

# Improvisation and Mobility



## 44th International Byron Conference Ravenna 2-7 July 2018

### Call for Papers

The Italian Byron Society is pleased to announce the 44th International Byron Conference to be held in Ravenna from 2 to 7 July 2018.

Byron's most famous use of the word "mobility" is in *Don Juan*, Canto 16, stanza XCVII, where he uses it to describe Lady Adeline Amundeville, adding a footnote in which he defines it as "excessive susceptibility of *immediate* impressions". Since then the word has been taken up by critics and biographers from Thomas Moore and Lady Blessington onwards, to refer to what seems an essential quality of Byron's personality and poetry (and, particularly in more recent years, politics). The word has sometimes been linked with the notion of improvisation, especially when considering the spontaneity (or apparent spontaneity) of his verse: "I rattle on exactly as I'd talk / With any body in a ride or walk." (*Don Juan*, 15, XIX). The conference will welcome 20-minute papers on topics including, but not necessarily limited to:

- formal experimentalism and improvisation
- multiplicity of voices
- hyphenated identities
- genre hybridity
- experience and imagination, fact and fiction
- geographical mobility
- cosmopolitan visions and identities
- political mobility and improvisation
- reinterpretations of Byron's mobility in later periods

The organisers also welcome prospective delegates to suggest ready-formed panels (of three 20-minute papers) on the following topics: Byron and Ravenna; Byron and Italian politics; Byron and Italian art.

Please send 250-word abstracts for individual papers or ready-formed panels to [byronravenna@gmail.com](mailto:byronravenna@gmail.com) by 1 March 2018.

Information on conference registration and accommodation as well as on the cultural programme of the conference will be posted later on the Conference website.

### Conference academic committee:

- Gioia Angeletti
- Shobhana Bhattacharji
- Gregory Dowling
- Olivier Feignier
- Alan Rawes
- Diego Saglia