

## **The Metaphysics of Margaret Cavendish (1623–1673)**

Margaret Cavendish developed a unique and philosophically rich natural philosophy during the 1660s. Tragically, her voice was silenced and she was written out of the history of philosophy after her death. This course rectifies that historical wrong and introduces her natural philosophy and its underlying metaphysics to students. We will examine her conception of matter, her mereology, her conception of motion, and her accounts of life and self-activity, individuals and identity, causation, and necessity. Her accounts will be contrasted with those of Rene Descartes and the Cambridge Platonist Henry More. No previous knowledge of Margaret Cavendish's philosophical thought is required for this course.