



University
of Victoria

Centre for Studies in
Religion and Society

SCHOLARS IN THE SQUARE



Sarah Madsen



Tower of London, engraving by
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Conspiracy, Catholicism, and the Courts during the Popish Plot Crisis

Conspiracy theories are not new. Following over a century of religious turmoil in England, anti-Catholic sentiments sharpened in the late 17th century with the “discovery” of the fictitious Popish Plot to overthrow the king, Parliament, and the Anglican Church. While scholars have tended to focus on how Parliamentarians used fears about a Catholic conspiracy to gain political advantage, this lecture will address the neglected question of how conservative judges viewed populism as an equally tyrannical threat to existing power structures.

Sarah Madsen is an MA student in the Department of History at UVic. Her research focuses on Restoration England, conspiracy culture, criminal justice, and religious divisions.

Feb 26, 2026
5:00–6:00pm
CLE B017

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