

Abstract: Familists, Anti-Catholicism, and the Rhetoric of Religious Dissent in England's Pamphlet Culture

This project explores the portrayal of the Familists, a small sectarian group in early modern England, by examining print culture surrounding the group. The work draws on primary source documents written by Familists, Catholics, and Anglicans, and relies on these documents to speculate why Familism induced widespread fear, despite its relatively small size. The research relies primarily on digitized pamphlets via Early English Books Online (EEBO), but also includes journal articles and the relevant historiography. This project traces the ways that Familists countered their persecution in print culture and detects how it parallels with anti-Catholic sentiment from the same period. Ultimately, I maintain that anti-Familist rhetoric was more marked due to the secretive nature of the group and its similarity to Catholicism.