

*Women in Combat?
The Ambivalent
Discourse of Female
Militancy in
Renaissance Italy*



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The Italian sixteenth century offers the first sustained discussion of women's militarism after antiquity. Women's role in armed combat was debated and celebrated in didactic treatises, comportment manuals, poetry, and biographical prose. Based on my research for the book, *Moral Combat: Women, Gender, and War in Italian Renaissance Literature* (Toronto University Press, 2018), this paper will provide a brief survey of the debate of women's militancy in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. It will argue that writings about women's militancy were intended to both acclaim and debase women. The paper will also discuss how writings about women were, more often than not, part of a larger project to perpetuate a militant masculinity and normativize men's status as the militant sex.

Thursday, November 15th 2018

6:00-7:30 p.m.

Room 9204

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For more information see: <http://www.gc.cuny.edu/womencenter/>

