

# WRITING RENAISSANCE EMBLEMS: HEARTS ON FIRE IN THE FIRST PART OF THE COUNTESS OF MONTGOMERY'S URANIA

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EIU HUMANITIES CENTER ANNUAL FACULTY LECTURE

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5 PM

DOUDNA LECTURE HALL

“With *The Countess of Montgomery's Urania* (1621), Lady Mary Wroth transformed the genre of Renaissance romance in ways that her male predecessors would never have imagined. Populating her pages with faithless, fickle heroes and heroines both practical and constant, she embroils them in adventures that push these *roman à clef* characters toward their dynastic destinies. In particular, her enchantment scenes, based on imagery from emblems and court masques, provide concentrated, dramatic episodes that illustrate the transformative whole of her work.”

Julie D. Campbell is professor of English and Women's Studies at Eastern Illinois University. Her areas of teaching and research are Renaissance and seventeenth-century literature with specialization in the works of continental and English women writers. She is the author of *Literary Circles and Gender in Early Modern Europe* (Ashgate, 2006) and the editor and translator of Isabella Andreini's pastoral, *La Mirtilla* (Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Studies, 2002). Dr. Campbell's current work is focused on women and transcultural patronage at the court of Henri IV.



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