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Séminaire « Le voyage européen des républiques anglaises XVII<sup>e</sup> – début XIX<sup>e</sup> siècles »  
dirigé par Luc Borot (IRCL, Univ. Montpellier 3) et Myriam-Isabelle Ducrocq (IRCL, Univ. Paris 10)

Conférence de Gaby Mahlberg

## The English Republican Exiles in Europe



This paper aims to provide an insight in the lives, ideas and political activism of three English republican exiles, who were forced by circumstance to spend time abroad after the Restoration of the Stuart monarchy in 1660: Edmund Ludlow in Switzerland, Henry Neville in Italy, and Algernon Sidney, who travelled widely on the Continent before finally settling in the south of France. While the paper also engages with the republicans' biographies and political thought, its main purpose is to gain a better understanding of the transnational networks that enabled the exiles to escape from England and survive in the relative security of the European Continent for lengthy periods of time - more than thirty years in the case of Ludlow - and the role these networks might have played in the development and dissemination of English republican thought in generations to come.

The circumstances of the exiles suggest that they must have been able to tap into pre-existing communities as well as developing their own networks based on personal, political and religious connections. My paper will argue that we need to look, among others, at these networks and the exiles' intellectual environment in their new chosen context to understand the survival and relatively wide dissemination of republican ideas from the English Civil War and Interregnum period into the Restoration and beyond. I hope to show that English republicanism in the seventeenth century was transnational or (if we want to avoid a conscious anachronism for a period before the nation state) transterritorial or transcultural in nature and shaped to a significant extent by personal, political and religious networks, even though the nature and confessional make-up of these religious networks might at times be unexpected, with Catholic contacts frequently featuring alongside fellow Protestant dissenters.

Gaby Mahlberg is a historian and journalist with a particular interest in seventeenth-century intellectual history, republicanism and utopianism. She was a Senior Lecturer in Early Modern History at Northumbria University in Newcastle, UK, before leaving in August 2015 to work as an Editor for the German news agency dpa in Berlin. She is the author of *Henry Neville and English Republican Culture in the Seventeenth Century* (Manchester: MUP, 2009), and has co-edited with Dirk Wiemann, *European Contexts for English Republicanism* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2013) and *Perspectives on English Revolutionary Republicanism* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2014). Most recently she co-edited with Cesare Cuttica, *Patriarchal Moments* (London: Bloomsbury, 2016). This paper is based on her current book project on the 'English Republican Exiles in Europe'.