

Eighteenth-Century Futures

The Indiana Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies announces its fifteenth annual
Bloomington Workshop (May 11-13, 2016).

Eighteenth-century Studies is doubly entangled with time. Explicitly chronological in identity, it has also long been based on the notion that time somehow changed in the period c.1700-1800. The arrow of progress replaced the cycles of nature; prognostic techniques superseded eschatology; new forms of suspense and seriality emerged. With the rise of commercial society and of experimentation with calendar reform, came a newly regimented and linear sense of time. History, as academic discipline and attitude to the world, became manifest.

So, at least, it has often been said. For our fifteenth annual workshop, we propose to interrogate these commonplaces by focusing on the future. What did the future look like in the eighteenth century? What role have eighteenth-century texts, images, individuals, and histories played in later imaginings of the future? And what future do we anticipate for eighteenth-century studies today?

Proposed contributions may include working papers (draft articles or chapters), primary-source selections (text or image) paired with commentary, and other formats (technological or otherwise) yet to be imagined. Topics and themes to be addressed might include:

Immortality: fame, reputation, posterity

Narrative: plots, closure, sequels, sequences

Anticipation: probability, insurance, speculation, prognosis

Religion: providence, apocalypse, millenarianism, eschatology

Magic and the occult: fortune tellers, oracles, prophecies, predictions

Biopolitics: vitality, regeneration, reproduction, sustainability

Revolution: rotation, rupture, renovation, return

Limits: thresholds, borders, departures, arrivals

History: progress, regress, decline, ruins

During the Workshop, we will discuss 4-6 pre-circulated papers each day and have an occasional lecture. Expanded abstracts and/or entire papers will be published in the Center's *The Workshop*, along with discussion transcripts.

The application deadline is January 15, 2016. Please send a paper proposal (1-2 pages) and current brief CV (3 pages, max) to Dr. Barbara Truesdell, Weatherly Hall North, room 122, Bloomington, IN 47405; 812-855-2856, voltaire@indiana.edu. We will acknowledge all submissions within a fortnight: if you do not receive an acknowledgment by Jan. 29, 2016, please contact Barbara Truesdell or the Center's Director, Professor Rebecca L. Spang (rlspang@indiana.edu).

Papers will be selected by an interdisciplinary committee. We cover most expenses for visiting scholars chosen to present their work: accommodations, travel (up to a certain limit), and most meals. For further information please see www.indiana.edu/~voltaire

**EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY
FUTURES**

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May 11-13, 2016

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What role have eighteenth-century texts, images, individuals, and histories played in later imaginings of the future?

What future do we imagine for Eighteenth-Century Studies today? We invite:

working papers (chapter/article drafts)
primary sources paired with comment
work in other formats yet to be imagined

for the full cfp, see:
www.indiana.edu/~voltaire/workshop
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What did the future look like in the eighteenth century?
How has the eighteenth century contributed to later futures?
What future do we see for eighteenth-century studies?

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