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[www.bsecs.org.uk](http://www.bsecs.org.uk)

British Society for  
Eighteenth Century Studies

@bsecs.bsky.social

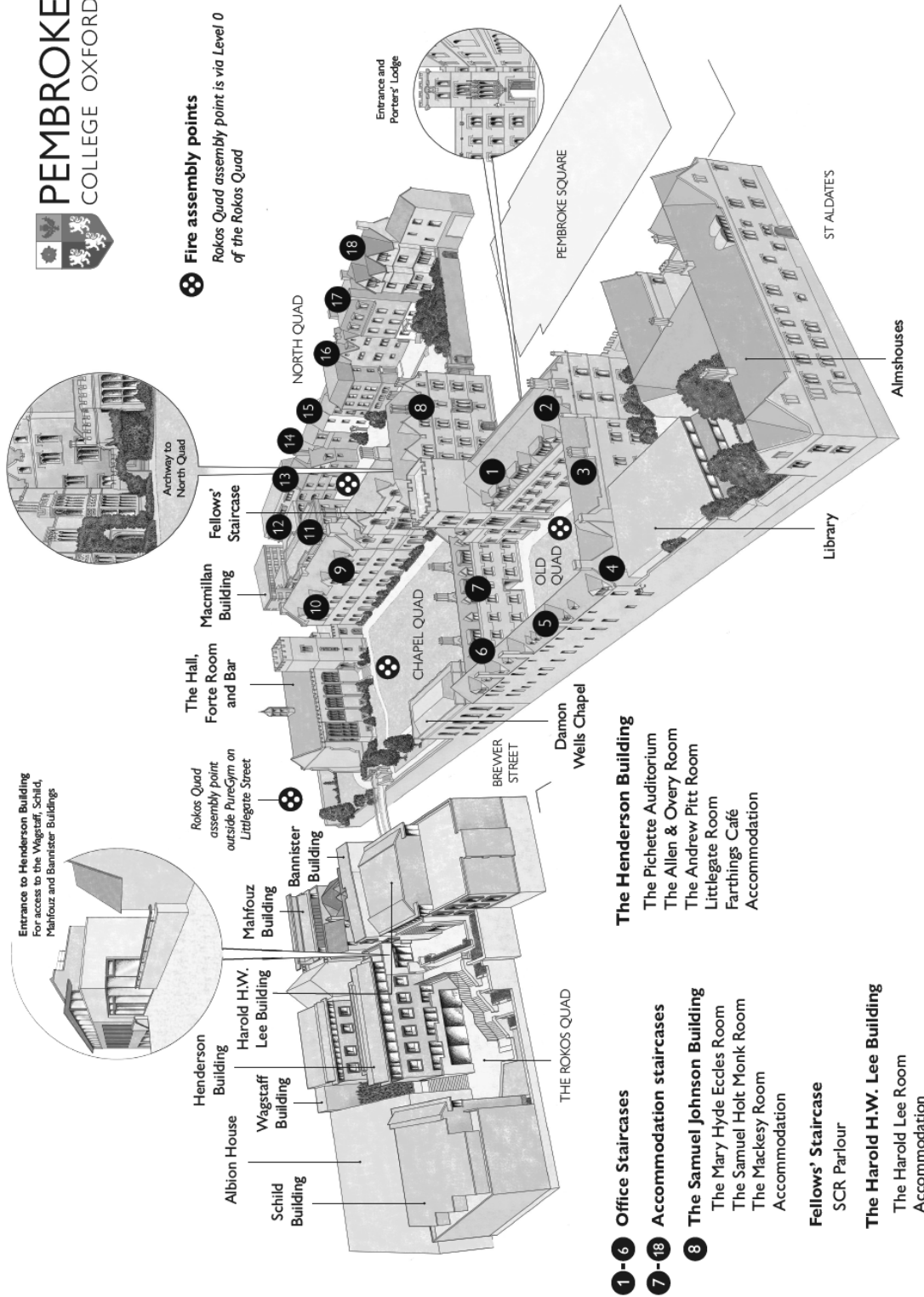
### Wi-Fi Information:

Wi-Fi: PMB-Guest, password: JJdjCymj. Eduroam is also available at Pembroke College.

We'd love to hear your comments and suggestions about the BSECS Annual Conference. Please share your experiences by visiting [tinyurl.com/bsecs2026](https://tinyurl.com/bsecs2026) or scanning the QR code.



# Venue map



Entrance to Henderson Building  
For access to the Wagstaff, Schild,  
Mahfouz and Bannister Buildings

Archway to  
North Quad

Entrance and  
Porters' Lodge

**Fire assembly points**

Rokos Quad assembly point is via Level 0  
of the Rokos Quad

- 1-6 Office Staircases**
- 7-18 Accommodation staircases**
- 8 The Samuel Johnson Building**  
The Mary Hyde Eccles Room  
The Samuel Holt Monk Room  
The Mackesy Room  
Accommodation
- Fellows' Staircase**  
SCR Parlour
- The Harold H.W. Lee Building**  
The Harold Lee Room  
Accommodation
- The Henderson Building**  
The Pichette Auditorium  
The Allen & Overy Room  
The Andrew Pitt Room  
Littlegate Room  
Farthings Café  
Accommodation

## Venue & Accessibility Information

### Room accessibility

#### Henderson Building (Rokos Quad)

- Pichette Auditorium – Ground floor, accessible, hearing induction loop
- Harold Lee Room – First floor, Henderson Lift access unaffected, hearing induction loop
- Allen & Overy Room – First floor, Henderson Lift access unaffected, hearing induction loop
- Andrew Pitt Room – First floor, Henderson Lift access unaffected, hearing induction loop
- Littlegate Room – First floor, Henderson Lift access unaffected, hearing induction loop
- Art Gallery – Ground floor, accessible

#### Samuel Johnson Building (Chapel Quad)

- Mary Hyde Eccles Room – Ground floor, access unaffected
- Mackesy Room – accessed via stairs

Dining Hall (Chapel Quad) – accessible via Hall Lift

For further details of accessibility at the college, please refer to the college website: [Pembroke College | Access Guide](#).

## Wi-Fi Information

Wi-Fi: PMB-Guest, password: JdjCymj. Eduroam is also available at Pembroke College.

## **List of Publishers in Attendance**

Adam Matthew Digital

Boydell & Brewer

Brepols

The Georgian Group

Liverpool University Press

Manchester University Press

The Voltaire Foundation

Yale University Press

## From the President

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Oxford for our 55<sup>th</sup> annual conference! This is our second year at Pembroke College, after a successful pilot event last year. We moved to the college for various reasons, chief among them being the opportunity to embrace hybrid conferencing to make our conference more accessible. After last year's experiment, this year we can offer more streamed sessions. We hope that you will feel at home at Pembroke, and that those who are joining online will have a great experience too.

This year's theme is 'Big and Small'. 2026 marks the 300th anniversary of Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*. Gulliver travelled to many lands, but the most famous are Brobdingnag and Lilliput, where the inhabitants are big and small, respectively. Swift's satire resonated throughout the century and inspired other written and visual satires that riffed on its themes. The question of size was a key one in the Enlightenment, as thinkers developed new systems of classification and sought to understand the place of mankind in the universe. 1726 marked the birth of James Hutton and the death of Isaac Newton, and 2026 marks 350 years since Antonie van Leeuwenhoek discovered micro-organisms.

I am particularly excited about this theme as I have researched male height in the eighteenth century. Height was a marker of social power at a time when the upper classes literally towered over their inferiors due to their superior nutrition, deportment and high heeled shoes. It could also be associated with militarism and tall soldiers were considered prestigious. Particularly tall, fat or short people were an object of public curiosity and medical fascination, which sheds light on the normative understanding of bodies that was developing over the century. The questions of big and small therefore add to our understanding of the century in a myriad of ways.

We are delighted to be hosting two fabulous keynote speakers this year. Professor Chloe Wigston Smith from the University of York will be 'Thinking With and Against Small Things'. We also welcome the return of the Haydn Mason lecture, which celebrates an early career scholar working on the European Enlightenment. This year's recipient is Dr Olivier Higgins from the University of Oxford, who will be talking about the politics of scale on Friday. Chloe and Olivier will also be joining me for the closing panel at **15:30 on Friday**, so be sure to stick around until the end!

As members of BSECS, we strongly encourage you to have a say in how the Society is run. Our Listening Event at **15:15 on Thursday** is an opportunity for you to tell us about your experience of the Society and, in particular, how we can make it more inclusive. The AGM is your opportunity to hear about what the Council has been doing this year and to offer feedback. That takes place at **18:00 on Wednesday** and all of these plenary events will be accessible to the online audience too.

BSECS is proud to support postgraduates and early career researchers. We want our conferences to be as welcoming as possible, and this year we will again be running our

mentoring scheme, and holding a reception sponsored by our journal publisher Wiley-Blackwell. Congratulations to the recipients of our conference bursaries, which we will announce at the annual conference dinner on Thursday. This is one of the many ways in which we provide financial support for those starting out in their scholarly careers, so please do visit our website to find out about our prizes and awards.

We are also proud to publish an academic journal, *Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies*. Please do consider submitting your work to the journal; it is especially pleasing to see papers that I have heard at the conference appear in JECS. I would encourage you to discuss ideas for articles with the General Editor Emrys Jones. Please also talk with Adam James Smith about reviewing books for the journal, or Katie Noble about reviewing events for our website *Criticks*.

We had some sad news earlier this year that our former President Frank O’Gorman had died. Frank made a huge contribution to BSECS and was instrumental in bringing the ISECS congress to the UK in 2019. I was very fortunate that he supervised my PhD and, like many of you, I have fond memories of Frank. We are holding a special panel in his memory on Friday which will be an opportunity to celebrate his life and work.

Finally, I should like to thank you for contributing to this conference! Whether as a speaker, a chair, a panellist or a member of the audience, you make the conference the great event that it is. Enjoy what promises to be three excellent days, and I hope that you will return to Pembroke for our conference next year.

**Matthew McCormack**

President of the British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies

## Chair Guidance

### In-Person & Hybrid

Thank you for agreeing to chair at the BSECS 55th Annual Conference: 'Big and Small'. This guidance document is designed to help all chairs manage panels, roundtables and workshops taking place throughout the conference.

#### Before the panel takes place:

- The conference organiser will put chairs in touch with panellists in early December. Please watch out for email introductions.
- Chairs should contact all speakers in the session and ask how the speaker would like to be presented – including the pronunciation of their name – and for a short biography. Please remind speakers to come to the session 5-10 minutes before it begins to test any tech requirements, such as PowerPoint etc. and discuss how the session will run.
- Before the session begins, please ensure that the computer and projector are working properly. If not, please come to the registration desk to ask for assistance.

#### What if a speaker does not turn up?

- If a speaker does not appear for their session, or if they run into technical difficulties, please wait for 5 minutes. If the issue is not resolved, chairs can move to the next speaker, or they can propose a topic for discussion based on the themes of the session, or they can end the session early.

#### Tech in the room & Hybrid panels:

- All the rooms have a computer connected to a projector. When you first toggle the screen awake it will ask for a password. Do not enter anything. Simply hit 'Enter' and you will gain access.
- If you are experiencing technical issues, please reach out to a member of the conference organisation team or email [conference.academic@bsecs.org.uk](mailto:conference.academic@bsecs.org.uk). We have dedicated tech support to assist with sessions.
- *For hybrid panels:* A member of the conference organisation team will be on hand to log in and start the Zoom session for online delegates.
  - If a delegate asks a question in the chatbox, you will be able to see this and they can ask the question after the presentation.

#### Starting the panel:

- Explain how the session will run (i.e. questions after each paper or after all papers have been delivered).

- *For hybrid panels:* At the start of each hybrid session the chair will brief attendees about how the session will run and will give a quick etiquette reminder. They will read out the following script ahead of each session:

*Welcome to the session. Before I introduce the speakers, we would like to cover a few etiquette rules. All attendees will be muted for the whole session. This is to limit noise disturbances. If you would like to ask a question, please type it in the chatbox. If you are experiencing technical difficulties, please privately message [insert host's name], who will be able to assist you.*

- Welcome everyone to the session and introduce each speaker.
- **President's Prize:** At the beginning of each session, please remind panel attendees that they can nominate postgraduate presenters for the President's Prize, for the best conference paper by a postgraduate student. The President's Prize nomination form is in the conference programme and available to download online. There are also extra forms at the registration desk.

#### **During the session:**

- **Ensure the session runs to time. Panellists should be presenting 20-minute papers.** Please alert speakers at the 2-minute mark their time is almost up. There will be signs located in each room you can use to notify speakers of their remaining time and when they need to stop. If the speaker starts to over-run, please tell the speaker their time is up and they should make a final, short conclusion.
- Manage the discussion to help facilitate conversation. It is important that both speakers and audience members share the time allotted for questions.
- *For hybrid panels:* We want to encourage as much discussion as possible, but this is a little trickier to manage in Zoom. Attendees can type a question in the chat box. The chair will then ask on their behalf. If additional clarification is needed, chairs may invite the attendee to speak. Once the speaker has responded, the chair will mute the attendee again.

#### **Close the session:**

- Thank all the attendees for coming, let them know about any key events immediately after the session (i.e. a plenary, a break, more panels etc.) remind them about the President's Prize if a postgraduate speaker has participated in the session.

## Delegate Code of Conduct and Information

This Code of Conduct is intended to foster a respectful, inclusive, and intellectually engaging environment for all participants. Please read the following guidelines carefully ahead of the conference.

### Code of Conduct

#### **Zero tolerance policy**

We kindly ask all attendees to use inclusive language throughout the event. This includes adopting anti-racist, non-sexist, and non-discriminatory terms that recognise and respect the diversity of participants. The BSECS Annual Conference is committed to being a safe and welcoming space for all participants. We do not tolerate:

- Harassment or discrimination of any kind (including on the basis of race, gender, sexuality, disability, religion, or academic background).
- Disruptive behaviour or personal attacks in discussion.

If you experience or witness inappropriate behaviour during the conference, please report it to a member of the organising team or email [conference.academic@bsecs.org](mailto:conference.academic@bsecs.org) in confidence.

### Presentation Information

#### **Speaking:**

- Speak clearly and distinctly and at a level that everyone can hear and build in adequate time for your remarks to account for a slower tempo.
- Speakers should repeat questions or statements made by audience members.
- Session chairs should ensure that only one person speaks at a time.
- In discussions, speakers should identify themselves so that audience members know who is speaking.
- **Panellists should prepare papers that are 20 minutes in length**, so that there is plenty of time for discussion afterwards.

#### **Papers, Handouts, and Audiovisuals:**

- Speakers who use handouts should prepare two to three additional copies in large print and avoid using coloured paper. Handouts should be briefly described orally or read aloud.
- Speakers are encouraged to make accessibility copies of their papers available using the BSECS Google dropbox, [linked here](#). Presenters may mark accessibility copies with 'Do Not Circulate/Cite Without Permission'. If you have made a digital copy of your presentation available through the BSECS website, please alert your audience to the availability of the digital version as you begin your talk. Any materials uploaded to the Google dropbox will be deleted from the folder following the conclusion of the conference.

### **PowerPoint presentations:**

- DO NOT USE A PDF FOR YOUR PRESENTATION. The systems at Pembroke are not compatible with PDF presentations. Please email your chair your powerpoint or bring it with you on a USB.
- A simple design with minimal text (6 or fewer lines) and the largest possible font is the most accessible.
- Presenters should describe orally any images on the slides.
- When referring to a visual aid or handout, or when indicating the location of materials in the room, allow time for audience members to follow this information. Projectors should be turned off when not in use, to reduce background noise.

### **Use of Racial Language and Trigger/Content Warnings:**

We acknowledge that eighteenth-century studies often involve sensitive or challenging material. If your paper includes potentially distressing content (e.g., racial slurs in primary sources, descriptions of racial violence, sexual content, etc.), we ask that you:

- Provide a content warning at the start of your paper or in your opening slide.
- Contextualise historical language with care and avoid reproducing harmful terms unnecessarily.
- We kindly ask that all instances of sensitive language are redacted verbally and visually, either by using replacement terms or, if written, starred (\*) after the first letter. The only exception to this is if the term is critical to the argument presented in your paper

We appreciate your thoughtfulness in creating an inclusive and respectful conference environment.

### **Audience Guidance**

- Not all disability is visible.
- It is okay to leave and come back at any point. If you need to do so, just ensure to keep noise to a minimum.
- Someone who may want to speak with you might need to stay seated - that doesn't mean they are not available for networking.
- Temperature in the building may vary. Make sure to have plenty of water with you and move around to find a comfortable spot in the venue as required.
- If there are faulty flashing lights in the room, these will be turned off.
- You are welcome to stay for the whole event, but you don't need to attend every session.

### **Mentoring and Other Opportunities**

- The BSECS Mentoring Scheme will be running again this year. Those involved can find information about matched mentors/mentees either at the registration desk or ask Karen Lipsedge and Ryan Hanley. Mentors and mentees can meet up near the registration desk or at Farthings Café.

- Tag us in your conference memories on Bluesky at [@bsecs.bsky.social](https://bsky.social) with [#BSECS2026](https://bsky.social/#BSECS2026)

Presenters who have accepted a place at the conference should endeavour to meet this guidance. If anyone has any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact the society's access and inclusion officers: Ryan Hanley ([r.j.hanley@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:r.j.hanley@exeter.ac.uk)) or Karen Lippedge ([k.lippedge@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:k.lippedge@kingston.ac.uk)).



## President's Prize Nomination Form

The President's Prize is awarded to the best paper delivered by a postgraduate student (who has not successfully defended their thesis, by the date of the paper) at the BSECS Annual Conference, as nominated by the session chairs or attendees. Nominated speakers are invited to submit a written version of their paper for assessment, which will be assessed alongside the evidence presented on this form. The prize is adjudicated by a panel which will judge based on scholarly rigour and originality, as well the speakers' presentational skills as reported on this form. The award of £200 is made annually. The winner will be announced by early April.

You may nominate no more than 2 papers for this prize. You can make a nomination in three ways:

1. By ripping out this page, completing it, and handing it in at the registration desk
2. By completing the electronic version of this form at <https://forms.office.com/e/RW3sqz5VUt>.

You can also scan the QR code for the form:



3. By sending a scan of this form to [james.harriman-smith@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:james.harriman-smith@ncl.ac.uk).

Only nominations received before midnight on **Sunday 11 January 2026** will be considered.

<b>Name of nominee</b>	
<b>Title of paper</b>	
<b>Panel in which paper was presented</b>	
<b>Reasons for nomination</b> (E.g. originality and significance of research; relevance to current debates; debate generated in the session; communication and presentation skills.) Continue on reverse if needed.	
<b>Name of nominator</b>	



## **Zoom Information for Hybrid Sessions**

Zoom links and access codes for the hybrid sessions are listed below. Please use these to attend any of the hybrid sessions. These sessions are noted 'hybrid' and underlined.

Pichette Auditorium

Allen and Overy Room

Andrew Pitt Room

Littlegate Room

## BSECS Programme Schedule: Wednesday, 7 January

**8:00-9:00**

### **Registration and Coffee**

Foyer (Henderson Building, Ground Floor)

**9:00-9:30**

**Welcome Address (Hybrid):** Matthew McCormack, BSECS President  
Pichette Auditorium (Henderson Building)

**9:30-10:55**

### **Session 1**

- 1 **'The only Way we can judge of the Bigness of any thing is, by comparing it with something else': 'Big ideas' and 'small phenomena' in the material culture of science and medicine in Georgian England (Hybrid)**

Pichette Auditorium (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** **Chloe Wigston Smith**, University of York

**Speakers** **Rachel Feldberg**, University of York

Shrinking the Universe: Embodying the Solar System at Home and in the Schoolroom, 1760-1810

**Anya Griffiths**, University of York

Big Fonts and Big Claims: Size, Space, and Organisation of Medical Advertisements in Georgian Newspapers (1780-1800)

**Emily Whittingham**, University of York

'Pins, corks, nippers, bottles, hand microscopes &c. Nothing escapes us': Sizing up the Material Culture of Microscopy in Georgian England

- 2 **Alternative Session: Meeting Elizabeth Bennet: AI, Access, and the Future of 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Engagement**

Harold Lee Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Hosts** **Sophy Smith**, University for the Creative Arts

**Lauren Newport-Quinn**, University for the Creative Arts

**Andrew Bossom**, University for the Creative Arts

### 3 Creatures Great and Small (Hybrid)

Allen and Overy Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** Penny Pritchard, University of Hertfordshire

**Speakers** James Wood, University of East Anglia

Grey's Beetle

**Gillian Wright**, University of Birmingham

110 Creatures Great and Small: Aphra Behn's *Fables*, Poetic Concision, and the Politics of 1687

**Adam Bridgen**, Durham University

Unenclosed Ethics: Land, Labour, and Animal Life in James Woodhouse's Agrarian Vision

### 4 Roundtable: The Collected Letters of Hannah More: A Digital Edition (Hybrid)

Andrew Pitt Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** Kerri Andrews, University College, Cork

**Speakers** Kerri Andrews, University College, Cork

**Ben Wilkinson-Tumbull**, University of Bristol

**Jo Edwards**, Hannah More Trust

### 5 Big Data / Small Objects: Digital approaches to eighteenth-century wills and material culture (Hybrid)

Littlegate Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** Kate Smith, University of Birmingham

**Speakers** Harry Smith, University of Exeter

What was new about material culture in the eighteenth century?

**Ben Weddell**, University of Reading

Reconstructing social networks through probate records: the social ties of eighteenth-century maritime communities

**Emily Vine**, University of Exeter

'New' objects in the wills of the gentry and London elites

### 6 **Connoisseur, kingmaker, monstrous beast? The different faces of Warren Hastings**

Art Gallery (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** Robert Jones, University of Leeds

**Speakers** Robin Eagles, History of Parliament

'dy'd with freedom's genuine Hue': the relationship between John Wilkes and Warren Hastings

**Chris Monaghan**, University of Worcester

The Fall of the Fox-North Coalition and Warren Hastings as Collateral Damage

**Chiara Rolli**, University of Parma

Ravens, Beasts, Monsters and Giants: Edmund Burke's Gallery of Pictures of Warren Hastings and its Political and Classical Antecedents

**7 Big and Small in Eighteenth-Century European Lotteries**

Mary Hyde Eccles Room (Samuel Johnson Building, Chapel Quad)

**Chair** **Mary Newbould**, Kazimierz Wielki University

**Speakers** **Johanne Kristiansen**, Norwegian University of Science and Technology  
Lotto, risk, and big and small numbers in late eighteenth-century Scandinavia

**Michael Scham**, Norwegian University of Science and Technology  
Beyond Measure: Probability, Risk, and the Distortions of Affect in Spanish Lottery Play

**Paul Goring**, Norwegian University of Science and Technology  
Lottery tickets in eighteenth-century British plays

**8 British Representation of 'Foreign Others' in the German States, the Baltics, and the Tropics**

Mackesy Room (Samuel Johnson Building, Chapel Quad)

**Chair** **William Mitchell**, London School of Economics

**Speakers** **William Mitchell**, London School of Economics

British Representations of the German States, the Speeding Up of Time, and the Closing in of Space, 1702-1789

**Jack Englehardt**, London School of Economics  
Latitudes of Desire: Tropical Representation and the Cultivation of a Temperate Worldview in British Popular Culture, 1770-1830

**Hugo Bromley**, University of Cambridge  
'The predilections of foreign princes' The Other in British attitudes to the Baltic Sea Region, 1688-1800

**11:05-12:30**

**Session 2**

**1 The Social and Political Worlds of Male Bodies in Eighteenth-Century England (Hybrid)**

Pichette Auditorium (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair Sarah Fox**, Edge Hill University

**Speakers Lisa Forman Cody**, Claremont McKenna College

Queer Bodies of Evidence in King's Bench Habeas Corpus Cases

**Ben Jackson**, University of Manchester

The gift of a friend's body: Eighteenth-century clerical friendships and bodies

**Edward Hardiman**, University of Keele

'I'm a lad of Fashion! I despise reading – I patronise boxing': Pugilism and Elite Masculinity in Georgian Britain

**2 Burney Society UK: From Micro to Macro – Adolescent life writing to questions of global cultural morality:**

Harold Lee Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair Trudie Messent**, Independent Scholar

**Speakers Elizabeth Stewart**, University of Sussex

Burney and Foucault: Askēsis, Form Hybridity, and Social Subjectivity in

Frances Burney's Early Journals

**Jeanette Holt**, Royal Holloway University of London

Contemporary attitudes towards marriage over social divides and their consequences

**Jacqui Grainger**, University of Westminster

James Burney, South Pacific Exploration and the Display of Cook Relics

**3 The Georgian Group Panel: Staging Scale: Building Theatricality in the Eighteenth Century (Hybrid)**

Allen and Overy Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair Thomas Whitfield**, The Georgian Group

**Speakers Hillary Burlock**, University of Liverpool

Building Community: Space and Design in Georgian Assembly Rooms

**Christine Gerrard & Jemima Hubberstey**, University of Oxford & Historic Royal Palaces

Female Authorship and Political Education in Amateur Country House

Theatricals: Elizabeth Yorke and *The Woodcutter, or, The Three Wishes* (1797)

**Hannah Bradshaw**, University of Warwick

Private theatre at Woburn Abbey in Bedfordshire

**4 Roundtable: Big impact in small packages: Collection sizes and impact in Electronic Enlightenment: Lives and Letters (Hybrid)**

Littlegate Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair**     **Nicole Pohl**, Bodleian Libraries Oxford

**Speakers** **Jack Orchard**, Bodleian Libraries Oxford

**Nicole Pohl**, Bodleian Libraries Oxford

**Mark Rogerson**, Bodleian Libraries Oxford

**5 Criticism and Creativity in Periodicals, Newspapers, and Magazines (Hybrid)**

Andrew Pitt Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair**     **Paul Stephens**, University of York

**Speakers** **Adam J Smith**, York St John University

Satire, Experiment, and the Yorkshire Press: Fictional Voices in Radical Periodicals

**Jakub Lipski**, Kazimierz Wielki University

Tobias Smollett as an Art Critic: The Critical Review and Travels through France and Italy

**Mary Newbould**, Kazimierz Wielki University

'A-t-il existé un vrai génie ?' : 'Big' (and small) Authors in Le Journal de Paris

**6 Alternative Session: "Playing Hannah More's Cards of Wisdom: Practice-Led Research into Card Games and the Reception of Women Writers"**

Art Gallery (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Host**     **Ben Wilkinson-Tumbull**, University of Bristol

**7 Nature and Aesthetics I**

Mary Hyde Eccles Room (Samuel Johnson Building, Chapel Quad)

**Chair**     **Emily Whittingham**, University of York

**Speakers** **Lai Yan Wong**, King's College London

Big Blooms and Small Trees: Chinese Plants, Scale and Aesthetics in Eighteenth-Century Britain

**Tom Hothem**, University of California

Picturesque Aesthetics and Community Science: Possibilities for Landscape Vision Then and Now

**Desmond B Kraege**, University of Lausanne

Political Plants: French Empire and American Independence in Marie-Antoinette's Petit Trianon Garden, 1774-1791

**8 Alternative Session: Small words, big feelings: material culture and imagined lives with object-based creative writing**

Mackesy Room (Samuel Johnson Building, Chapel Quad)

**Host** Emma Mitchell, Brunel University London

\*Please note this session is limited to 15 spots. Please sign up [here](#).

**12:30-13:30**

**Lunch**

**13:30-15:30**

**Session 3**

**1 [Scale, Size, and Measure: Making Music \(Hybrid\)](#)**

Pichette Auditorium (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** Jelma van Amersfoort, Independent Scholar

**Speakers** **Adrianna Chmielewska**, Royal Holloway, University of London  
Handel's *Rinaldo* (1711) as a negotiation between English and Italian opera

**Clare Beesley**, Utrecht University

Child Prodigies and Adult Virtuose: The Problem of Female 'size' at Paris'  
Concert Spirituel

**Mary-Jannet Leith**, University of York

'You will perceive a glorious harmony': James Oswald's Æolian Harp

**Brianna Robertson-Kirkland**, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

'The Largest Musical Work Ever Printed in Great Britain' – Quantity, Quality  
and the production of Corri's Musical Works in Eighteenth-century Britain

**2 Bodies, Gestures, and Aesthetics**

Harold Lee Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** Gillian Williamson, Independent Scholar

**Speakers** **Kang-yen Chiu**, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

Stature and Significance: The Aesthetics of Deformity in *The Black Dwarf*

**Katie Aske**, Edinburgh Napier University

Big, Small and Middle-Sized: Measuring Beauty with Physiognomy

**Nevena Martinović**, Queen's University

Typecasting the Aging Actresses

**Jacqueline Malchow**, Independent Scholar

Small gestures, big emotions

### 3 [Portrait Miniatures Making Big Statements \(Hybrid\)](#)

Allen and Overy Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** **Meg Kobza**, Newcastle University

**Speakers** **Cristoph Heyl**, Universitaet Duisburg-Essen

Face to Face: Teaching the Long Eighteenth Century with Portrait Miniatures

**Marlies Ehrenpaar**, University of Vienna

Small Pictures, Big Impact

**Jolene Zigarovich**, University of Northern Iowa, Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study

Death in Miniature

**Jake Bransgrove**, University of Cambridge

Science and Portrait Silhouettes at the Late-Georgian Court

### 4 [Roundtable: Rethinking Women's Bibliography: From big to small, 10 years of the Women's Print History Project \(Hybrid\)](#)

Andrew Pitt Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** **Betty A Schellenberg**, Simon Fraser University

**Speakers** **Michelle Levy**, Simon Fraser University

**Kandice Sharren**, University of Saskatchewan

**Kate Moffat**, Simon Fraser University

**Kate Ozment**, Case Western Reserve University

### 5 [Time and Time Again \(Hybrid\)](#)

Littlegate Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** **Ryan Hanley**, University of Exeter

**Speakers** **Minchul Kim**, Sungkyunkwan University

William Godwin's idea of democracy in the time-regime of perfection and progress

**Brycchan Carey**, Northumbria University

'No vestige of a beginning,—no prospect of an end.' James Hutton, Deep Time, and the Challenge to Creationism

**Gabriele Mulé**, Independent Scholar

Through Landscapes of Time: James Byres (1733–1817) and Henry Pen.

Wyndham (1736–1819), Two British Expeditions to the Top of Etna Volcano

**Simon D A O'Sullivan**, Independent Scholar

The St Petersburg Paradox: Big Prize with Small Probability

## 6 Material Culture and Beyond

Art Gallery (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** Lucy Powell, University of Oxford

**Speakers** Katarina Stenke, University of Greenwich

Filling time, compressing piety: tracing watch-paper devotion across the Steele family archive

**Chandni Rampersad**, University of Duisburg-Essen

Wrapped in Obsolescence

**Tomas Brown**, University of Cambridge

Little Makings: Mending Porcelain in the Eighteenth Century Home

**Emily Deal**, University of East Anglia

All histories great and small: The importance of biography as an approach to (women's) eighteenth-century history

## 7 Nature and Aesthetics II

Mary Hyde Eccles Room (Samuel Johnson Building, Chapel Quad)

**Chair** Thomas Hothem, University of California

**Speakers** Rosamund Paice

Cutting down oaks and growing resentments: rewriting Andrew Marvell's 'Upon Appleton House' in 1679

**Sharon Young**, University of Worcester

"[T]his still cell": the root-house at William Shenstone's landscape garden The Leasowes

**Sebastian Mitchell**, University of Birmingham

Paradise Postponed: James Thomson's Utopianism

**Anne M Thell**, National University of Singapore

Cavendish's Aesthetic View of Life

## 8 Form, Style, and Numbers

Mackesy Room (Samuel Johnson Building, Chapel Quad)

**Chair** Penny Pritchard, University of Hertfordshire

**Speakers** Paul Stephens, University of York

Shelley's Big Numbers

**Yingnan Shang**, University of Cambridge

The View Backward: Form and Contradiction in Fielding's Journal

**Carmen Borbely**, Babes-Bolyai University

'In the bigness of a little pea': Margaret Cavendish's Cross-Scale Choreography, from Enclosure to Infinity

**15:40-17:40**

**Session 4**

**1 Technology and Approaches to Eighteenth-Century Studies (Hybrid)**

Pichette Auditorium (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** Rosamund Paice

**Speakers** Thomas Leonard-Roy, University of Sassari

Towards a cultural history of the editorial factory

**Dylan Carver**, University of Oxford

Paper and Protest: An Essay in Book History from Below

**Jack Orchard**, Bodleian Libraries

Big Feelings, Small Stories: Archival Encounters in the Ludic Eighteenth-Century

**Eleanor Leese**, Gale

Searching for 'bookishness' in Eighteenth Century Collections Online, Part III

**2 Small Bodies: Medicine, Clothing, and Travel**

Harold Lee Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** Sarah Fox, Edge Hill University

**Speakers** Helen Esfandiary, King's College London

Big medicine, small bodies: weighing up reform and maternal authority in Georgian England

**Matthew McCormack**, University of Northampton

Small shoes: children's footwear, material culture and the body

**Alun Withey**, University of Exeter

'The Motion of the Coach': embodied mobility and disability in eighteenth-century carriage travel

**3 Swift, Scandal, and Sexuality (Hybrid)**

**Allen and Overy Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)**

**Chair** James A Smith, Royal Holloway, University of London

**Speakers** Zoe Screti, University of Oxford

Servants, Scandal, and Spoilation: Social dynamics and the destruction of correspondences in the long eighteenth-century

**Matthew Roberts**, University of Kent

Swift, Sodomy and Gulliver

**Anna Malczyk**, University of Oxford

Big Emotions, Small Tokens: The homoromantic correspondence of Johannes von Müller and Francis Kinloch

**Conrad Brunstrom**, Maynooth University

Cowper in Love: amorous imperatives and the refusal of heteronormative closure

#### 4 Reproduction, Reception, and Rewriting Asia (Hybrid)

Andrew Pitt Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** **Baiyu Andrew Song**, Andrew Fuller Centre for Baptist Studies

**Speakers** **Yuri Yoshino**, Gakushuin University

The Early Reception of Frances Burney in Japan

**Ruoyi Yang**, King's College London

From an orphaned infant to the enlightened monarch: navigating Voltaire's paradoxical politics in his rewriting of *The Orphan of Tchao*

**Wanying Wang**, Soochow University

The canonization of *Candide* in China

**Xiofan Wu**, University of Oxford

Capitalised Abstractions, Capitalised Locale: Prosopopoeia, China, and the Enlarging Imperial Ambitions of Britain in D'Alenzon's *The Bonze, or Chinese Anchorite* (1769)

#### 5 Women's Studies Group 1558-1837: Women Measuring up the World (Hybrid)

Littlegate Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** **Jasmin Bieber**, University of Konstanz

**Speakers** **Laura Giuliano**, Independent Scholar

Intimacy and Grandeur: Female Images between Monumental Portraits and Miniatures

**Carolyn D Williams**, University of Reading

Dwindling into a Wife: Size, Sex and Marriage in Eighteenth-Century English Literature

**Charlotte Vallis**, University of York

'...too fat to be in a plot...' The advantages and disadvantages of size for Empress Elizabeth Petrovna, 1741-1761

**Zoe Copeman**, University of Maryland College Park/The Warburg Institute

Cankerous Femme: The European Mastectomy and the Semiotics of Surgery

#### 6 **Domesticity, Writing, and Material Culture**

Art Gallery (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** **Rachel Bynoth**, Bath Spa University

**Speakers** **Conor Lucey**, University College Dublin

Compliments, invitations and obliging enquiries: material traces of female sociability in eighteenth-century Dublin

**Aku Youse**, Sichuan University and University of Oxford

Small Things and Big Politics: Scale Aesthetics and Domestic Governmentality in Jane Austen

**Jingyi Ouyang**, University of Bristol

From 'A little bit of ivory' to 'Big Bow-wow': The Silver Fork Novel's Transformation of British Domestic Realism

**Imogen Cook**, University of Kent

Reading the 'other' Anne Lister: Ageing and autonomy in 1820s Paris

**7 'Mapping Race, Religion and Community: the Local and Global influences of the Church of England in the Anglican Empire'**

Mary Hyde Eccles Room (Samuel Johnson Building, Chapel Quad)

**Chair** **Karen Lipsedge**, University of Kingston

**Speakers** **Liberty Collard**, Northeastern University London

Local Parishes, Global People: How Spatial Analysis of London's Parish Records Reveals Intercultural Global Connections, 1720-1840

**Odile Jordan**, Northeastern University London

Navigating the Metropole: South Asian Sailors and Community Formation in Late-Georgian Deptford's Docklands

**Eleanor Hex**, University of Kent

'Go ye therefore, and teach all nations.': The Bishop of the Colonies and the mission fields of Virginia c.1675-1775

**Nicole Brown**, William & Mary

Religion and Revolution: Exploring the Global and Local Legacies of Bray Schools in the British Atlantic World

**8 A Matter of State**

Mackesy Room (Samuel Johnson Building, Chapel Quad)

**Chair** **Kate Tunstall**, University of Oxford

**Speakers** **Mary Christensen**, State University of New York

Big Hopes In Exile: The Correspondence of the Count of Artois, Future King Charles X of France, 1792-1804

**Seungeun Lee**, University of St Andrews

The Partitions of Poland at the crossroads of eighteenth-century Europe's small state-large state problem

**April Girling**, University of Worcester

Smallest parcel of the world or the largest parcel of the world? The Garden of Eden and Restoration politics in Lucy Hutchinson's *Order and Disorder*

**Aelfred Hillman**, University of Cambridge

James, Duke of York, and the negotiation of political authority in Elkanah Settle's *The Empress of Morocco* (1673)

**17:40-18:00**

**Coffee Break and Meet Your Mentor**

Foyer and Farthings Café (Henderson Building, Ground Floor)

**18:00-19:15**

**AGM (Hybrid)**

Pichette Auditorium (Henderson Building)

**19:15-20:00**

**Wiley-Blackwell and Postgraduate Wine Reception**

Foyer and Farthings Café (Henderson Building, Ground Floor)

**20:00-22:00**

**Dinner**

## BSECS Programme Schedule: Thursday, 8 January

**8:30-9:00**

### **Registration**

Foyer (Henderson Building, Ground Floor)

**9:00-10:30**

### **Session 5**

#### **1 Sterne: Little, Small, Absolute, and Cancelled (Hybrid)**

Pichette Auditorium (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** **Helen Williams**, Northumbria University

**Speakers** **James A Smith**, Royal Holloway, University of London

Sterne, Charlotte Lennox, and the Theory of Comedy

**Judith Hawley**, Royal Holloway, University of London

Tristram Shandy un-done

**Flavio Gregori**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

'so young a traveller, my little Gentleman': Sterne's homunculus and the 'minutest philosophers'

#### **2 Reconsidering the Extraordinary Careers of Richard Brinsley Sheridan**

Harold Lee Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** **Robin Eagles**, History of Parliament

**Speakers** **Robert W Jones**, University of Leeds

Financing The Repertoire: Sheridan's Management of Drury Lane Theatre

**Martyn J Powell**, University of Bristol

Editing Sheridan at the Warren Hastings Trial: Speeches Humdrum and Box-Office

**Callum D Smith**, Aberystwyth University

'Uncorking Old Sherry': Sheridan, Alcohol & Decline in Print & Visual Culture

#### **3 Big Datasets, Tiny Tidbits, and Larger Stories (Hybrid)**

Allen and Overy Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** **Elaine Chalus**, University of Liverpool

**Speakers** **Lisa Smith**, University of Essex

Dishes on an (Excel) Table: Organising Information and the Stories We Want to Tell

**Ellie Hibbert**, University of Essex

Uncovering the Lives of the Midwives in Eighteenth Century London

**Sarah Fox**, Edge Hill University

Pudding, Pies, and Roast Beef: the flavours of Britishness in the later eighteenth century

**4 Distant Parenting in the Long Eighteenth Century (Hybrid)**

Andrew Pitt Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair Elizabeth Foyster**, University of Cambridge

**Speakers Emma Marshall**, University of York

Parenting sick children (big and small): correspondence about health across distance and the life cycle, c.1680-1750

**Anna Harrington**, University of Birmingham

'teach her to remember': East India Company families, distant parenting, and the emotional geographies of empire, 1757-1835

**Emily Rhodes**, University of Cambridge

Mothers, Petitions, and Distant Parenting in England During the Long 18th Century

**5 Johnson According to Scale (Hybrid)**

Littlegate Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair Philip Smallwood**, Birmingham City University and University of Bristol

**Speakers Joseph Turner**, University of Oxford

Johnson's *The Ant*

**Catherine Dille**, Richmond American University London

Disciplining the appetite: Samuel Johnson on Indulgence and Abstinence

**Miriam Al Jamil**, Independent Scholar

The Bigger Picture: Johnson at the National Portrait Gallery

**6 The Big and Small Stories that Shape Us: Black Family and Community in Eighteenth-Century Britain and North America**

Art Gallery (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair Karen Lipsedge**, University of Kingston

**Speakers Gillian Williamson**, Independent Scholar

The Big and Small World of Black voter John London

**Helen Wilson**, Open University

Even in Death: Race, Class, and the Fate of Charlotte Gardiner's Body

**Laura Keim**, University Pennsylvania and Stenton, Philadelphia

Finding Black Lives in the Archives: Stenton's Black Community and Family

**7 A Matter of Rank: Boundaries and Suffering**

Mary Hyde Eccles Room (Samuel Johnson Building, Chapel Quad)

**Chair Jeanette Holt**, Royal Holloway University of London

**Speakers Jeanne Clegg**, University of Ca' Foscari Venice

'Entitling to the gallows': Defoe, the classification of property crimes and their punishments in early eighteenth-century England

**Andrew Dorman**, Trinity College Dublin

'The lash cannot always be withheld': Workplace relations in the military in the eighteenth century Ireland

**Shahira A Hathout**, Independent Scholar

The Smaller and Larger Passions of Moor in the Anthropocene: The Unsettled Boundaries between Physical and Metaphysical Suffering in Schiller's Play, *The Robbers* (1781)

**8 Alternative Session: Guitar music from the Austen Family Music Books**

Mackesy Room (Samuel Johnson Building, Chapel Quad)

**Speaker** Jelma van Amersfoort, Independent Scholar

**10:30-11:00**

**Coffee Break and Meet Your Mentor**

Foyer and Farthings Café (Henderson Building)

**11:00-13:00**

**Session 6**

**1 Roundtable: Bluestockings, Satirists, Amateurs, and Gin: Papers in Honour of the Retirement of Judith Hawley (Hybrid)**

Pichette Auditorium (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** James A Smith, Royal Holloway, University of London

**Speakers** Flavio Gregori, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Mary Newbould, Kazimierz Wielki University

Henry Power, University of Exeter

Adam Rounce, University of Nottingham

Matthew Sangster, University of Glasgow

Adam J Smith, York St John University

Helen Williams, Northumbria University

**2 Roundtable: New Directions in Material Culture**

Harold Lee Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** Elisabeth Gerner, De Montfort University

**Speakers** Kate Smith, University of Birmingham

Ben Jackson, University of Manchester

Matthew McCormack, University of Northampton

Sally Tuckett, University of Glasgow

**3 Theatre and Women Playwrights (Hybrid)**

Allen and Overy Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** Nevena Martinović, Queen's University

**Speakers** Emma Quiriconi, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Between Spectacle and Silence: Gender, Power, and Performance in Sarah Fielding's 'The Lives of Cleopatra and Octavia'

Jingyue Wu, Shanghai Tech University

Centlivre's *The Wonder* (1714), the Collier Controversy, and the Question of Size

Anthony Zhang, University of Durham

The "'little" she-philosopher' and her 'Power': Negotiating the 'Learned Lady' through the Comedic Marriage Plot in Susanna Centlivre's *The Basset Table*

Sarah Burdett, University of Cambridge

Women and theatrical adaptation: forgotten female dramatists of the late eighteenth century

#### 4 Something Brewing (Hybrid)

Andrew Pitt Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** **Jasmin Bieber**, University of Konstanz

**Speakers** **Marine Ganofsky**, University of St Andrews

From the Magic of Coffee to the Enchanted Spaces of Rococo Architecture:  
Aphrodisiacs as Enchantment in Eighteenth-Century French Libertine Fiction

**Leonie Hannan**, Queen's University Belfast

Eighteenth-Century Air Big and Small: brewing, distilling and embodied  
knowledge

**Bo-Yuan Huang**, National Chiayi University

Breathing the Nation: Air, Nerves, and English Identity in Cheyne's *Medical  
Imagination*

**Emma Mitchell**, Brunel University London

Whoretopia: ritual, remedy and reckoning for the women of Harris's List

#### 5 Religion: High and Low, Big and Small (Hybrid)

Littlegate Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** **Jeanette Holt**, Royal Holloway University of London

**Speakers** **George Shaduri**, International Black Sea University

High Church and Low Church in the Works of Jonathan Swift (1704-1710)

**Laura Kirkley**, Newcastle University

Materialist Philosophy and Wollstonecraft's Religious Opinions

**Martin Calder**, Lytchett Minster School

From Totnes to Oxford: The Unpublished Verse of Benjamin Kennicott

**Helen Corlett**, University of Manchester

Flocks Great and Small: The Curate and the Chaplain

#### 6 **Colonialism and Representation**

Art Gallery (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** **Meg Kobza**, Newcastle University

**Speakers** **Tillman W Nechtman**, Skidmore College

Captain Cook's Hei-Tiki: Material Culture, Gift Exchange, and Looting in New  
Zealand during the Endeavour Voyage, 1768-1771

**Emma Piercy-Wright**, University of Exeter

Small Trifles, Big Ideas: Mother-of-Pearl Trinkets as Enlightenment Transcripts

**Emma Pearce**, Glasgow School of Art

Contextualising William Hay's "Seamstresses, St Kitts, Caribbean" (1798)

**John T Gilmore**, University of Warwick

Sable and other Venuses: Sex, Slavery, and Book Illustration in the late  
Eighteenth Century

## 7 Portraits and Public Image

Mary Hyde Eccles Room (Samuel Johnson Building, Chapel Quad)

**Chair** **Adrianna Chmielewska**, Royal Holloway, University of London

**Speakers** **Luisa Signorelli**, University College London

The Demigod of Our Idolatry: Garrick's Herculean Shakespeare

**Sofya Dmitrieva**, Voltaire Foundation (University of Oxford)

Making Voltaire: Reproduction and Celebrity in Eighteenth-Century Europe

**Baiyu Andrew Song**, Andrew Fuller Centre for Baptist Studies

Andrew Fuller's Portraits: A Case Study of Georgian Dissenting Minister's Public Image

## 8 Innovation, Agriculture, and Enlightenment

Mackesy Room (Samuel Johnson Building, Chapel Quad)

**Chair** **Brianna Robertson-Kirkland**, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

**Speakers** **Dan Wall**, University of Aberdeen

Metric Conversions: Measurement and Moral Judgement in Robert Burns's Poetry

**Sarah Wingrove**, University of Surrey

'should bring John Bull upon myself': Navigating Newspaper Notoriety after Anne Lister's Visit to Coldbath Field Prison (1824)

**Scott Macfie**, University of Glasgow

The Improvement of Large Scottish Estates: Can a great proprietor be a great improver?

**13:00-14:00**

**Lunch**

**14:00-15:15**

**Keynote Address: Thinking With and Against Small Things (Hybrid)**

Pichette Auditorium (Henderson Building)

**Chloe Wigston Smith**, University of York

**Chair: Matthew McCormack**, University of Northampton

**15:15-16:00**

**Listening Event (Hybrid)**

Pichette Auditorium (Henderson Building)

**16:00-16:20**

**Coffee Break and Meet Your Mentor**

Foyer and Farthings Café (Henderson Building)

**16:20-18:15**

**Session 7**

**1 Roundtable: Dumbshew to Smartshow: Using AI to animate and annotate Hogarth's 'Humours of an Election' paintings (Hybrid)**

Pichette Auditorium (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** **Matthew Grenby**, Newcastle University

**Speakers** **Elaine Chalus**, University of Liverpool

**Kendra Packham**, Newcastle University

**Dan Foster-Smith**, Newcastle University

**Jo Tinworth**, Sir John Soane Museum

**2 Fashion, Dress History, and Material Culture**

Harold Lee Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** **Rachel Bynoth**, Bath Spa University

**Speakers** **Michael Ramsey**, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

The 'Business of making Plaiding Hose': an overlooked part of Scottish historical dress

**Amy Wilson**, University of Exeter

Big Petticoats and Small Breeches: A Case Study examining Size in Mid-Eighteenth-Century Elite Clothing

**Lucy Powell**, University of Oxford

'The feathered sex': plumed excess and the eighteenth-century feminine

**Anni Shepherd**, University of Turku

Small Stitches – Big Impacts: the Art of Quilted Petticoats in Eighteenth Century Finland

**3 Knowledge, Libraries, and Slavery (Hybrid)**

Allen and Overy Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** **Baiyu Andrew Song**, Andrew Fuller Centre for Baptist Studies

**Speakers** **Catherine Whiteman**, University of Bristol

One Book, Multiple Audiences: Edwards Long's 'History of Jamaica' and Bristol Library Society, 1774-1807

**Jacqueline Kennard Imrie**, University of Stirling

'Raising the lower classes too high by giving them information': Access to information at subscription versus parish libraries in Scotland

**Lynda Mugglestone**, University of Oxford

Big Dictionary, Small hands. Francis Barber in Samuel Johnson's dictionary garret

**Ruth Scobie**, University of Oxford

'Announced in the public papers': Newspapers and the slave trade in Mansfield Park and A Simple Story

#### 4 Women Across Sources, Styles, and Spaces (Hybrid)

Andrew Pitt Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair Sarah Fox**, Edge Hill University

**Speakers Clementine Garcenot**, University of Toulon

Aristocratic bias and financial hardship in the memoirs of French female aristocrats (1789-1799)

**Li Hui Tsai**, St John's University

From Parlors to Politics: Domestic Life and Women's Autonomy in Wollstonecraft, Richardson, and the Sentimental Novel

**Betty A Schellenberg**, Simon Fraser University

'Small Poems' and Big Questions: Domestic Comforts and Global Britain in the Manuscript Verse Miscellany

**Yasemin Hacıoglu**, Volda University College

Thinking through poems: Composition, emotion and decision-making in Romantic-era women's novels

#### 5 In, Out and All About Gulliver's Travels (Hybrid)

Littlegate Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair James A Smith**, Royal Holloway, University of London

**Speakers Daniel Cook**, University of Dundee

Gulliver's Travels and Transmedia Archaeology

**Peter Richard**, University of Sydney

A greater or lesser misanthrope: Re-examining Jonathan Swift's debt to 'Timon of Athens'

**Mary-Antoinette Smith**, Seattle University

Of (In)Human Bondage: A Modest Proposal for Pairing *The Interesting Narrative of Olaudah Equiano* and *Gulliver's Travels* as Matters for Manumission

**Sean D Moore**, Trinity College Dublin

Dublin Castle's Secret Service Masons confront 'the Knight': the Influence of Sir Philip Sidney's Anti-War 'Apology for Poetry' and Swift's 'A Letter of Advice to a Young Poet' on 'Gulliver's Travels' Book 4, the 'Houyhnhnms' Episode

#### 6 **Big and Small Shakespeares**

Art Gallery (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair Crystal Biggin**, University of Nottingham

**Speakers Anna Myers**, University of Edinburgh

'Is the day so young'? Watchpapers, Pocket Watches, and William Shakespeare in Eighteenth-Century Britain

**Hannah Moss**, National Trust

Shakespeare Illustrated: Prints from Boydell's Shakespeare Gallery

**Crystal Biggin**, University of Nottingham

'one of [Shakespeare's] most regular pieces': uses of Charlotte Lennox's scholarship on *Bandello* as a source for *Romeo and Juliet*

**James Harriman-Smith**, Newcastle University

The Intervals of David Garrick's King Lear and Hamlet

## 7 Life-Writing and Biography

Mary Hyde Eccles Room (Samuel Johnson Building, Chapel Quad)

**Chair Penny Pritchard**, University of Hertfordshire

**Speakers Claude Willan**, University of Durham

The Long Reach of Spence's *Anecdotes*

**Mar Manyé de Gibert**, Universitat de Barcelona

A shift to the middle ranks in Eighteenth-century Spain? Gregori Maians' biographical subjects

**Philip Smallwood**, Birmingham City University

Grandeur and Intimacy in Johnson's Poetry: A Legacy for the Thrales

**Paul Young**, Georgetown University

A Monumental Poet? Madame de la Suze's Eighteenth-Century Great Reputation

## 8 Enhancing Portugal before Europe: Ideas and Reforms during the Portuguese Enlightenment

Mackesy Room (Samuel Johnson Building, Chapel Quad)

**Chair José Eduardo Franco**, Universidade Aberta

**Speakers José Eduardo Franco & Cristiana Luca Silva**, Universidade Aberta

Europe as mirror and goal of Portugal: Analysis, rationale, and evaluation of some of the key pombaline reforms in Education, the Inquisition, and Religious Orders

**Paula Carreira**, Universidade Aberta

Trimming the Excess: The role of the Arcádia Lusitana and the Real Mesa

Censória in the promotion of a 'true' and 'useful' literary aesthetic

**Susana Alves-Jesus**, Universidade Aberta

Utopian Journeys and Human Rights: 'Viagens d'Altina' [Altina's Journeys] in the Century of *Gulliver's Travels*

**Rui Maia Rego**, Universidade Aberta

The Universal Principle of Vanity: Ethical and Political Reflections from the Philosophy of Matias Aires

**18:20-19:30**

### The 18<sup>th</sup> in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Communicating to Audiences Big & Small (Hybrid)

Pichette Auditorium (Henderson Building)

**Chair: Emrys Jones**, Kings College London

**Liberty Collard**, Northeastern University London

**Anthony Delaney**, Historian, Presenter, and Author

**Meg Kobza**, Newcastle University

**Elizabeth McDonald**, Boydell and Brewer

**19:30-20:00**

**Gale Wine Reception –**

Foyer and Farthings Café (Henderson Building)

**20:15-22:15**

**BSECS Annual Conference Dinner**

## BSECS Programme Schedule: Friday, 9 January

**8:30-9:00**

### **Morning Coffee**

Foyer and Farthings Café (Henderson Building)

**9:00-11:00**

### **Session 8**

#### **1 Roundtable: In Memory of Frank O’Gorman (Hybrid)**

Pichette Auditorium (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Speakers** **Brycchan Carey**, Northumbria University  
**Elaine Chalus**, University of Liverpool  
**Matthew Grenby**, Newcastle University  
**Matthew McCormack**, University of Northampton

#### **2 Revolution, Speech, and Politics**

Harold Lee Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** **Anna Malczyk**, University of Oxford

**Speakers** **Finn Smith**, University of Oxford

The Idea of Political Representation in the American and French Revolutions

**Deborah Jeffries**, University of East London

Playwrights vs parliament: Satire and the suppression of free speech on London’s eighteenth-century stage

**Paul Staiti**, Mount Holyoke College

John Singleton Copley’s Gibraltar and the Politics of Scale

**Joshua Grey**, Monash University and University of Warwick

A Constitutional Press? The Conservative Press’s Construction of an Ideal Press and the ‘Reading Public’, c.1790-1830

#### **3 From Mock Epics to Grand Epics (Hybrid)**

Allen and Overy Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** **James Harriman-Smith**, Newcastle University

**Speakers** **Mandy Green**, University of Durham

From Grand Epic to Mock Epic: Issues of Poetic and Political Succession in Dryden’s *Mac Flecknoe*

**Gönül Bakay**, Bahçeşehir University

From Lock to Legend: Bathos and Satirical Magnification in Pope’s *The Rape of the Lock*

**Matt Neal**, University of Cambridge

Littleness and post-courtly politeness in Oliver Goldsmith’s ‘Life of Richard Nash’

**Dafydd Moore**, University of Plymouth

‘Fierce Anubis of these Modern Days’: Jacob Bryant’s Hellenism and the Egyptian Trojan War

#### 4 Imperial Matters (Hybrid)

Andrew Pitt Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** **Chiara Rolli**, University of Parma

**Speakers** **Madeleine Miller**, University of Cambridge

East India Company Directors and the Shaping of London, 1729-1858

**Maja Perić**, Croatian Institute of History

Big plans and small realities. The organisation of the sugar factory of Rijeka in context of the Habsburg commercial politics 1750-1775

**Joanna de Groot**, University of York

The size and scale of difference: Perso-European encounters in the eighteenth centuryys

**Rhys Kaminski-Jones**, University of Wales

Celtic Empires: Small Nations, Large Pasts, and Imperial Cultural Revival

#### 5 Science and Medicine (Hybrid)

Littlegate Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** **Sarah Fox**, Edge Hill University

**Speakers** **Anita Hoffmann**, University of York

A Most Unladylike Revolution: Small Print and Big Business Selling

Commercial Pox Cures in Early Eighteenth Century England

**Amrapali Sharma**, University of Delhi

Seeing the Unseen: Scale, Perception and Invisible Life in Defoe's *A Journal of A Plague Year*

**Rosalind Powell**, University of Amsterdam

Ocular Attentions: Bodkins, Blind Spots and Tunnel Vision

**Carrie Dunne**, University of Buckingham

The Shadow of Consumption

#### 6 **Bodies Politic, Bodies Satiric: Satirical Embodiment in Georgian Britain and Ireland**

Art Gallery (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** **Adam J Smith**, York St John University

**Speakers** **Jonathan Perris**, University of Oxford

Pitt's Ghost: Gothic Satire and Nascent Nationalism, 1782–1830

**Megan D Bennett**, University of Sheffield

'Jacobites drink for him [the King]' (Fielding, 1747): Drink, the Narrator, and the Self in Henry Fielding's *The Jacobite Journal* (1747-8)

**Gráinne O'Hare**, Newcastle University

'The Beauteous Amazons': Women, Military, and Debauchery in Satires of Coxheath

**7 Roundtable: How to get all of Voltaire on your phone: launching Oxford University  
Voltaire, the first complete digital edition**

Mary Hyde Eccles Room (Samuel Johnson Building, Chapel Quad)

**Chair** **Nicholas Cronk**, University of Oxford

**Speakers** **Alison Oliver**, University of Oxford

**Dan Barker**, Independent Scholar

**Gillian Pink**, University of Oxford

**Thomas Wynn**, University of Durham

**11:10-12:25**

**Haydn Mason Lecture: Novalis on Romantic Representation and the Politics of  
Scale (Hybrid)**

Pichette Auditorium (Henderson Building)

**Olivier Higgins**, University of Oxford

**Chair: Kate Tunstall**, University of Oxford

**12:30-13:30**

**Lunch**

**13:30-15:30**

**Session 9**

**1 Women, Liberty, and Freedom (Hybrid)**

Pichette Auditorium (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** **Sarah Fox**, Edge Hill University

**Speakers** **Hilary Gallito**, John Hopkins University

Big Ideas of Liberty and History in Catharine Macaulay's Little-Known Corpus

**Alyssa Martin**, University of Winchester

Anne Conway and Epistolary Education

**Annabelle Gilmore**, Lambeth Palace Library

Faith in Baptism: Esther Smith and the Role of Religion and Baptism in  
Eighteenth Century Black History

**2 Theatre, Movement, and Spectacle**

Harold Lee Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** **Meg Kobza**, Newcastle University

**Speakers** **David Francis Taylor**, University of Oxford

The Scale of Theatrical Spectacle

**Katie Noble**, University of Oxford

Big Britain's Small Stages: Georgian Toy Theatre

**Cora James**, University of Edinburgh

'they were born Clowns': The Early Years of Joseph Grimaldi

**Emmanuelle Delattre-Destem**, Maison française d'Oxford/Hauts-de-France  
Polytechnic University

Dancing—but at What Size? The Politics of Size in Eighteenth-Century  
Academic Dance

### 3 Education, Knowledge, and Books (Hybrid)

Allen and Overy Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** Gillian Williamson, Independent Scholar

**Speakers** Dave Jamieson, University of California

‘The Common Bulk of Mankind’: Thomas Boreman’s Gigantic Miniatures

**Susan Helen Reynolds**, The British Library

From the Great Didactic to beans and babies: Johann Amos Comenius and Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi

**Daniel Reed**, Oxford Brookes University

Early marks of genius? A schoolbook of Laurence Sterne

**Samuel Diener**, University of Oxford

‘The sports of children and the toils of men’: Anna Lætitia Barbauld’s Object-oriented Poetics

### 4 Voyages Big and Small, In and Out (Hybrid)

Andrew Pitt Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** Jasmin Bieber, University of Konstanz

**Speakers** Ashley Xiong, Peking University

The Unbearable Lightness of the Ship: Small Vessels and Expanding Selves in Defoe’s *Oceanic Narratives*

**Nicholas Seager**, Keele University

‘Great Additions and Improvements’: The Textual History of Defoe’s *Tour thro’ Great Britain* in the Eighteenth Century

**Isabel Realyvasquez**, Columbia University

Polar Archipelagos: Cook’s Voyages at the Ends of the Earth

### 5 Roundtable and Alternative: Books and Borrowing in the Eighteenth Century (Hybrid)

Littlegate Room (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Hosts** Digital BSECS Prize Winners 2025

**Matthew Sangster**, University of Glasgow

**Katie Halsey**, University of Stirling

### 6 Genre, Emotion, and Philosophy

Art Gallery (Henderson Building, Rokos Quad)

**Chair** Catherine Maw, Newcastle University

**Speakers** Wendy McGlashan, Independent Scholar

Henry William Bunbury’s ‘The Little Grey Man’: Memento Mori, Fiendism, and the Mechanisms of Moral Instruction

**Penny Pritchard**, University of Hertfordshire

Big signs and small gestures: The ghost as ‘epiphenomenon of an Encounter with Letters’ in Defoe’s writing

**Chloe Wilcox**, University of Oxford

Comprehending Big Feelings in *Secresy* (1795)

## 7 Reading Between the Lines of Correspondence

Mary Hyde Eccles Room (Samuel Johnson Building, Chapel Quad)

**Chair** Rosamund Paice

**Speakers** Eun Kyung Min, Seoul National University

'I putt up the letter in my Pockett': Epistolary Containment in Dorothy Osborne's Letters to William Temple

**Jason Ray Carney**, Christopher Newport University

Horace Walpole's Epistolary Style: Between Rhetoric, Aesthetic Form, and Political Selfhood

**Rachel Bynoth**, Bath Spa University

The Big Comforts and Small Discomforts of Familial Letter-Writing

**Aaron Michael Hoggle**, University of Alabama

'Not finding the least sign of Brotherly Affection:': The Court of Chancery, Inheritance, and Gentry Family Relations in Early Eighteenth-Century England

## 8 Science and Poetry

Mackesy Room (Samuel Johnson Building, Chapel Quad)

**Chair** Rosalind Powell, University of Amsterdam

**Speakers** Nicholas Dolan, Washington University

'Such wond'rous Smallness': The Physico-Theology of Scale in Henry Baker's *The Universe* (1727)

**Ivana Bicak**, Bilkent University

Minute Monsters: Poetry, Wonder, and the Microscope

**Natasha Lomonossoff**, Independent Scholar

The (In)Comprehensible Nature of the Universe in Anna Barbauld's 'A Summer Evening's Meditation'

**15:30-16:00**

**Closing Roundtable (Hybrid)**

Pichette Auditorium (Henderson Building)

## The British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies

The British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, a registered charity, was founded in 1971 to promote the study of the eighteenth century, not only as it was experienced in Britain but throughout the world. The Society strives to be as fully multi- and inter-disciplinary as possible. It encourages research into, inter alia, art history, dance history, economics, education, linguistics, literature, medicine, music, philosophy, politics, science, sociology, sport and theatre – indeed, into all aspects of eighteenth-century history, culture and society. The Society also strives to encourage good practice and new approaches to teaching and researching the eighteenth century.

We hope that members will attend the society's AGM, which takes place at this conference.

### The Activities of the Society

BSECS organises a major international conference every January and supports a number of smaller specialist or regional conferences throughout the year, including a conference especially designed for postgraduate students. The Society sponsors two prizes in eighteenth-century studies: the BSECS Digital Eighteenth-Century Prize for innovative digital resources that facilitate the study of the eighteenth century, and the President's Prize for the best paper presented by a postgraduate at the Annual Conference. BSECS also provides bursaries for postgraduate students, and for established scholars from countries with less developed economies, to attend its conferences.

The Society also publishes the *Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies* four times a year. All members receive printed copies of the Journal as well as access to the full run of the electronic edition.

### Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies

The Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies (JECS) is the official journal of the British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, published by Wiley. Founded in 1972, JECS publishes essays and reviews on a full range of eighteenth-century subjects. It is received by all the Society's members, and is subscribed to by many individuals and institutions, including many University libraries. All volumes of the Journal are available in both printed and electronic format.

Members of BSECS and those with institutional subscriptions can read JECS online in the Wiley Online Library.

JECS is edited by Dr Emrys Jones ([journal@bsecs.org.uk](mailto:journal@bsecs.org.uk)), at King's College London, 22 Kingsway, London WC2B 6NR, UK.

The General Reviews Editor is Dr Adam James Smith ([journal.reviews@bsecs.org.uk](mailto:journal.reviews@bsecs.org.uk)), at York St John University, Lord Mayor's Walk, York YO31 7EX, UK.

Essays may be up to 10,000-words long and may contain illustrations or other graphic material. They should be written in English, or in French (if with a substantial abstract in English). Papers must be submitted online at <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jecs>.

**Criticks: Reviews of events online**

The eighteenth century was the first great age of criticism. In this spirit, the Criticks website provides entertaining, informative and provocative reviews of events and media that are of interest to scholars of the eighteenth century. These complement the reviews of books that are published in the journal of the Society, *Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies*.

All Criticks reviews are available freely on the Society's website at:

<https://www.bsecs.org.uk/criticks-reviews/>

Plays, concerts, operas, exhibitions, films, broadcasts and online resources are here considered in depth by experts in the field. If there is an event that you would like to see reviewed in these pages, or if you would like to review for us, please contact one of the editors below:

CRITICKS EDITOR

Katie Noble

CRITICKS SUBJECT EDITORS

Fiction:	Helen Dallas
Fine and Decorative Arts:	Miriam Al Jamil
Media:	Gráinne O'Hare
Music:	Brianna Robertson-Kirkland
Theatre:	Isabel Azar

## 2025-26 Awards

Directly and through partnerships, BSECS offers around £14,000 worth of awards each year. The following awards have a deadline of **1<sup>st</sup> February 2026**. Find further details on our website, at <https://www.bsecs.org.uk/prizes-and-awards/>:

The BSECS-BECC Fellowship

The Dunscombe-Colt Fellowship at the Bodleian Library

The BSECS-Bodleian Fellowship

The BSECS-Georgian Papers Fellowship

The Boydell and Brewer BSECS Career Development Fellowship

The Digital Prize

The Teaching Prize

Note also the QMCECS-BSECS Fellowship, which has a deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

## 2025-26 Award Recipients

### Independent Scholar Bursary Recipients

Andrew Dorman

Helen Esfandiary

### Capacity Building Bursary Recipient

Amrapali Sharma

### Early Career Bursary Recipients

William Mitchell

Maja Peric

Angus Sutherland

Sarah Wingrove

### Postgraduate Bursary Recipients

Youse Aku

Clare Beesley

Liberty Collard

Ellie Hibbert

Anna Malczyk

Emma Piercy-Wright

Matthew Roberts

Daniel Reed

Joseph Turner

Amy Wilson

Xiaofan Wu

Awards

**The QMCECS-BSECS Fellowship**

Amy Wilcockson

**The BSECS-Bodleian Fellowship**

Xinyi Wen

**The BSECS-Georgian Papers Fellowship**

Jake Bransgrove

**The Boydell and Brewer BSECS Career Development Fellowship**

Madeleine Saidenberg

**The 2025 President's Prize**

Zoe Copeman

**The 2025 BSECS Digital Prize**

Katie Halsey and Matthew Sangster for 'Books and Borrowing, 1750-1830'

<https://borrowing.stir.ac.uk/>

**The Teaching Prize**

Julia Prest