

Disbelief in Romanticism

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The Early Modern English Research Group (EMERG) of the Department of English Studies at Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) was founded in 2015 by the late professor Géza Kállay and some of his students with whom he worked closely: Bence Levente Bodó, Ágnes Bonác, Zsolt Bojti, and Gergő Dávid. The aim of the research group is to further the study of the literature of the early modern period through the organization of lectures and conferences in an interdepartmental and interdisciplinary manner. From 2015 until Professor Kállay's untimely death on the 17th of November 2017, the research group met every month.

In December, 2016, I had the chance to participate in one of the monthly meetings of EMERG, where Géza Kállay suggested that we organise an international conference together, inviting scholars from the fields of both Renaissance and Romantic studies. This conference, the most ambitious project of the research group to date, took place in the May of 2017, with Géza Kállay as Renaissance project leader, and myself as Romanticism project leader. Drawing on Coleridge's definition of "poetic faith," Bence Levente Bodó proposed that we use "Disbelief" as the key term of the conference, to which we eventually gave the title "Disbelief: from the Renaissance to Romanticism." In the call for papers, we encouraged participants to track down the historical, political, religious, ethical, metaphysical, and aesthetic implications of disbelief in cultural productions between the 16th and the 19th centuries. This issue of the New Series of *The AnaChronisT* contains articles that grew out of presentations and discussions at the conference, focussing on the 18th and 19th centuries.