

Early Modernities and the Circulation of Knowledge



This interdisciplinary research programme brings together scholars of political and social history, literature, painting, visual culture, material culture and medical history. Our research spans a long time period going from the Renaissance and early modern period to the romantic era in the English-speaking world. We examine the slow building of modernities — the plural is meaningful — over a long period, eschewing artificial segmentations or preconceived definitions of such modernities.

Our various angles and perspectives allow us to confront ideas on a somewhat pre-disciplinary culture, in which the division of knowledge was porous. Bringing together different areas of expertise, we try to map the complex, multi polar circulation of intellectual, artistic, scientific, technical and commercial knowledge in the expanding worlds of empire. By focusing on knowledge-making and interrogating categories and their boundaries, the programme also reflects on our own academic disciplines and the epistemological categories we use to understand the period.

Directors : Sophie VASSET et Ariane FENNETAUX

Laetitia Coussement-Boillot, MCF

She is a specialist of early modern English literature, more particularly Shakespeare and contemporary playwrights. She is currently working on early modern women writers like Lady Mary Wroth. She also contributes to the online encyclopedia « Les objets de la littérature baroque : littérature et culture matérielle dans les Iles britanniques et la France de la première modernité » and she has just released articles on *The Dutchess of Malfi* by John Webster.

Ariane Fennetaux, MCF

She is a specialist of material culture over the 18th century, especially of clothes and textile. She is currently working on the history of clothes and textiles in a global context. She is the main investigator of the Global Matters collaborative research project to which 5 research units contribute (LARCA, CRCAO, ICT, SPHERES and LIED) and focuses on the global history of material culture and technology.

Jean Marie Fournier, PR

He is a specialist of romantic literature, poetics and orientalism. He currently works on a book which explores several traditions leading to the specific form of the romantic ode.

Charles-Edouard Levillain, MCF

He is a specialist of the Anglo-Dutch relations between 1650 and 1750 and the “Grand Siècle” in Great Britain, Germany and in the Netherlands (1850-1950). He is currently working on a monograph focusing on “The Life & Times of Marlborough” by Churchill.

Lynn S. Meskill, MCF

She is a specialist of 16th-17th century Theatre and she is currently working on a book focusing on the theme of fortune in Shakespeare. She is also committed to the translation and critical edition of a French-proto feminist treatise by Marguerite Buffet –*Eloges*, 1668. Moreover, she is writing the article “Réception du théâtre de 17e siècle dans l’oeuvre de Gordon Craig (1872-1966)”.

Ladan Niayesh, PR

She is a specialist of early modern literature, with a particular focus on drama (Shakespeare and his contemporaries), travel and geographical writing, and the receptions of the image of the East (Ottoman empire and Persia in particular) within the period. Her most recent works include a critical editions of *Three Romances of Eastern Conquests* (Manchester University Press, 2018) as well as a collective volume of essays published with Claire Gallien, *Eastern Resonances in Early Modern England* (Palgrave Macmillan, to be published in 2019).

Frédéric Ogée, PR

He is a specialist of 18th century literature and art history. He is currently working on a monograph focusing on the portrait painter Sir Thomas Lawrence (1769-1830), as well as on a second monograph and an anthology of artists’ writings entitled *Truth and British Art*.

Allan Potofsky, PR

He is a specialist of global history in the transatlantic area, American and French Revolutions and urban history. He is currently working on a book project -*Paris-Atlantique, XVIIe et XVIIIe*- and on an article entitled « Relations entre les Révolutions américaines et française, le commerce franco-américain, et le corps consulaire français dans l’Amérique du nord ».

Will Slauter, MCF

He is a specialist of the history of publishing and the history of media, as well as the history of copyright and public domain. He just published a book entitled *Who Owns the News? A History of Copyright*, and he is currently co-directing a project on the circulation of images and the copyright law in the 19th century in the United States and Great Britain.

Sophie Vasset, MCF

She is working on the history of 18th century medicine and literature. Her ongoing research focuses on infertility and mineral waters in Great Britain.

Doctorants

Victoria Griffon

She is an English teacher in secondary school. Since September 2018, she has been working on her thesis on John Milton's epic poetry entitled "Décentrement, discontinuités et ruptures dans la poésie épique de John Milton", under the supervision of Ladan Niayesh.

Alice Monter

She is a dual award PGR student at Paris Diderot and the University of Liverpool. She works on political satire, Tory factionalism and the politics of patronage in early eighteenth-century Britain, under the supervision of Prof. Frédéric Ogée and Dr. Gregory Lynall.

Manon Turban

She works on Elizabethan and Jacobean drama. Her doctoral research is on emotions and monsters in Shakespeare's plays and in their contemporary adaptations.