.RUTGERS.EDU%7C184d2fd9f70440158c8908d51160a991%7Cb92d2b234d35447093ff69aca6632ffe%7C1%7C0%7C636434029229448441&sdata=2Dy6rgNlyeH7NufP8lwq5pMzBWs0AxTY3oJaV35vK30%3D&reserved=0>