

The **Dante Alighieri Society of BC in Vancouver**  
and **SFU's Graduate Liberal Studies**  
invite you to a talk by **Dr. Emily O'Brien**



## Rescuing Florence

### Stories of a Renaissance City under Siege (1529-1530)

In 1529, **Florence** was besieged by imperial troops, backed by **Medici Pope Clement VII**. When Florentines finally surrendered in August 1530, the exiled Medici returned to power and went on to rule as dukes for two unbroken centuries. In her talk, **Dr. O'Brien** explores this pivotal event, highlighting **Michelangelo's** efforts to defend Florence and its treasures, the sacrifices of its citizens, and the enduring memory of the siege in art, literature, and history.

MCing by **Dr. Arianna Dagnino**, Dept. of French, Hispanic & Italian Studies, **University of British Columbia**

**Thursday, 27 February 2025, 6.30 pm-8.00 pm (PST)**

SFU Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, 580 West Hastings St., Vancouver

[Reception to follow](#)

**Dr. Emily O'Brien** Dr. Emily O'Brien, Associate Professor in the History Department and in the Global Humanities Department at Simon Fraser University, specializes in the Italian Renaissance, focusing on 15th-century humanism, politics, and the papacy. Author of *The Commentaries of Pope Pius II and the Crisis of the Fifteenth Century Papacy* (UTP), she considers Italy her intellectual home.



**RSVP** by email: [info@dantesocietybc.ca](mailto:info@dantesocietybc.ca) or [online](#)

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