During the Italian Renaissance, women became more prominent as authors and as patrons, and new works argued in favour of their worth and abilities. But how far could laywomen and nuns take part in the processes of circulating texts from authors to readers or listeners? How did women go about publishing their own works in manuscript or print? How did they influence, directly or indirectly, the publication of works by men? Which texts might women copy by hand? How far could they become involved in the more public business of making and selling printed books? The talk will conclude by considering how women might acquire books and in what circumstances they might hear verse performed.

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