



[Liesbeth Corens](#)'s work focuses on minority Catholicism as an insightful case study to analyse the Counter-Reformation. Her first book assesses the lay English Catholic expatriate experience in terms of a broad concept of 'confessional mobility' (forthcoming with OUP). It encourages a more flexible interpretation of movement and its implications for belonging to communities. Changing perspective opens up our study to include pilgrims, grand tour travellers, students, and mobile scholars alongside exiles. The diversity of mobility highlights that those abroad were never cut off, isolated on the Continent. Rather, through correspondence and constant travel they created a community without borders. This cross-Channel community was not defined by its status as victims of persecution, but provided the lifeblood for English Catholics for generations.

Her next project is about archives and record keeping, through the prism of the 'counter-archives' which Catholics minorities (both English and Dutch) started to create in the later seventeenth century. Rather than understanding the collections as unproblematic repositories, she acknowledges them as practices and processes. She explores how and why the compilations were put together, what selection has been made, and what the ordering of the material has done to its interpretations. An important context for these commemorations is the exclusion of Catholics from the dominant narratives of both England and the Dutch Republic. While official archives and accounts had produced a narrative of the Protestant nation in which Catholics were either excluded or acted as the villains, the Catholic collections aimed to save the memory and reputation of their ancestors. Liesbeth has recently published an article and contributed two edited volumes on that subject with Alexandra Walsham and Kate Peters.

Her forthcoming monograph, *Confessional Mobility and English Catholics in Counter-Reformation Europe*, is under contract with Oxford University Press. See <https://liesbethcorens.wordpress.com/>