

*INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR  
EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY STUDIES*

*SOCIÉTÉ INTERNATIONALE  
D'ÉTUDE DU DIX-HUITIÈME SIÈCLE*

*International Seminar for Early Career  
Eighteenth-Century Scholars*

*Séminaire international des jeunes  
dix-huitiémistes*

*‘Participation, Collaboration, Association’*



Johan Joseph Zoffany (1733–1810), *The Sharp Family of Durham on the Thames at Fulham* (1779) in The National Portrait Gallery, London.

*Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, 9–12 July 2019*

## 2019 ISECS Seminar for Early Career Scholars

‘Participation, Collaboration, Association’

Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, 9-12 July 2019

Proposals due by 31 January 2019

The International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ISECS) invites applications from scholars in all fields of eighteenth-century studies to participate in a four-day International Seminar for Early Career Eighteenth-Century Scholars.

This annual event has an established reputation for promoting intellectual and social engagement between scholars from many countries. In 2019, the meeting will take place in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, and will be organized by Professor Brycchan Carey at the Institute for the Humanities, Northumbria University. It will be co-sponsored by the British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (BSECS), Northumbria University, and Newcastle University. The programme will include a reception, a dinner, a guided tour of Newcastle, and a visit to Seaton Delaval Hall, regarded by many as the finest work of eighteenth-century architect Sir John Vanbrugh. Participants are encouraged to take part in the 2019 International Congress on the Enlightenment, held the following week in Edinburgh.

The International Seminar for Early Career Eighteenth-Century Scholars will be held from Tuesday 9 July to Friday 12 July 2019 under the direction of Professor Brycchan Carey, Professor Richard Terry, and Dr Helen Williams (Northumbria University); Professor Matthew Grenby and Dr James Harriman-Smith (Newcastle University); Professor Penelope Corfield (Royal Holloway, University of London) and Dr Caroline Warman (Oxford University).

This year, the theme of the International Seminar will be:

*‘Participation, Collaboration, Association’*

‘The commerce of mankind is not confined to the barter of commodities, but may extend to services and actions, which we may exchange to our mutual interest and advantage. Your corn is ripe to-day; mine will be so tomorrow. It is profitable for us both, that I should labour with you to-day, and that you should aid me to-morrow.’

— David Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature* (1738)

While the eighteenth century is sometimes associated with the rise of the individual, whether as economic unit or creative genius, it was in reality a period of immense collaboration and association—both willing and unwilling. People have always worked together, as David Hume suggests, to bring in harvests, maintain community buildings, and care for the young, the old, and the ill. From ancient times onwards, polities were formed, armies raised, and slaves coerced. The eighteenth century, however, saw a rapid and dramatic transformation in the ways people lived and worked together, on social, political, economic, cultural, and ideological levels, and an equally dramatic shift in the political and philosophical understanding of cooperation and mutuality. The rise of nation states and colonial empires necessitated national and global collaboration, underpinned by complex armies and navies; new technologies in agriculture and industry fundamentally changed the way labour was organised; while the increasing ease and affordability of travel, postage, and printing facilitated participation in cultural and intellectual exchange. From the Royal Society to the Corresponding Societies, from the *Encyclopédie* to the *Club des Jacobins*, association drove transformation. In our own time, researchers, curators, governments, and industry

are collaborating in increasingly sophisticated and complex ways to understand the eighteenth century and to preserve its records and artefacts, whether by co-authoring articles and books, digitising texts, producing websites, TV shows, and other media, or by restoring historic buildings. The theme of ‘Participation, Collaboration, Association’ can accordingly be interrogated in several interlocking ways, including, but by no means limited to, the following:

- Social:** How did people live together in families and other units? How did they participate in their local, regional, and national communities? How did they associate for pleasure, mutual benefit, or to worship? How did people live in conditions of enforced association, such as colonial slavery?
- Economic:** How did people work, trade, and consume together? What were the impacts of new technologies and working practices? How did mutuality drive the growth of financial services such as banking, stock dealing, and insurance? Did millions of small transactions indeed create an economic ‘hidden hand’?
- Political:** How did people participate in local and national government? How did political parties and associations develop and how did they effect change? What was the role of mobs and demonstrations in political life?
- Ideological:** How did Enlightenment ideas about the social contract inform law and policy? How did notions of individual liberty come into conflict with those emphasising duty to state or church?
- Gender:** How did men and women create separate formal and informal associations? Were female communities widespread or confined to religious institutions and utopian novels?
- Cultural:** What was the role of literary and philosophical societies, artists’ workshops, orchestras, and teams of builders and architects? Did cultures of sensibility promote mutual aid and support or did they merely encourage self-indulgent weeping? How did writers and artists produce work together?
- Military:** How did people participate in military life? What collaborations were needed to run a complex machine like a man of war, or a complex organisation like a regiment? Did the scale and sociability of military organisations paradoxically promote association and collaboration rather than conflict?
- Religious:** How did people come together to worship in their daily lives? What was the role of religious orders and communities? How did Protestant groups and churches, from Lutherans and Anabaptists to Methodists and Quakers, offer new models of association?
- Today:** How do scholars, curators, and policy makers today collaborate to understand, interpret, and preserve the records and remains of the eighteenth century?

The seminar is limited to 15 participants. Proposals should be based on an original research project (e.g. a doctoral dissertation) which addresses the theme of the seminar. Because this is a seminar rather than a conference, each participant will be given approximately one hour to present their research. Preference will be given to scholars who are at the beginning of their academic career (PhD or equivalent for less than six years, including ECRs). The official languages of the seminar are English and French. Translations of abstracts and various seminar materials not in English will be made available to participants.

Accommodation costs (Monday night to Friday night) and lunches and dinners (Tuesday dinner to Friday lunch) will be covered in full by the organizers, who will be responsible for reserving rooms in a local budget hotel. Participants must cover their own travel costs, but the organizers will be

glad to offer advice on the best routes to and from Newcastle International Airport or Newcastle Railway Station.

As is the case each year, the proceedings of the seminar will be published by Honoré Champion (Paris) in the *Lumières internationales* series.

Applications should include the following information: a brief curriculum vitae with date of PhD (or equivalent); a list of principal publications and scholarly presentations; and a brief description of the proposed paper (max 1,000 words). The description must show how the applicant's project addresses the theme of the seminar, and how it fits with their wider research. Applications will be judged on the following criteria:

- The fitness of the research to the seminar theme
- The extent to which the research is rigorous, significant, and original
- The balance of countries and disciplines represented at the seminar (in accordance with the BSECS diversity statement, available on line at [www.bsecs.org.uk](http://www.bsecs.org.uk))

The selection committee will be comprised of Professor Brycchan Carey, Professor Penelope Corfield, Dr Caroline Warman, and Dr Helen Williams.

Applications are invited by 31 January 2019. Please send applications by e-mail to Professor Brycchan Carey: [brycchan.carey@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:brycchan.carey@northumbria.ac.uk). We will aim to notify all applicants about the outcome of their application by 28 February 2019.