

Numbers < - - - *Measure* - - - > *Scale*

The Indiana Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies announces its sixteenth annual
Bloomington Workshop (May 10-12, 2017).

Over the past decades, conceptual pressures and methodological innovations have together transformed research on the eighteenth century. Simply comparing the first issue of *Eighteenth-Century Studies* with the most recent one indicates how our field's dimensions—both the scope of what we study and the scale of how it is studied—have shifted. How should scholars today navigate between close readings and text mining, case studies and global histories, anecdote and data? To what extent did eighteenth-century individuals, texts, and institutions confront their own versions of these questions? How might their answers and strategies help us better formulate our own? We are interested, that is, both in how concern for measuring, counting, thinking large and small (and everything in between) was evident in eighteenth-century lives and works and in how scholars today respond to the variety of optics, scales, and measurements increasingly available to them.

In keeping with our sense that changes in scale and number have often been productive disruptions, we invite proposals for multi-authored papers and/or miniature ones, as well as single-authored working papers (draft articles or chapters) and collections of primary sources (texts, images, or data) paired with commentary. Other innovative formats are also welcome.

Topics to be addressed might include:

- ◇ digits, duodecimals, and decimalization
- ◇ metrics, statistics, and the knowledge economy (then and now)
- ◇ measurement in/of the visual or performing arts: harmonics, rhythm, spectrum
- ◇ mathematical instruction, actuarial attitudes, and cultures of account
- ◇ techniques and technologies of measure (micro or macro)
- ◇ encyclopedism, aggregation, and enumeration
- ◇ proportion, price, perspective
- ◇ infinity and finitude

During the Workshop, we will discuss pre-circulated texts (due in mid-April) and perhaps have an occasional lecture or laboratory practicum. Expanded abstracts and/or entire papers will be published in the Center's *The Workshop*, along with discussion transcripts.

The application deadline is Tuesday, January 17, 2017. Please send a paper proposal (1-2 pages) and current brief CV (3 pages, max) to Dr. Barbara Truesdell; Administrator, Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies. We prefer that these materials be sent by e-mail to voltaire@indiana.edu. Dr. Truesdell can also be reached at the following postal address: Radio-TV Building #314; 1229 E. 7th Street; Bloomington, IN 47405; (tel.) 812-855-2856. We will acknowledge all submissions within a fortnight: if you do not receive an acknowledgment by January 31, 2017, please e-mail voltaire@indiana.edu 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

