We live in tumultuous times. From the spread of the Islamic State to the prospect of technology running amok, the growth of social inequalities to the rejection of traditional political institutions alongside a populist resurgence, irrevocable ecological damage to the decline of established global order, talk of ‘crisis’ has become inescapable. The concept of ‘crisis’ has a long history starting with the Greeks for whom it spelled the moment of decisive resolution up to modern day paralysis. The euphoria of progress, we are told, has given way to uncertainty and anguish. Crisis, in the words of French philosopher Myriam Revault D’Allones, has emerged as an ‘absolute metaphor of the contemporary age.’

And yet, is crisis really so emblematic of late modernity? Does it necessarily paralyze? Is there a connection between crisis and progress or is the common association of these two concepts simply abusive? What have been the various manifestations as well as conceptual deployments of crisis over time and what do they reveal about their age? What remedies and measures does identifying a situation as a crisis provide? On the contrary, are there cultural logics for negating crises? Is crisis at all a useful and even, an unavoidable conceptual tool for grasping the world, or should we look for less dramatic vocabularies? What are the limits of crisis as a concept? Is the narrative of crisis in crisis itself? What does this imply for our self-understanding and our ability to make sense of the world? Can crisis, on the contrary, open up new horizons? How can the humanities contribute to a better understanding of the conceptions and circumstances of crisis?
The ‘Crisis, Extremes and Apocalypse’ Research network at TORCH, University of Oxford seeks to shed as many possible perspectives on the concept and topic of ‘Crisis’ as well as to approach it meta-critically and understand its various deployments. The aim of this two-day conference will be to pursue this trajectory by fostering new thinking on this ubiquitous concept.

We invite submissions from doctoral students as well as post-docs on a wide range of disciplines including but not limited to history, intellectual history/history of ideas, history of science, history of art, history of music, philosophy, history of philosophy, political thought/political theory, history of political thought, literature, and cultural studies from the early modern period onwards.

**Originality of thought and approach as well as interdisciplinarity are particularly encouraged.**

The conference will take place on 13 and 14 June 2017 at the TORCH Radcliffe Humanities building in Oxford and will be featuring Professor Simon Glendinning (LSE) as keynote speaker.

Abstracts should not exceed 350 words (for a 20-minute presentation) and should be sent to rethinkingcrisis@yahoo.com by **Friday 14 April 2017 at midnight**. They should be accompanied by a short CV (max. 2 pages).

More information on the Research network can be found at

http://torch.ox.ac.uk/themes/crisis-extremes-and-apocalypse#quicktabs-theme_term_quicktab=0

www.facebook.com/crisisextremesapocalypse/

Unfortunately, we regret that we cannot cover travel or accommodation costs.