



## Newsletter #4 - May 2020

*Although we are still full of uncertainties as to future travel restrictions, we have started rescheduling a certain number of events for which you will find the details in this newsletter. You will also find a few hints on the reopening plans of our partner institutions. We hope to be able to resume a more or less normal activity in January 2021.*

*We sincerely hope that you and your relatives are healthy and safe and have managed to cope with this unprecedented situation!*

**The UBO DIGITENS Project Team**

### 1. DIGITENS - Amendment of the Grant Agreement

#### Reopening plans for the BnF, MCJ, TNA & MCG:

- The Bibliothèque nationale de France will gradually reopen during the summer. More information will be available from mid-June and posted on [their website](#).
- The Musée Cognacq-Jay has planned to reopen to the public on 7 July (there are still waiting for an official confirmation) but no lectures, seminars or meetings can be organized at the museum during the summer.
- We have no specific information for the National Archives at the moment. Please check [their website](#) regularly.
- McGill remains closed through the summer. The university will probably not be reopened to visiting scholars for the rest of the year. If you intend to visit McGill or UQAM, plan your secondment from January 2021.

#### Extension of the duration of the DIGITENS action:

Given the situation, we will request a **12-month extension** to ensure that we can hold the scientific events that had been scheduled before the outbreak of the virus. The European Commission guarantees a 6-month extension. We should get a feedback on our request during summer.

#### New partner in the DIGITENS consortium:

The amendment process allows us to bring on board new partners and we are delighted to inform you that our Italian colleagues from the [Università degli Studi "G. d'Annunzio" Chieti-Pescara](#) should join the DIGITENS consortium in the coming months if the amendment is accepted by the E.C.

### 2. Rescheduling our 2020 events

**\* One-day conference "Epistolary Friendships in Eighteenth-century Europe" - Paris, 10 December 2020.**

The TNA workshop that was due to take place in April 2020 will be held in Paris on December 10, 2020.

The location will be specified later as well as more precise information on the format and participants.

Contact: [alain.kerherve@univ-brest.fr](mailto:alain.kerherve@univ-brest.fr)

**\* Final talk of the cycle on Cultural Transfers in European, Colonial and Global Contexts: Brian Cowan (MCG) and Antoine Lilti (EHES) on "Sociability & Celebrity in the Long Eighteenth-century" - Paris, Musée Cognacq-Jay or Maison de la Recherche, 11 December 2020**

Depending on the evolution of the situation, we may have to use videoconferencing for part of the event.  
Contact: annick.cossic@univ-brest.fr & valerie.capdeville@univ-paris13.fr

**\* "Emotions and the City: Urban Sociability in Britain and France, 1650-1850" - Montreal, McGill, June or July 2020**

Brian Cowan and Pascal Bastien are currently working on the reorganization of the conference to ensure that most delegates can attend the rescheduled event. The conference is planned to be held in either June or early July 2021, preferably in Montreal but perhaps online if travel restrictions are still in place and non-essential gatherings prohibited. The precise dates will be confirmed soon.

Contact: brian.cowan2@mcgill.ca & pascal.bastien@uqam.ca

### 3. Upcoming 2021 events

**\* GIS Cycle of talks: *Sociabilité et libertinage*, Winter & spring 2021, Paris, Musée Cognacq-Jay**

This cycle of talks is organized in conjunction with the Musée Cognacq-Jay exhibition [\*L'empire des sens, de François Boucher à Jean-Baptiste Greuze\*](#)

For more information, contact valerie.capdeville@univ-paris13.fr & alain.kerherve@univ-brest.fr



**\* Two-day international conference *Dance, Music, Song & Sociability 1750-1832*, Notre Dame, London, 5-6 March 2021**

*Organisation: GIS Sociability & DIGITENS Project and the Universities of Warwick, Queen Mary and Notre Dame*

Sociability is one of the single most significant ideas to emerge out of the eighteenth-century Enlightenment. The societies, clubs and institutions that underpinned intellectual exchange made possible the scientific developments of the period, the development of "public opinion" through political meetings; and they helped form the entertainment industry through the commercialization of pleasure. Less widely understood, however, are the specific dynamics of sociability -- the ways that both institutions and private gatherings combined serious discussion with entertainment in the form of musical entertainment and

dance. This conference will challenge the dominant understandings of Enlightenment sociability by placing music and dance at its core. Rather than thinking of music and dance as a peripheral ornament to the serious business of the Enlightenment, it will understand them as important engines in the development and dissemination of the ideas and practices that mobilised people's bodies and emotions and shaped their social, emotional and intellectual worlds.

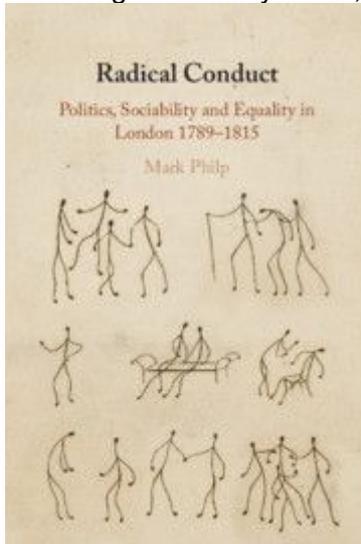
This workshop will have a range of short (20 minute) papers in a series of panels which will aim to focus on different aspects of the world of sound and movement and on their wider influence on the behavior of people at the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th centuries.

Proposals for papers should be sent to [mark.philp@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:mark.philp@warwick.ac.uk) by the end of May 2020

There will be a limited amount of funding for contributors who are unable to secure institutional support for their attendance.

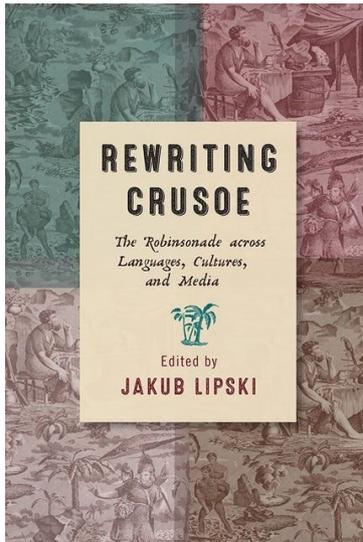
#### 4. Recent and upcoming publications

***Radical Conduct: Politics, Sociability and Equality in London 1789-1815*** by Mark Philp.  
Cambridge University Press, October 2020



While the French Revolution drew immense attention to French radicals and their ideas, London also played host to a radical intellectual culture. Drawing on both original material and a range of interdisciplinary insights, *Radical Conduct* transforms our understanding of the literary radicalism of London at the time of the French Revolution. It offers new accounts of people's understanding of and relationship to politics, their sense of the boundaries of privacy, their practices of sociability, friendship, gossip and discussion, the relations between radical men and women, and their location in a wider world of sound and movement in the period. It reveals a series of tensions between many radicals' deliberative practices and aspirations and the conventions and practices in which their behaviour remained embedded. Exploring these relationships and pressures reveals the fractured world of London society and politics, dramatically illuminating both the changing fortunes of radical men and women, and the intriguing uncertainties that drove some of the government's repressive policies.

***Rewriting Crusoe. The Robinsonade across Languages, Cultures, and Media*** edited by Jakub Lipski. Bucknell University Press, September 2020.



Published in 1719, Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* is one of those extraordinary literary works whose importance lies not only in the text itself but in its persistently lively afterlife. German author Johann Gottfried Schnabel—who in 1731 penned his own island narrative—coined the term “Robinsonade” to characterize the genre bred by this classic, and today hundreds of examples can be identified worldwide. This celebratory collection of tercentenary essays testifies to the Robinsonade’s endurance, analyzing its various literary, aesthetic, philosophical, and cultural implications in historical context. Contributors trace the Robinsonade’s roots from the eighteenth century to generic affinities in later traditions, including juvenile fiction, science fiction, and apocalyptic fiction, and finally to contemporary transmedial adaptations in film, television, theater, and popular culture. Taken together, these essays convince us that the genre’s formal and ideological adaptability to changing social and cultural circumstances explains its enduring relevance to this day.

***First Letters in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries***, edited by Alain Kerhervé and Catherine Thomas-Ripaault. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, upcoming.



'First Letters' can be understood in various ways : as the first letters written by a person, such as the letters of children, or of drafts which were preserved, amended and copied ; as the first letter of a particular type, such as an experienced letter-writer's first love-letter; and as the first letter to a new correspondent, among many others. The idea of a first letter also suggests a link with the letters that follow: what is the connection between the first letter and those which come after it? Written by academics specializing in letter-writing internationally, this volume examines the letters of various authors, philosophers, and artists including Benjamin Constant, José-Maria de Heredia, Voltaire, Diderot, Coleridge, De Quincey and others. It is structured in four sections: letters from youth; first letters in fictional works; the writer's persona, and first letters within correspondence.

**"Horace Walpole et Mme du Deffand : une étonnante 'amitié' "**, blog Gallica entry by Isabelle Le Pape and Monique Calinon, 12 March 2020.

Quand une grande Dame tenant l'un des plus célèbres Salons s'éprend au soir de sa vie d'une Gloire venue d'Angleterre. Rencontre au sommet de deux grands esprits qui tout en ne s'aimant pas vraiment se sont beaucoup aimés.

<https://gallica.bnf.fr/blog/12032020/horace-walpole-et-mme-du-deffand-une-etonnante-amitie?mode=desktop>

**"La mode anglomane au 18ème siècle"**, blog Gallica entry by Isabelle Breuil, 11 March 2020

Dans le cadre du projet européen DIGITENS auquel collabore la BnF, portant sur les sociabilités britanniques au 18ème siècle, des marque-pages ont été édités à l'effigie des silhouettes de mode anglomane, échappées des pages du premier journal de mode français, le Magasin des modes nouvelles françaises et anglaises. Nous vous proposons de retracer ici la fureur anglomane qui s'est emparée du vestiaire parisien dans la deuxième moitié du 18ème siècle, et d'exposer ici quelques-unes de ses pièces maîtresses.

<https://gallica.bnf.fr/blog/11032020/la-mode-anglomane-au-18eme-siecle?mode=desktop>



**We have very pleased to inform you that Pierre Labrune has successfully defended his PhD thesis last December on the following topic:**

**« Le siècle des jargons : le « cant » dans les querelles religieuses, politiques et esthétiques en Angleterre, 1740-1824 » / " "Cant" in religious, political, and literary controversies in England 1740-1824"**

**He worked under the supervision of Alexis Tadié.** The jury was composed of: Mme Emmanuelle DE CHAMPS – Professeure, Université de Cergy-Pontoise, Mme Lynn FESTA – Professor, Rutgers University, M. Pierre LURBE – Professeur, Sorbonne Université, M. Marc PORÉE – Professeur, École Normale Supérieure de Paris, M. Alexis TADIÉ – Professeur, Sorbonne Université.

**Below a short summary of his research work:**

This dissertation focuses on the rhetorical uses of "cant" in England in the long eighteenth century. This word – which cannot be translated easily – originally referred to the secret language of beggars and thieves. After the Protectorate of Oliver Cromwell, "cant" began to be used to criticise the phraseology of Puritans, Non-conformists and, from the 1740s onwards, Methodists. Based on a chronological approach, this work aims at highlighting the permanencies and changes in the polemical uses of the notion. By studying several specific quarrels, I try to understand how a word that was first used in religious controversies became central in political and literary discourses as the century went on. The history of "cant" and its uses can help us better understand how explicitly digressive and self-reflexive poetics developed against the background of linguistic and political scepticism.



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