

## Radical Renaissance Writers – Pre-Class Activities

### Week 5: Tullia d’Aragona

(c. 1501/05 – 1556)

1. If you were taking part in a dialogue or disputation on the topic of love, write down some questions or sub-topics that you would expect to come up in discussion:



2. Read the extracts from Tullia d’Aragona’s *Dialogue on the Infinity of Love* (first published in Venice, 1547).

The two speakers in this dialogue are positioned as two real people: Tullia d’Aragona and her friend Benedetto Varchi, who has been described as a “Florentine humanist, historian, poet, intellectual and man of letters.” The general gist of the dialogue is a discussion on whether it is possible to love within limits.

- **First Impressions.**
  - What is the tone of the debate?
  - What impression do you get of a) Tullia d’Aragona and b) Benedetto Varchi?
  - How relevant is the gender of each speaker to the discussion?
  - How does it compare with Isotta Nogarola’s dialogue (Week 2)?
- Note down anything you find interesting, intriguing or irritating that arises from the extracts.
- Have you learnt anything you didn’t know before by reading these extracts?