Wednesday, 21 June

6:00 pm Registration and Reception at Benjamin Mays Center, Bates College

7:00 pm Film: “Margaret Cavendish, Virginia Woolf, and the Cypriot Goddess Natura,” a play by Jim Fitzmaurice, directed by Henry Bell, with actors from The University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University.

Thursday, 22 June

8:30 am Registration

8:45 am

Welcome from Clayton Spencer, President of Bates College; announcements, Cristina Malcolmson

9:00 am

Session 1 Cavendish: The Social, Cultural, and Regional Backgrounds

Chair: Edith Snook, University of New Brunswick

Sarah Beah Jacobson, Yale University
Genre, Imperialism, and Northernness

James Fitzmaurice, Northern Arizona University and The University of Sheffield
Margaret Cavendish as Observer and Participant in the Cultural Milieus of Paris and Antwerp

Sara Mendelson, McMaster University
Margaret Cavendish and Aphra Behn: a comparison of their interactions with contemporary readers

10:30 – 10:45 am Break: Coffee, tea, juice, water
10:45 am
Session 2 Cavendish and Her Contemporaries

Chair: Mihoko Suzuki, University of Miami

Marshelle Woodward, Canisius College
The Dissolving Worlds of Margaret Cavendish and Hester Pulter

Laura DeFurio, University of Alabama
Lucy Hutchinson and Margaret Cavendish: Women, Solitude, and the State

11:45 pm
Session 3 The Text, Electronic and Otherwise

Chair: Liza Blake, University of Toronto

Sarah Connell, Northeastern University
“The Text is Variety”: Contextualizing and Analyzing the Works of Margaret Cavendish with Text Encoding

Shawn Moore, Florida SouthWestern State College and Jacob Tootalian, University of South Florida
“[L]ike to a Spiders Web”: The Digital Cavendish Project

12:45 Lunch Provided by the conference in the Bates Dining Commons

2:15 pm
Session 4 Cavendish’s Literary Influence

Chair: James Fitzmaurice, Northern Arizona University and The University of Sheffield

Ruth Trego, University of Miami
The Way of The Blazing World: Locating the Feminist Touch between Margaret Cavendish and Siri Hustvedt

Lara Dodds, Mississippi State University
A London Guide for the Blazing Worlders; or, Notes Toward an Alternate History of Science Fiction and Fantasy

3:15 pm Session 5 Shame and Her Sisters: The Very Critical Reception of Margaret Cavendish

Organizer and Chair, Mary Baine Campbell, Brandeis University

Cristina Malcolmson, Bates College
“Mad Madge” and Historians of Science

Marina Leslie, Northeastern University
In Defense of Not Defending Cavendish
Brandie Siegfried, Brigham Young University
The Mad, the Silly, and a Hint of the Sublime-to-Come: The Delicious Temptations of Margaret Cavendish

4:45 pm Break: Coffee, tea, juice, water, brownies and cookies

5:00 pm Session 6 Roundtable: Reimagining Early Modern Women Authors for Modern Audiences
Lisa Walters, Liverpool Hope University, Naomi Miller, Smith College, James Fitzmaurice, Northern Arizona University and The University of Sheffield

6:00 pm Plenary: Danielle Dutton reads from her novel Margaret the First, Pettengill Hall, G52, the Keck Classroom

Friday, 23 June

8:45 am
Announcements from Cristina Malcolmson

9:00 am
Session 7 Blazing World, Vision, and Natural Philosophy
Chair: Marina Leslie, Northeastern University

Maria Antònia Martí Escayol, Autonomous University of Barcelona
The Castilian translation of The Blazing World by Margaret Cavendish

Sophia Richardson, Yale University
The Empress’s New Clothes: Margaret Cavendish’s Sartorial Epistemology in The Blazing World

Shannon Garner-Balandrin, Northeastern University
Splendor on the Backs of Fish-Men: Entangled Ecologies in The Blazing World

10:00 – 10:15 am Break: Coffee, tea, juice, water

10:15 am
Session 8 Cavendish’s Poetry
Chair: Lara Dodds, Mississippi State University

Edith Snook, University of New Brunswick
Margaret Cavendish and Early Modern Medical Writing in Poems and Fancies (1653/64)

Liza Blake, University of Toronto
A Thousand Lines of Non-Linear Poetry: Reading Cavendish’s Poems and Fancies,
Part I

11:15 am
Session 9 Session Panel: Rethinking Domesticity and Science,

Organizer and Chair: Rebecca Laroche, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

Mary Trull, St. Olaf College
Atomic Aesthetics and Aristocratic Women in Margaret Cavendish’s Poetry”

Jennifer Munroe, University of North Carolina, Charlotte
Kitchen entanglements: An ecofeminist rethink of Cavendish, science, and the domestic

Rebecca Laroche, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
Tending the Fire: A Refiguration of Gendered Interiors in Matrimonial Trouble

12:45 pm Lunch Provided by the Conference in the Bates Dining Commons

2:15 pm
Session 10 Utopias

Chair: Alexandra Bennett, Northern Illinois University

Lauren Liebe, Texas A&M University
Margaret Cavendish and Post-Restoration Political Utopia

Maureen McDonnell, Eastern Connecticut State University
A “place for freedom”: Staging segregation as utopia within The Convent of Pleasure

Emily Jones, University of South Florida
Worldbuilding

3:45 pm Session 11
Reading and Debating Margaret Cavendish

Chair: Chris Koester, University of Alabama

Katherine Landers, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
The Readerly Interlude and Margaret Cavendish’s Prefaces

Promise Li, Occidental College
Reading Cavendish for the Vices

Barry Shelton, University of Georgia
“An Ingenious Opposer”: Margaret Cavendish and the Drama of Debate

5:15 pm Break: Coffee, tea, juice, water, brownies and cookies
5:30 - 7:00 Plenary
Carolyn Merchant, University of California, Berkeley
Margaret Cavendish: Natural Philosopher and Feminist

7:00 pm Conference Dinner at Benjamin Mays Center, Bates College

Saturday, 24 June

8:45 am
Announcements from Cristina Malcolmson

9:00 am
Session 12 Reception History
Chair: Jacob Tootalian, University of South Florida

Hilda Smith, University of Cincinnati
How historians and literary scholars treat Margaret Cavendish

Chris Koester, University of Alabama
Canonizing Cavendish: The Creation of a Literary Cult

10:00 am – 10:15 am Break: Coffee, tea, juice, water.

10:15 am
Session 13 The Cavendish Family
Chair: Brandie Siegfried, Brigham Young University

Alexandra Bennett, Northern Illinois University
Going Both Ways: Influence and Contribution in the Writings of Margaret and William Cavendish

Tanya Schmidt, New York University
“Lives or Lies”: Indirect Speech as “Feigned Orations” in Margaret Cavendish’s Life of William Cavendishe

Erin Murphy, Boston University
Mercy, Martyrdom and the Execution of Charles Lucas: Reconsidering Margaret Cavendish’s Wartime Singularity

12:00 pm Lunch in the Dining Commons. Pick up packed lunch for Excursion.

12:30 am Excursion. Meet in Fireplace Room in the Dining Commons.