

SEASECS 2012: Legacies of the Enlightenment  
Decatur, GA March 1-3

List of Approved Panels

The following open panels have been approved for the 2012 SEASECS conference.

**Please send your paper proposals for these panels directly to the organizer and not to me.** Your proposal should include a title, your affiliation, your contact information, and any a/v requirements. Please note that all presenters must be members of SEASECS. Check our website, [www.seasecs.net](http://www.seasecs.net), for information and a membership form.

Deadlines:

- For paper proposals for **these specific panels**: September 15, 2011
- For **these panels** from the organizers: October 1, 2011
- For full panels being organized off-stage: October 1, 2011
- For individual paper proposals: October 1, 2011

Please send the last three items to me, Martha F. Bowden, at [mbowden@kennesaw.edu](mailto:mbowden@kennesaw.edu).  
Now for the list:

1. "Women Writers and the Impact of Memory in the Enlightenment Period"  
Organizer: Stacey Dearing, Auburn University. [SZD0018@auburn.edu](mailto:SZD0018@auburn.edu); 248-425-7039  
In this panel, we seek to explore how issues of memory, both personal and national, participated in the Enlightenment Period's conversations on the formulation of national identity and the construction of individual frameworks of memory. The art of memory can be exploited and treasured by eighteenth-century writers for its function to recapitulate and reimagine the historical, national, cultural, and personal understanding of a nation and its individual people. We propose to delve into issues of gender and memory in the eighteenth century by exploring the various and complex ways in which national and personal identity were influenced, depicted, and shaped by women writers. Papers focusing on any portion of the long eighteenth century are welcome. Possible lines of inquiry include the following questions:
  - How is memory gendered in the eighteenth century?
  - How is memory used by writers as a device to shape personal and national identities?
  - How were depictions of national memory in novels/plays received by readers/audience members?
  - How was memory rendered in this period in the mind of the writer as well as in the mind of the individual reader or audience member?
  - Does memory function as both a private and interior construction as well as something to be shared with, related to, and explored with others?
  - What were the techniques through which an eighteenth-century writer activated the various functions of memory?
  - Did women writers craft a unique conception of memory and issues of history? If so, how and in what ways? Were these conceptions successful?

## 2. “European Encyclopedism”

Organizer: Kay Doig, Georgia State University; [mclkh@langate.gsu.edu](mailto:mclkh@langate.gsu.edu)

The 18th century's penchant for encyclopedias and dictionaries is a major feature of the intellectual history of the period. These works, often major publishing endeavors, were usually conceived primarily as books of knowledge, but in many cases became vehicles for participating in controversial debates. For this panel, we invite papers concerning the publishing history, reception or content of any European encyclopedia or dictionary.

## 3. “New Research on Eighteenth-Century French Literature”

Organizer: E. Joe Johnson, Clayton State University; [joejohnson@clayton.edu](mailto:joejohnson@clayton.edu)

This panel seeks a variety of approaches to new research: the presenter's own latest project; major trend(s) directing new work, with some evaluation as to the fruitfulness of these inquiries; avenues that ought to be investigated but aren't at present; or a critical assessment of other people's research.

## 4. “Periodicals and Newspapers in the Long Eighteenth Century: Innovation, Organization, Dissemination”

Organizer: Barbara L. Fitzpatrick, University of New Orleans; [bfitzpat@uno.edu](mailto:bfitzpat@uno.edu)

The long eighteenth century was an era of innovation in the development of the periodical and newspaper press. This panel welcomes papers examining various aspects of serial publications—magazines, newspapers, journals, even number books—including their contents, production, or audiences. Papers might address such topics as author/editor/bookseller relationships, including transnational; marketing strategies, such as novelty, content serialization, illustrations, or planned obsolescence; audiences and niche magazines (women's, religious, music, review); contributors and anonymity; political or social ethos; or the formation/reflection of taste.

## 5. “Oscillant entre histoire et fiction : Les Récits d'évasion au dix-huitième siècle / Caught between Fact and Fiction : Eighteenth-Century Escape Tales”

Organizer: Michael Mulryan, Christopher Newport University;  
[michael.mulryan@cnu.edu](mailto:michael.mulryan@cnu.edu)

Le récit d'évasion est un genre littéraire un peu négligé par les dix-huitièmistes, mais qui présente tout de même un grand intérêt. Tout au long du siècle, les Français dévoraient les livres relatant les évasions de Latude, de Casanova, de De Bucquoy, et de De Trenck entre autres, et ceci parce que les lecteurs y trouvaient une forme d'héroïsme qui se définit par opposition au pouvoir arbitraire des souverains européens, un héroïsme auquel on pouvait facilement s'identifier. En lisant les mémoires d'anciens prisonniers on s'aperçoit pourtant que l'auteur va au-delà de la version historique de l'évasion pour façonner un héros plus impressionnant, qui aura une vie posthume à coup sûr. Bien que ces tentatives d'enjolivement, qui constituent à la fois des travestissements de l'histoire et des apports à la littérature, présentent un grand intérêt pour cette session, toute

communication sur les récits d'évasion de l'époque, en français ou en anglais, est la bienvenue.

Escape tales are a literary genre that has been a bit neglected by eighteenth-century specialists, but which nonetheless merits serious study. Throughout the century, the French were avid readers of books on prison escapes, such as those of Latude, Casanova, De Bucquoy, and De Trenck, among others, because in such works a version of heroism, defined solely via a confrontation with the arbitrary power of European sovereigns, predominates, a type of heroism with which the eighteenth-century reader could easily identify. In the memoirs of former prisoners, however, the author often goes beyond a historical account of the escape in order to mold a more impressive hero, who will assuredly have a new life posthumously. Although these attempts at literary embellishment, which simultaneously represent historical transgressions and contributions to fiction, are of particular interest for this session, all papers on escape tales from the era, in French or in English, are welcome.

6. "Reading/Reciting Eighteenth-Century Verse: A Roundtable on the Pedagogical and Interpretive Value of Performing--Reading Aloud or Reciting from Memory--Eighteenth-Century English Poetry"

Organizer: John Richetti, University of Pennsylvania; [jrichett@english.upenn.edu](mailto:jrichett@english.upenn.edu)

This roundtable invites participants (five or six) to read or (preferably) recite from memory a short poem or a part of a longer eighteenth-century English poem and to present in extemporaneous fashion their thoughts on how such performance can enrich our understanding of how such verse works and whether such oral delivery can help students to comprehend and to appreciate such verse. Audience members will be invited to critique and respond to these readings and recitations (or even to offer their own).

7. "Finding the Ecological Eighteenth Century"

Organizer: Laura L. Runge, University of South Florida; [runge@usf.edu](mailto:runge@usf.edu)

Scholars are beginning to re-envision ecocriticism in ways that might be useful for students of the eighteenth century, and this panel will explore what some of these arguments might look like. Moving beyond Romanticist notions of nature and wilderness to a concern with environments in general, we might explore the attitudes toward developing urban centers as well as desolated villages. Certainly landscape poetry is appealing to the ecocritic, but how might we see travel literature as ecological? What role do world trade, gender, ethics, ethnicity, Enlightenment science and more play in the eighteenth-century ecological behaviors? Can we see forerunners to a discourse of sustainability in economic writing? What role does religion play in regarding the human position in the environment? Were there dominant ideas about use of the land or competing ideas that hinged on different views of the natural world? What was the eighteenth-century natural world? Does an herbal pharmacology reflect closer ties to nature? This panel is open to any investigation of the topics of ecocriticism in the long eighteenth century.

8. "What Students Are Missing When They Miss Dryden"

Organizer: Candy B.K. Schille, Georgia Southern University;  
[schille@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:schille@georgiasouthern.edu)

Sophomore literature texts will usually include at least "A Modest Proposal" and "Rape of the Lock," but even English majors are unlikely to have encountered "Absalom and Achitophel" or "The Hind and the Panther." Whether this is due to the forbidding historicity and topicality of Dryden's work, an impression of the Restoration as a negligible debauch before the Augustans set the world to reasonable rights, or the absence of accessible texts (especially of Dryden's plays), students (and their professors) have at least as much to enjoy and profit from in Dryden as they do in Swift, Pope, or Johnson. Arguments for the study of specific texts or the importance of Dryden in the Restoration/18th century and English literature generally are invited.

9. "Old Things"

Organizer: Chloe Wigston Smith, University of Georgia; [cws3@uga.edu](mailto:cws3@uga.edu)

Discussions of material culture often focus on the new objects of the eighteenth century (*Pamela* fans, Wedgewood teapots, feathered headdresses) or imported commodities from China and India, among other places. In keeping with the theme of the conference, this panel will focus on old things. This might include objects freighted with emotional meaning (significant of familial ties perhaps) or recycled, reused, and repurposed objects. What do these objects suggest about the representation of things and material culture during the period? Papers from all disciplines welcome. Please send abstracts of no more than 500 words.

10. "The Science of Poetry"

Organizer: Sarah Stein, Emory University; [sbstein@emory.edu](mailto:sbstein@emory.edu)

This panel will address both neoclassical attempts to create a science of poetry through the rules of poetics and the incorporation of scientific themes and ideas in poetry as the century progressed. Papers will interrogate the relationship between putting science to work in nature and in literature.

11. "Literary and Artistic Representations of the 'Other' in France and England"

Organizer: Felicia B. Sturzer, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; [Felicia-Sturzer@utc.edu](mailto:Felicia-Sturzer@utc.edu)

Our emphasis on critical inquiry and multiple perspectives is one of the legacies of the Enlightenment. This panel will focus on representations of the "other" as manifested by race, gender, ethnicity, religion, physical-mental disabilities and literary genres, thus challenging dominant discourses and points of view.

12. “The Rest of Radcliffe”

Organizer: Rivka Swenson, Virginia Commonwealth University; [rswenson@vcu.edu](mailto:rswenson@vcu.edu)

To date, most of the scholarship on Ann Radcliffe's writing has centered on her last two novels, *The Mysteries of Udolpho* and *The Italian*. This panel seeks papers on any of her three earlier novels (*The Castles of Athlin and Dunbayne*, *A Sicilian Romance*, *The Romance of the Forest*). Also welcome are papers that focus on surprising new approaches to any aspect(s) of the later novels, Radcliffe's own interspersed poems and songs, or strategies for teaching any of her works.

13. “Sex Scandals and the Enlightenment”

Organizer: Carol L. White, Clayton State University; [CarolWhite@clayton.edu](mailto:CarolWhite@clayton.edu)

This panel will examine the role of sex scandals—both real and imagined—in Enlightenment thought. Drawing on commentaries on contemporary sex scandals, fictional accounts, or scandals involving Enlightenment figures, papers will analyze sex scandals in order to explore Enlightenment attitudes toward such issues as sexual behavior, morality or “deviance.” Papers *may* also examine how Enlightenment writers used such scandals to address larger issues, including (but not limited to) gender relations, the nature of political authority or the role of the Church.

14. “Teaching the Eighteenth-Century”

Organizer: Martha F. Bowden, Kennesaw State University; [mbowden@kennesaw.edu](mailto:mbowden@kennesaw.edu)

Panels on various aspects of teaching the eighteenth-century have become a popular feature at SEASECS meetings. Once again, I invite you to share your wisdom with the rest of the society. In teaching our area, we face some unique challenges. The period is rarely, or scantily covered in high school courses, so students come to us without any background. Students also have no visual images of the eighteenth century, because there is no popular equivalent to the Tudors, Jane Austen's novels, or the American Civil War, so, for better and for worse, entertainment has not provided us with much to build on (or counter). I am looking for brief and specific presentations that focus on practical pedagogy, such as one assignment or activity. And much as I revere my colleagues in English, I know that all of you must face these problems, so historians, art historians, philosophers, musicians, foreign language specialists, whatever you teach--drop me a line.