Enlightenment Workshop 2026/27

An interdisciplinary research seminar supported by the Faculty of History, the Faculty of Modern Languages, and the Voltaire Foundation

Wednesdays at 5.00, Magdalen College (unless otherwise stated)

Convenors:
Tom Wynn and Avi Lifschitz

MICHAELMAS TERM

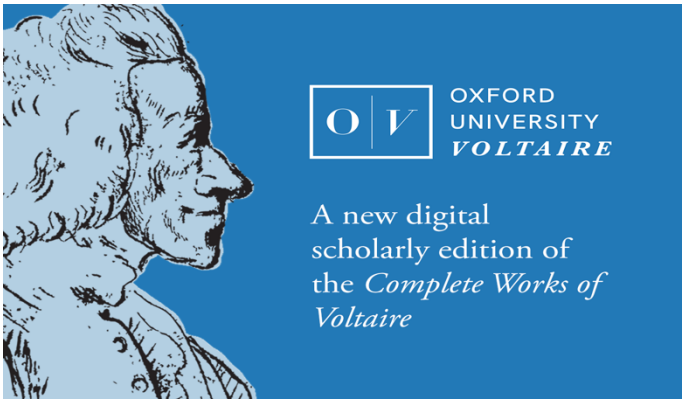
14 Oct.	Mark-Georg Dehrmann (Humboldt University, Berlin), Barry Murnane (Oxford) and Stefanie Stockhorst (Potsdam) **Practices of knowledge production in 18th-century Europe** Discussion of the book *Crafts and Knowledge in the 18th Century* (2026) (Magdalen, Sophia Sheppard Room)
29 Oct. (Thu.).	Shmuel Feiner (Bar-Ilan University) **The emotional experience of Jewish secularisation** *Joint session with the Oxford Centre for Hebrew & Jewish Studies* (Clarendon Institute, Walton Street, followed by a drinks reception)
11 Nov.	Stéphane Van Damme (Maison Française d'Oxford) **Materialist New York? French late Enlightenment in the early American republic** (Magdalen, Summer Common Room)
19 Nov. (Thu.)	Karen Stolley (Emory University) **Saber/conocer: ways of knowing in the Hispanic Enlightenment** *Annual Besterman Lecture of the Voltaire Foundation* (Magdalen College Auditorium, followed by a drinks reception)
25 Nov.	Maria Floruțău (Cambridge and Uppsala) **Beyond the metropolis: Enlightenment learned societies in Batavia, Calcutta, and Manila** (Magdalen, Summer Common Room)

HILARY TERM

20 Jan.	Devin Vartija (Utrecht) **Experiencing equality: a Tocquevillean reappraisal through the history of emotions** (Venue TBC)

3 Feb.	Renate Dürr (Tübingen) **Deism served with tea: rethinking the European Enlightenment in global perspective** (Magdalen, Sophia Sheppard Room)
17 Feb.	Stefanie Buchenau (Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris) **Humans as 'earth-citizens': Kant's geography and the making of anthropology** (Magdalen, Summer Common Room)
24 Feb. 11:00am	Soojin Hyun (Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul) **Moral Enlightenment or practical statecraft? Confucian rulership in Koryŏ** *Annual online session with the Global Intellectual History Unit, Sungkyunkwan University*
3 Mar.	Joan-Pau Rubiés (Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, and All Souls, Oxford) **The religions of Asia and the 'global Enlightenment'** (Magdalen, Sophia Sheppard Room)
	TRINITY TERM
28 Apr.	Andrew Kahn (Oxford) **The serfdom question and public opinion in the age of Catherine the Great** (Venue TBC)
5 May	Céline Spector (Sorbonne, Paris) **Inventing Europe? Cultural identity and political institutions in Montesquieu and Rousseau** *Annual George Rousseau Lecture, Magdalen College* (Magdalen College Auditorium, followed by a drinks reception)
12 May	Sofya Dmitrieva (Oxford) **Voltaire the idol: secular devotion in the age of Enlightenment** (Magdalen, Sophia Sheppard Room)
26 May	Ian Stewart (EHESS, Paris) **Algonquin, Chinese, and the limits of Enlightenment social theory, c. 1750-c.1820** (Magdalen, Sophia Sheppard Room)

Further information: www.voltaire.ox.ac.uk



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