

Summer 2022

Midwest American Society for Eighteenth- Century Studies

Coming soon: MWASECS Conference 2023

The next conference of the Midwest American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies will take place in 2023 and will be hosted by DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana. More information about the conference will soon be forthcoming—look for additional details in our next newsletter and on our web site at www.mwasecs.net.

To join the MWASECS
mailing list, please contact
MWASECS president
David Alvarez:

davidalvarez@depauw.edu

Visit our web site:
www.mwasecs.net

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David Alvarez to Serve as President of MWASECS

MWASECS is pleased to announce that David Alvarez will serve as the new President of the society and will oversee the organization of the 2023 conference at DePauw University. Alvarez is an Associate Professor at DePauw, where he teaches courses on Enlightenment literature and philosophy. A collection of book essays he published with Alison Conway titled *Imagining Religious Toleration: A Literary History of an Idea, 1600–1830*, was published by University of Toronto Press in 2019. His current book project, “Imagining Global Religion: Empire and Secularity in the English Enlightenment,” examines the co-formation of religion and secularism as global concepts to better understand how the Enlightenment makes possible both religious freedom and colonialism. Scott Breuninger (Virginia Commonwealth University) and Sharon Smith (South Dakota State University), who have served as co-Presidents since 2017, will continue to serve on the Executive Board.

ASECS 2023

If you have any happy news to report (fellowships, publications, etc.), please share them with us! For publication in the next newsletter, send any announcements to Jeanine Casler:

j-casler@northwestern.edu

The 53rd Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS) will be held in St. Louis, MO, March 9–11, 2023. The call for papers is coming soon. Check the ASECS web site for details: www.asecs.org.

British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies: Virtual Seminar Series

The last Thursday of each month BSECS hosts a seminar specially aimed at postgraduate and early career researchers. Each seminar consists of two papers presented via Zoom, followed by a discussion. The seminar is open to all, but their aim is to create a relaxed and welcoming community for postgraduate and early career researchers who wish to present their first paper or try out some new research. Upcoming presentations will be held on August 25 and September 29.

Thursday, August 25, 15:00–16:00 BST

[Register here](#)

Fahime Serhattı, Middle East Technical University, “Why all the Violence? Daniel Defoe’s *Crusoe Trilogy* and *The Fortunate Mistress*”

Roslyn Irving, University of Liverpool, “Ann Radcliffe’s Eighteenth-Century Engagement with Female Education through *The Romance of the Forest*”

Thursday, September 29, 15:00–16:00 BST

[Register here](#)

David Cowan, University of Cambridge, “Party identity and ideology at Cambridge University, 1745–1815”

Boaz Berger, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, “A Tale of Two Petitions: Public Participation and Parliamentary Responsibility from the Gordon Riots to the First Campaign for the Abolition of the Slave Trade”

*Demasiada cordura puede
ser la peor de las locuras, ver
la vida como es y no como
debería de ser!*

(Too much sanity may be
madness, and maddest of all to
see life as it is and not as it
should be!)

—*Miguel de Cervantes*

Call for Papers: SCSECS 2023

The eighteenth-century community has spent the past two years wandering through the desert of a pandemic. Now, the South Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies welcomes weary travelers to refresh themselves in the intellectual and cultural oasis of **SCSECS 2023: The Quixotic Eighteenth Century**. Held amid the twin cities of Bryan and College Station, Texas, the conference will combine the rural, small-town charm of Main Street USA with the cosmopolitan and culinary attractions of a major university town. Whether your interests are in history, literature, politics, sports, or food, SCSECS 2023 will offer a generous buffet to satisfy the mind and body.

In the questing and whimsical spirit of Don Quixote, SCSECS welcomes panel proposals including (but certainly not limited to!) literature and literary genre; interdisciplinary connections; sports history; food ways and culinary history; questions of borderland theory and identity; women in the eighteenth century; Enlightenment philosophy; children's literature; eighteenth-century pedagogies; textual and archival methodologies; and global networks of circulation, including trade, material culture, art, and intellectual thought.

Conferees will be encouraged to submit revised versions of their conference papers for publication in a special themed issue of the open-access peer reviewed journal *Studies in Religion and the Enlightenment*. Manuscripts for full-length articles should be 5,000–8,000 words. Commentaries or mini-articles of 2,000–3,000 words will also be considered.

For further information about the conference, including a list of panels proposed to date, please visit the South Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies website at www.scsecs.net.

Center for Renaissance Studies Conference: Attending to Women, 1100–1800; Performance

September 30-October 1, 2022 at the Newberry Library in Chicago, IL.

Registration is now open for the Center for Renaissance Studies' conference on "Attending to Women." This conference will ask how women's performances of power, gender, and art before 1800 provide powerful paths towards understanding their lives and our own today. Through plenary roundtables and workshops, participants will explore question such as: How do medieval, early modern, and indigenous women draw on various forms of power, from the racial to the religious, to perform different roles? How was the category of "woman" itself contested, reinforced, and complicated through the performance of gender? What did women choose to perform through music, dance, and visual art? Lastly, what responsibilities and possibilities do we have as scholars who teach and share our work with the public?

For more information about the conference, including a full schedule, accommodation recommendations, and a registration link, please visit the conference website here:

<https://www.newberry.org/09302022-attending-women-1100-1800-performance>

Upcoming Dinner Lecture: The Samuel Johnson Society of the West

The focal activity for all members of The Samuel Johnson Society of the West (SJSW) is the dinner held in November at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California. In addition to the Daniel G. Blum lecture, delivered by an internationally recognized scholar or collector of Johnsoniana, the event includes an eighteenth-century inspired meal as well as period music.

Freya Johnston, St. Anne's College, Oxford University, will deliver the twenty-seventh Daniel G. Blum Lecture on Sunday, November 20, 2022. Professor Johnston, University Lecturer and Hazel Eardley Wilmot Tutorial Fellow, is the author of *Samuel Johnson and the Art of Sinking, 1709–1791*, and co-editor of *Samuel Johnson: The Arc of the Pendulum* (with Linda Mugglestone). She is also co-editor of *Jane Austen: Teenage Writings* (with Kathryn Sutherland) and general editor of the seven-volume *Cambridge Edition of the Novels of Thomas Love Peacock*. Her current projects include a study of Jane Austen's style and a history of literary opinion. Professor Johnston will be speaking on "The Books Samuel Johnson did Not Write".

Please contact the society's Secretary Myron Yeager (yeager@chapman.edu) with any questions.

Member News

Susan Spencer has retired from the full-time teaching faculty in the University of Central Oklahoma's English department. As Professor Emerita, she now has more time to pursue research and writing projects that have been on the back burner for the past few years and as much travel as the pandemic would permit. She has articles forthcoming within the next few months in *Eighteenth-Century Life*, *Education About Asia*, and *ABO: Interactive Journal for Women in the Arts 1640-1830*. She is also working on an essay for *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*, part of a cluster with her fellow ASECS 2022 panelists on the Japanese author Ihara Saikaku.

Katie Sagal's (Cornell College, Department of English and Creative Writing) first book, *Botanical Entanglements*, has just been released from UVA Press. Please see this link for more information:

<https://www.upress.virginia.edu/title/5380>.

Sharon Smith (South Dakota State University, School of English and Interdisciplinary Studies) contributed an essay titled “The Pleasures of Satire in the Fables of Anne Finch” to *British Women Satirists in the Long Eighteenth Century*, edited by Amanda L. Hiner and Elizabeth Tasker Davis, which was recently published by Cambridge University Press. Learn more about this collection of essays at:

<https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108938952>.

MWASECS Officers

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