

INAUGURAL POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCE

3 - 14 AUGUST 2020

CALL FOR PAPERS: DISTANCE

In the long eighteenth century, the experience of cultural distance through exploration, empire, travel and trade led to comparisons with other states, subjects, languages and traditions, shaping the cultural and historical outlook of a developing global eighteenth century. Meanwhile, the expansion of print culture both established and challenged the dissemination of ideas across the world.

In 2020 physical and social distance has once again become a defining feature of our society. Considering how distance has affected our own lives can bring a new appreciation for how distance played an integral role in the communities and cultures of eighteenth-century society.

The University of York's Centre for Eighteenth Century Studies and the University of Melbourne's Enlightenment Romanticism Contemporary Culture Research Unit invites postgraduate students to join their first ever virtual conference from 3-14 August 2020.

We welcome proposals that consider how our current understanding of distance can reframe our scholarly approach to eighteenth-century studies.

PAPERS AND LIGHTNING TALKS MAY EXPLORE TOPICS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- **Encounters:** Cultural, political and religious, communities and diasporas, imperialism, transatlantic families
- **Empire:** the East India Company, slavery and the anti-slavery movement, colonialism and country houses
- **Production:** Textual, visual, physical and liminal spaces of production, trade
- **Communication:** Circuits, networks, conversations, epistolary practices
- **Mobility:** Transportation, social mobility, trans-national movement
- **Material Culture:** Tokens of affection, popular consumption, clothing and embodiment
- **Space:** Architectural design, religious, private vs. public, emotional boundaries, intimacy, personal boundaries.
- **Exploration:** Travel narratives, stadial theory and scientific racism, cartography, natural science observations



CONFERENCE FORMAT:

To accommodate the new physical restrictions in our own academic landscape, the conference will be held virtually. It will operate on a combined platform:

- Postgraduate presenters will be advised and supported in pre-recording presentations. These will then be uploaded onto a dedicated google site for conference delegates available from the 3 - 14 August 2020.
- Keynote speeches and other conference activities will take place on Zoom at scheduled times during the conference period.

We welcome abstracts from postgraduates for either traditional papers of 20 minutes or lightning talks of 3-5 minutes in length.

Traditional papers will be organised into a standard three-paper panel format. Lightning talks will be organised into smaller, more informal, roundtables to prompt discussions and thoughts throughout the conference.

We particularly encourage MA and new PhD students who wish to gain conference speaking experience to apply.

APPLY TO PRESENT:

Please visit the conference website for more details listed under the "Apply" tab on the homepage:

<https://sites.google.com/york.ac.uk/distance2020/home>

If you have any questions please email:

distanceconference2020@gmail.com

Applications close 5pm Friday BST 26 June, 2020.

Notifications of acceptance will be sent out by 6 July 2020.



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