



**International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies**

**Seminar for Early Career Scholars**

**Amsterdam, 20-24 July 2015**

Call for Papers

The International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ISECS) invites applications from early career scholars in all fields of eighteenth-century studies for a one-week **international seminar for early career eighteenth-century scholars**.

This annual event now has an established reputation for promoting intellectual exchange between scholars from different countries and research traditions. In 2015, the meeting will take place in Amsterdam, in the week preceding the ISECS international congress in Rotterdam (<http://isecs2015.wordpress.com>). The meeting will be co-sponsored by ISECS and the Dutch-Belgian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (Werkgroep Achttiende Eeuw).

The International Seminar will be held from 20 to 24 July 2015, and will be directed by Prof. dr. Inger Leemans (VU University Amsterdam & chair of the Dutch-Belgian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies,) and Prof. dr. Alicia C. Montoya (Radboud University Nijmegen). The seminar will take place at the Scheepvaartmuseum, the Geelvinck Hinlopen Museum, and Special Collections of the University Library in Amsterdam. The languages of the seminar will be French and English.



Scheepvaartmuseum Amsterdam



Geelvinck Hinlopen Museum Amsterdam

This year, the theme of the Seminar will be:

## Emotional economies

### The political and social economy of emotions during the long 18<sup>th</sup> century



Emotions and varying ways of feeling played a central role in eighteenth-century thought, in the shaping of political culture, class identities and economic practices. Scientists and literary authors conceptualized moral and emotional economies, in search of the perfect affective balance. In political and economic theory and practice, passions and morals played an important role. From the supposedly “bourgeois” cult of sensibility to the French Revolution (described by some contemporaries as an “*émotion populaire*”, i.e. lower-class political unrest), social status and emotions were intimately linked in eighteenth-century Europe.

This International Seminar will address questions relating to this imbrication of political, social, and economic discourses and practices. Papers may deal with one or several of a number of interrelated issues:

1. Emotion and politics. As attention to political culture is growing, the role of emotions in political theory and practice—has become an important area of study. We invite papers on topics such as emotional regimes, passionate revolutionary culture, emotion as popular unrest, and the linking of specific forms of emotional response to specific social or class groupings.
2. Emotion and economics. In the early modern period economics was perceived as a natural philosophy, which combined information from such varied fields as biology, medicine, (moral) philosophy, theology, and history. This kaleidoscopic science put man and his actions in the center of trade and regarded passions and (im)moral behavior as the driving force of the economy. We invite papers that cover the role of emotions in economic thought and practice.
3. Emotion and bourgeois culture. One of the most enduring historical topoi in eighteenth-century

studies is that of the rise of bourgeois culture. This bourgeois culture supposedly foregrounded certain forms of feeling that were crystallized in literary genres such as the “drame bourgeois” and the sentimental novel. What emotions were associated with bourgeois audiences, and how were they manifested in specific texts and cultural artefacts? What are the tropes and visual / rhetorical strategies commonly used in these traditions to link specific kinds of emotion to these class groupings?

4. Gender and the cult of sensibility. We invite papers that view the philosophy and science of the passions and on the culture of the senses within a gender framework. How was the cult of sensibility at the same time also gendered, and how were representations of masculinity, femininity and sexuality shaped by the developing culture of the emotions?

5. Style and esthetic experience. How did critical discourse on artistic and literary style take shape, and how was literary style felt to be related to certain forms of emotional response to esthetic productions? In what ways were meaningful esthetic experience and / or specific artistic, musical or literary genres subsumed to specific kinds of emotional responsiveness? How did “high” and “low” style (“style noble” and “style bas”, in French), as well as the emerging concept of the sublime relate to class identities and specific societal positionings?

**Submission of proposals:** The seminar is limited to 15 participants. The proposals should be based on an original research project. Preference will be given to scholars who are at the beginning of their academic career (PhD or equivalent, graduated less than six years ago). The official languages are French and English. (Passive) knowledge of both languages is essential.

Applications should include the following information:

- a brief curriculum vitae with date of PhD (or equivalent)
- a list of principal publications and scholarly presentations
- a brief description of the proposed paper (approx. 1,5 pages, single-spaced)

**Deadline:** The deadline for submission of proposals is *January 15, 2015*. Applications should be submitted electronically, with the proposal and CV as an attached document, to: [info@isecs2015.com](mailto:info@isecs2015.com)

**Lodging and travel:** Travel and hotel costs will be reimbursed (in part or in full) by the organizers. Lunch will be served on site. The cost of evening meals will be covered by participants.



**Programme:** The programme will consist of a mixture of keynote lectures, paper presentations by the participants, excursions and other meetings with the Dutch academic community and heritage world.

**Paper presentations:** Each of the 15 participants is invited to give a 40-minute presentation, followed by 20 minutes for discussion, directed at the paper. Powerpoint presentations are welcome. Each participant will also be scheduled to chair another participant's session, to consolidate chairing skills.

**Publication:** The Seminar papers are normally published by Honoré Champion (Paris) in the series "Lumières internationales".

