SPECIAL INTEREST EVENT

THURSDAY 21ST MARCH – SUNDAY 24TH MARCH 2019

Christ Church
OXFORD

THE ELEGANT & Powerful GEORGIAN ERA
The modern age began in the eighteenth century. The rule of Parliament was established, and monarchy became increasingly limited. Newspapers began to form and to circulate public opinion. A culture of consumption was born, from the coffee house to the new rituals associated with drinking tea. And consumption was aided by the growth of empire; sugar was shipped from the West Indies and the first boycott of luxury goods was undertaken by religious men and women opposed to the economy of slavery on which the export of sugar was built. By not buying sugar, they began a process that would end with the abolition of slavery within the British empire. It was also the age of agricultural and industrial revolution in which internal prosperity aided the expansion of Britain as a world power. Britain lost America but it gained India; it defeated first revolutionary and then Napoleonic France. Culturally it was an age of confidence, and classical architecture transformed both cities and the countryside, from the squares of Bath to the country houses built by a powerful nobility. Art was collected on the Grand Tour, and native artists such as Hogarth, Reynolds, and Gainsborough revolutionised painting. Literature flourished, from the satires and poetry of Jonathan Swift and Alexander Pope to Dr Johnson’s Dictionary and the novels of Jane Austen. New concert halls and opera houses attracted international composers, from Handel to the young Mozart and the elderly Haydn. Poverty remained a problem in an age of prosperity, and charity and philanthropy developed, from Dr Coram’s London orphanage to new voluntary hospitals. John Wesley declared the country his parish, and the poor his congregation; alongside Enlightenment philosophy promoted
by men such as Adam Smith and David Hume, there was evangelical religion. Christ Church, Oxford, where John and Charles Wesley studied, and where two magnificent quadrangles and a sumptuously-decorated library were built, was at the centre of the modernising eighteenth century, forming a natural setting for this exploration of the eighteenth-century foundations of modern Britain as a world power. Expert historians and students of literature, music, and the arts will open up the riches of this elegant and powerful era in British history in the most fitting setting imaginable in understanding the eighteenth-century roots of the modern age.
**SATURDAY 23rd March**

8.00 – 9.00AM Breakfast in Hall

9.15AM *Music in the Georgian Era*
Dr Stephen Darlington

10.45 – 11.15AM Morning Refreshments in The Sir Michael Dummett Exhibition Space

11.15AM *Opulence, Excess and the East*
Professor Maxine Berg

12.45 – 1.30PM Lunch in Hall

2.00PM Optional Local Architecture Tour

3.30 – 4.00PM Afternoon Refreshments in The Sir Michael Dummett Exhibition Space

4.00PM *18th Century Literature*
Professor Abigail Williams

7.00PM Pre-banquet Reception

7.30PM Gala Banquet in Hall

**SUNDAY 24th March**

8.00 – 9.00AM Breakfast in Hall

9.30AM *Regency Novels*
Dr Freya Johnston

10.45 – 11.15AM Morning Refreshments in The Sir Michael Dummett Exhibition Space

11.15AM *Guise and Christ Church Picture Gallery*
Jacqueline Thalmann

12.45PM Lunch in Hall

2.00PM Depart

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**HOW TO BOOK**

The programme fee is £499 per person and the *en suite* supplement is £75 per room. This includes the full lecture programme, three nights’ accommodation, all meals, wines and refreshments as programmed. Gratuities are not expected.

Bookings may be made online or by phone for those without internet access. Full payment must be made at the time of booking. Online booking is available on the ‘Visitors and Conferences’ section of our website.

A full refund [subject to an administration fee] will be offered in the event of cancellations made up to and including 60 days prior to the start of the event. No refunds will be offered after this time. All monies are held by Christ Church.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**

Facilities at Christ Church are conveniently located together. Some ground-floor bedrooms are available and the college has some residential facilities for wheelchair users, as well as a lift to the Hall. The Sir Michael Dummett Lecture Theatre also has a sound-amplification system with an induction loop for hearing-aid users.

**FORCE MAJEURE**

The college reserves the right to make alterations and substitutions to the programme. It will not be liable for any non-performance under this contract arising out of circumstances beyond its control.

**Please direct enquiries to:**
Special Interest Event, The Steward’s Office, Christ Church, Oxford, OX1 1DP.
Tel: +44 (0)1865 286848
Email: specialinterest@chch.ox.ac.uk
www.chch.ox.ac.uk/conferences/special-interest-event
Christ Church, established by Henry VIII in 1546, is a unique foundation of college and cathedral. It is home to some 650 undergraduate and postgraduate students and over a hundred Senior Members. Christ Church occupies a 150-acre site in the heart of the city, including the Meadow, a tranquil area of pasture, preserved for centuries and bounded by the Rivers Isis and Cherwell.

Accommodation is in buildings of architectural and historical interest which reflect the different centuries since the college’s foundation. Rooms are single or twin-occupancy and are located on the ground, first, second and third floors. Many rooms are en suite, and all have tea and coffee-making facilities, free Wi-Fi internet and a refrigerator. A free laundry room is also provided.

Meals are prepared under the direction of the college’s Executive Head Chef, Chris Simms, and are served in the magnificent Tudor Hall. A limited number of dietary requirements may be catered for provided they are requested at the time of booking. The Buttery Bar, adjacent to Hall, will be open before meals and after dinner. House wines, included in the price, are served at dinner.

Above: Pelmet (chintz), Anglo-Indian School / Photo © Christie’s Images / Bridgeman Images
Below: Canterbury Quad, John Mitchell Fine Paintings, London
**Speaker BIOGRAPHIES**

**Dr Brian Young**, the Academic Director for this programme, is the Charles Stuart Tutor in History at Christ Church, Oxford, and is the author of *Religion and Enlightenment in Eighteenth-Century England* (Oxford, 1998) and *The Victorian Eighteenth Century* (Oxford, 2007). He has co-edited a number of books on intellectual history, most recently, with Karen O’Brien – the Head of the Humanities Division at Oxford University – *The Cambridge Companion to Edward Gibbon.*

**Professor Maxine Berg** is Professor of History at the University of Warwick. She is a Fellow of the British Academy and an Honorary Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford. She founded the Warwick Eighteenth Century Centre in 1997 and the Global History and Culture Centre at the University of Warwick in 2007. Her books include *Luxury and Pleasure in Eighteenth Century Britain* (2005), *Writing the History of the Global: Challenges for the Twenty-first Century* (2013), and *Goods from the East 1600-1800: Trading Eurasia* (2015).

**Dr Stephen Darlington** is one of the UK’s leading choral conductors. Since 1985 he has been Director of Music at Christ Church, where he is also an Associate Professor. He has established Christ Church as an acknowledged centre of academic musical excellence, and maintained the highest choral traditions of the Church of England in the Cathedral. His recent research into the music of the eighteenth-century composer, Francesco Durante, has resulted in an edition and much-acclaimed recording of the composer’s Requiem in C minor.

**Dr Perry Gauci** is VHH Green Fellow and Tutor in History at Lincoln College, Oxford. Over the last twenty years he has worked on the interactions of trade, politics and society in eighteenth-century Britain, and his books include *The Politics of Trade, Emporium of the World*, and *William Beckford: First Prime Minister of the London Empire.*

**Dr Freya Johnston** is University Lecturer and Tutorial Fellow in English at St Anne’s College, Oxford. She is the author of *Samuel Johnson and the Art of Sinking, 1709-1791* (Oxford University Press, 2005) and the co-editor of *Thomas Love Peacock’s Crotchet Castle* (Cambridge University Press, 2016) and *Jane Austen’s Teenage Writings* (Oxford World’s Classics, 2017).

**Dr Leslie Mitchell** is Emeritus Fellow of University College, Oxford. He is the biographer of Charles James Fox, Lord Melbourne and Bulwer Lytton. He has also produced an edition of Burke’s *Reflections on the Revolution in France.*

**Dr Hannah Smith** is a Fellow and Tutor in History at St Hilda’s College, Oxford. Her published works include *Georgian Monarchy: Politics and Culture, 1714-1760* (Cambridge University Press, 2006) and two co-edited volumes, *Civilians and War in Europe, 1618-1815* (2012) and *Religion and Women in Britain, c. 1660-1760* (2014).

**Jacqueline Thalmann** has been the Curator of Christ Church Picture Gallery, Oxford since 2003. Before that she was research associate at Sir John Soane’s Museum and the ‘Census of Works of Art and Architecture Known in the Renaissance’ at the Humboldt Universität in Berlin. Since being at Christ Church her research interests have increasingly focused on the college’s collection and the history of collecting, in particular on Christ Church’s art benefactors.

**Professor William Whyte** is Professor of Social and Architectural History at St John’s College, Oxford. He is the author of several books, including *Unlocking the Church: the lost secrets of Victorian sacred space* (2017). He is chairman of the Oxford Preservation Trust and the Oxford Historical Society.

**Professor Abigail Williams** is Professor of English Literature; Lord White Tutorial Fellow at St Peter’s College, Oxford. Her research is on eighteenth-century literature and her most recent publication is *The Social Life of Books: Reading Together in the Eighteenth-Century Home* (Yale, 2017).

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**Cover Images Clockwise from Top Left:** John Wesley after George Romney oil on canvas, based on a work of circa 1789 NPG 2366 © National Portrait Gallery, London • George III, Queen Charlotte and their six eldest children, 1770, Zoffany, Johann (1733-1810) © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, 2018 / Bridgeman Images • Mrs Sarah Siddons, the actress (1755-1831), 1785, Gainsborough, Thomas (1727-88) / Bridgeman Images • House of Commons Interior, from Ackermann’s ‘Microcosm of London’, 1808, Rowlandson, T.(1756-1827) & Pugin, A.C.(1762-1832) Bridgeman Images • The Royal Crescent, Bath, 1777 (w/c on paper), Malton Jnr., Thomas (1748-1804) / Victoria Art Gallery, Bath / Bridgeman Images • A Voluptuary under the Horrors of Digestion, Gillray, James (1757-1815) / New College, Oxford / Bridgeman Images • West India Docks, Rowlandson, T. (1756-1827) & Pugin, A.C. (1762-1832) (after) / Bridgeman Images • Dr. Samuel Johnson (1709-84) 1775 (oil on canvas), Reynolds, Joshua (1723-92) / Bridgeman Images