



Institute of English Cultures and Literatures, University of Silesia

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Uniwersytetu  
Śląskiego  
w Katowicach

cordially invites everyone to a public lecture by

**Dr Lieke Stelling**

(University of Utrecht, the Netherlands)

entitled

# Faith in Jest: Towards an Understanding of Humour and Religion in English Reformation Literature

**May 10th (Thu.), 13.15, room 0.51**

In this lecture, I will present my new research project, which investigates the way in which humour was used to relieve religious anxieties in Reformation England (1529-1642), and, as such, contributed to a more peaceful climate. I will do so by studying how questions of faith were humorously reconfigured in imaginative literature – that is, long and short fictional narratives in the form of drama, jests and prose tales – and by examining these reconfigurations in the light of early modern and modern theories of the functions of humour. This talk will pay special attention to the anonymous comic prose tale *Tarltons Newes out of Purgatory* (1590), which offers a strikingly peaceful and mocking response to the polemical politico-religious satire of its day.



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**Dr Lieke Stelling** studied English literature at the University of Utrecht and University College London and comparative literature at the University of Utrecht. She completed her PhD at the University of Leiden in 2013 before returning to Utrecht in 2015. She is a research affiliate with the Early Modern Conversions project at McGill University (Canada) and her monograph entitled *Religious Conversion in Early Modern English Drama* is to be published by Cambridge University Press early next year.

