



Newsletter #2 - September 2019

After this glorious summer, we are ready to resume our scientific activities! With three GIS talks at the Musée Cognacq-Jay and a workshop at the BnF in November, there are indeed many stimulating and fruitful exchanges and debates to look forward to!

This newsletter#2 has a special focus on our PhD members, Fabiola, Clara and Pierre, who have been conducting their research at the National Archives in London and the McGill library in Montreal.

May you all enjoy the rest of the summer; and we wish you all a productive new academic year.

The UBO DIGITENS Project Team

1. Secondment Testimonials

DIGITENS members have started their secondments to the BnF, Musée Cognacq-Jay, McGill or the National Archives since April. Some have finished their research stay, others will complete it later this year or in 2020. We had scheduled 23 months of secondments for 2019 in the Grant Agreement and we are very pleased to see that 18 secondments have already started or even been completed. Clara, Pierre and Fabiola, our PhD students, have been kind enough to send us a few words to share their experiences.

- **Clara Manco, PhD at Sorbonne Université - Secondment at McGill**



Clara Manco, Xavier-Laurent Salvador and Pascal Bastien

"Mon intérêt pour le théâtre de la Restauration, qui fait l'objet de ma thèse en cours de rédaction, m'a rapidement amenée à concevoir les échanges littéraires en termes de sociabilités au niveau européen. L'influence de la France sur le théâtre anglais de l'époque est incontestable, mais la dissymétrie apparente de ces échanges m'interrogeait : qu'en était-il de la réception française du théâtre anglais du long XVIIIe siècle ? La bibliothèque des manuscrits de McGill abrite une édition rare de l'une des pièces-clé de l'histoire de cette réception : les 8 volumes du Théâtre anglois de Pierre-Antoine de la Place. Cette édition comprend ses célèbres traductions de Shakespeare, les premières à se vouloir exhaustives, mais aussi des traductions de pièces plus récentes et plus audacieuses, telles que *La Belle Pénitente* de Rowe, *Venise sauvée* d'Otway ou *Amour pour Amour* de Congreve. Pierre-Antoine de la Place s'y présente comme un passeur privilégié et un pédagogue, se servant de la popularité de ses premières traductions et de ses réseaux personnels pour faire connaître le théâtre d'outre-Manche, quitte à s'attirer des inimitiés, notamment celle de Voltaire.

Mon séjour a été l'occasion de regarder en détail les textes introductifs de La Place, ses choix de pièces et de traduction parfois inattendus, ainsi que les caractéristiques matérielles de l'édition, éléments qui permettent tous de formuler quelques hypothèses sur la réception du théâtre anglais en France au XVIIIe siècle.

Je tiens à remercier l'équipe Digitens, Brian Cowan pour la générosité de son accueil à McGill, ainsi que le personnel de la bibliothèque des manuscrits de l'université, serviable et à l'écoute. Mon séjour à Montréal a également été l'occasion d'échanges amicaux avec d'autres membres du réseau, qui ont contribué à faire de ce séjour de recherche une véritable réussite."

- **Pierre Labrune, PhD at Sorbonne Université - Secondment at McGill**



" I was seconded at McGill University, Montreal, for the month of August. I spent most of my time in Montreal in the McGill Library, and more specially in the Rare Books section. Indeed, as I plan to write entries on "cant" and "methodism" for the digital encyclopaedia and as my research mostly focuses on religious and literary controversies in the long eighteenth-century, I mainly worked on the Redpath Tracts. The Redpath Tracts are a collection of over 20,000 tracts, dating from the late XVIIth century to the late XIXth century which has been collected over the years by the Redpath family and which is now hosted at McGill Library. I therefore explored the catalogue of this huge collection with the help of Ann Marie Holland, so as to consult pamphlets and satirical tracts about schism, the uniformity of the church, and the progress of methodism. My secondment at McGill University was also the opportunity to meet Professors Brian Cowan, Elizabeth Elbourne, Fiona Richie and Peter Sabor and PhD. candidates Mathieu Bouchard, Catherine Nygren, Nathan Richards-Velinou and Willow White to discuss their researches and mine."

- **Fabiola Obame, PhD at Université de Bretagne Occidentale - Secondment at TNA**

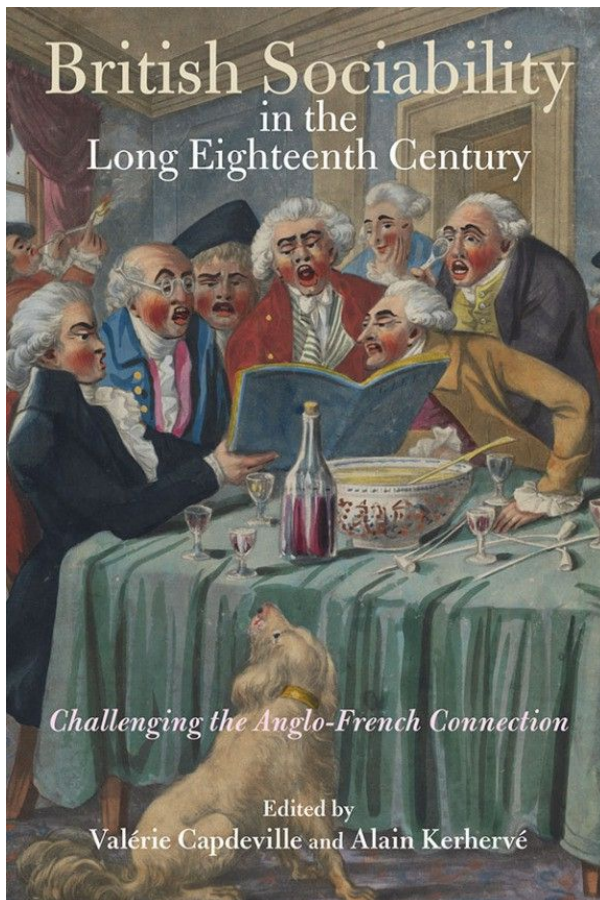


"Mon séjour de recherche aux Archives Nationales débuta alors que je me trouvais encore en France, sans même avoir eu à traverser le tunnel de la Manche. Comment ? En demandant en ligne un ticket lecteur, je pus réserver à l'avance les archives que j'allais consulter et ma place dans la salle de lecture. Une fois sur place, les carnets de voyage de James Cook étaient prêts à être consultés et une sélection de cartes et de plans sur la Nouvelle-Galles du Sud et l'Afrique du Sud du dix-huitième siècle. Au fil des jours, j'en apprenais davantage sur l'histoire de ces deux espaces, notamment sur l'existence de modèles de sociabilité propre aux colonies et aux fermes. Grâce à des archives en excellente qualité de conservation,

une bonne sélection bibliographiques d'ouvrages anciens et récents et une équipe de recherche accueillante qui se trouve prête à aider, ma mobilité fut enrichissante.

La galère survient quand on se rend compte qu'aussi attrayante que soit Londres, deux mois de mobilité peuvent être longs et éprouvants. Pour pallier cela, rien de plus simple : il suffit de fractionner à l'avance son temps de recherche. C'est une option intéressante qui permet d'évaluer ses données à mesure que l'on trouve des pistes intéressantes et d'avoir du temps pour s'adonner à d'autres activités de recherche."

2. Publications



British Sociability in the Long Eighteenth Century. Challenging the Anglo-French Connection

Edited by Valérie Capdeville and Alain Kerhervé

This innovative collection explores how a distinctively British model of sociability developed in the period from the Restoration of Charles II to the early nineteenth century through a complex process of appropriation, emulation and resistance to what was happening in France and other parts of Europe.

Publication projects:

Following the GIS conference *Sociable spaces in the long Eighteenth Century (1650-1850) from*

present-day perspectives, two volumes gathering the contributions of the conference delegates will be published in 2020.

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3. DIGITENS encyclopedia: writing and submitting entries



As you know, our flagship project is the development of the DIGITENS encyclopedia (<http://www.digitens.fr/1/accueil>). Access to the website is still restricted for the moment; we have uploaded over 20 entries and Xavier-Laurent Salvador and Fabrice Issac from Paris 13 are currently developing an ontology of keywords to relate entries and thus map the concept of eighteenth-century sociability according to five categories: people, places, practices, objects and concepts. Webdesigner Benjamin Baye is currently working on the improvement of the design of entries and navigation process.

As each seconded member will write two entries for the encyclopedia, we expect to have 200 entries by the end of the project (December 2021).

We have described on the [website of the project](#) the different steps to submit your proposal of entries and the guidelines to write [them](#).

As the encyclopedia project was initiated in 2016, we have already gathered 100 proposals of entries; so before submitting a proposal, please check [online](#) the list of submitted or proposed entries.

For more information, you can contact annick.cossic@univ-brest.fr (General Editor) &

kimberley.pagejones@univ-brest.fr (Managing Editor)

4. Upcoming events: September 2019 - December 2019

- GIS cycle of talks on *Cultural Transfers in European, Colonial and Global Contexts (1650-1850): the Circulation of Models of Sociability*

The Museum Cognacq-Jay will host three talks from October to December 2019 to close this cycle of talks.



A perspective view of Fort William in the Kingdom of Bengal, belonging to the East India Company. Jan Van Ryne (1754).

(1) Friday 11 October (17h30-19h30) : Sociability and material culture

Ariane FENNETAUX (Université de Paris) : « Lorgnettes, boîtes à priser et étuis : sociabilité de poche au XVIIIe siècle »

Moderator: Alexis TADIE (Sorbonne Université)

(2) Friday 22 November (17h30-19h30) : Sociability and the art market

Patrick MICHEL (Université de Lille) : « Le cabinet du collectionneur au XVIIIe siècle : espace de l'échange, de la circulation des idées, des savoirs et des objets »

Moderator: Annick LEMOINE (Musée Cognacq-Jay)

(3) Friday 13 December (17h30-19h30): Sociability and celebrity

Antoine LILTI (EHESS) : « De la sociabilité à la célébrité : l'espace public des Lumières »

Brian COWAN (Mc Gill University): "Histories of Fame and Celebrity in Early Modern Perspective"

Discutante : Annick COSSIC (UBO Brest)

MUSEE COGNACQ-JAY (8 rue Elzévir 75003 Paris). Salle de conférences.

Métro : Saint-Paul, Chemin-Vert, Rambuteau - Bus : 29, 69, 76, 96

Contacts : annick.cossic@univ-brest.fr ; valerie.capdeville@univ-paris13.fr

Free entrance - No registration required.

*The conferences will be preceded by a short guided visit of the museum. To register, send an email to reservation.cognacqjay@paris.fr

For more information on these talks, please visit the [GIS Sociabilités website](#)

- Fête de la Science: DIGITENS & public engagement

From the 10th to the 13th October 2019, the Quartz in Brest will host a national event, the Fête de la Science, that will welcome pupils, teachers and families. The aim of this national event is to promote public engagement with science. With the help of graduate students, the DIGITENS project and the concept of eighteenth-century sociability will be presented to the general public through the lens of friendship and letter-writing in the long eighteenth century. We will show children what material was used to write letters, how they were folded, why the art of letter writing was so important in children's education, using examples of eighteenth century letters from TNA. They will also be able to practice letter writing using quills.

As public engagement is an essential aspect of the project, these activities aimed at the dissemination and communication of our research activities and topics will be developed in partnership with the National Archives, the Bibliothèque Nationale de France and the Musée Cognacq-Jay. We will also be present next year at the Nuit des Chercheurs, another national event for the promotion and communication of science.

- BnF workshop (20 November) : thinking about letter-writing and epistolary friendships in eighteenth-century Europe

The Bibliothèque Nationale de France will host a workshop dedicated to the topic of letter-writing in eighteenth-century Europe: how epistolary networks in the eighteenth-century shaped an idea of friendship or intimacy and how personal and intimate letters reflected (new) models of enlightenment sociability, what political, social, religious or economic challenges affected letter-writing in the long eighteenth-century, disrupting channels of distribution, friendships or family circles.

The workshop will give us the opportunity to discuss the material gathered by researchers during their secondment at BnF or TNA.

The workshop will conclude with a talk by Isabelle Le Pape for *Les Rencontres de Gallica* on the topic: "Amitiés épistolaires entre la France et l'Angleterre" (from 17:30 - 19:00)

You are all very welcome to join us! The program is [online](#).

For more information, contact: alain.kerherve@univ-brest.fr, isabelle.le-pape@bnf.fr, katy.mair@national.archives.gov.uk and mascha.hansen@uni-greifswald.de

- GIS / DIGITENS meeting at Musée Cognacq-Jay

Our first end-of-the-year meeting, gathering the members of the 4 committees (steering, scientific, editorial and communication), will probably take place on the 12th and 13th of December in Paris. The date and place will be confirmed very soon.

Those of you travelling to Paris for the meeting will also be able to attend the GIS talks of Prof. Brian Cowan and Prof. Antoine Lilti.

The Bibliothèque Nationale de France will also host at that period an exhibition on Tolkien, *Tolkien, voyage en Terre du Milieu*, and will kindly offer tickets to DIGITENS members.

- Call for Papers

* In the framework of the project "**Writing Doctors**" (Prof. Clark Lawlor, Prof. Allan Ingram, Dr. Helen Williams, Dr Leigh Wetherall-Dickson), an international conference is scheduled in June 2020 (3 June to 5 June) in Newcastle, Northumbria. The theme will be *Writing Doctors: Writing Health from the Eighteenth Century to the Twenty-First*.

More information on their website: <http://writingdoctors.info/downloads/Writing%20DoctorsCFPRS3.pdf>

* *British Romanticism and Europe*, 5-8 July 2020, Monte Verità conference center, Ascona, Switzerland.

Organizers: Patrick Vincent, David Duff, and Simon Swift

Keynote Speakers: Christoph Bode, Biancamaria Fontana, and Paul Hamilton

Abstracts of approximately 250 words are due by 1 November 2019. Please send abstracts to
patrick.vincent@unine.ch

Conference site:

<http://www.unine.ch/anglais/home/britishromanticismandeurope.html>