EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY EUROPEAN CULTURE (417) • Founded: 1962

This interdisciplinary seminar hosts speakers ranging from established scholars to early-career researchers presenting works-in-progress that explore and redefine eighteenth-century European culture. Interests span material culture to textual history, national traditions to colonial formations, and historicist practice to theoretical investigation. Membership is drawn from a wide array of institutions and disciplines—history, literature, philosophy, political science, music, history of science, and art—alongside varied national traditions. The seminar occasionally hosts special events and roundtables, having previously covered topics such as freedom of speech (2007, 2008), science studies (2011), comparative orientalisms (2011), the quantitative eighteenth century (2016), rediscovering race (2017), and human rights (2019), and it marked its 50th anniversary with a retrospective in 2014.

CHAIR/S: **Carrie Shanafelt** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Benjamin Weisgall**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 18 — *Women's Work: The Gendered Labor of Emotion Regulation in the Eighteenth Century*
Lauren Kopajtic, Fordham University

October 23 — *Heiresses: Marriage, Inheritance, and Slavery in the Caribbean*
Miranda Kaufmann, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, SAS, University of London (United Kingdom)

November 20 — *Homuncular Personhood: Reading Tristram Shandy after Dobbs*
Stephanie Hershinow, Baruch College; The Graduate Center, City University of New York

February 19 — *In Transit: Excavating Erased Identities in Charlotte Smith and Phillis Wheatley Peters' Poetry*
Mona Narain, Texas Christian University

March 26 — *The End of Care Work at the End of the Century*
Lilith Todd, University of Pennsylvania

April 16 — *Biocultural Myths About Poverty*
Lennard Davis, University of Illinois Chicago

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Carrie Shanafelt**, carrie.shanafelt@yu.edu