

## Activities Report of the **Austrian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies**, 2021-2022

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This report covers activities of the Austrian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (OGE18) from September 2021 through the submission deadline of July 2022.

### I **Organizational and Strategic Matters**

The **OGE18** was founded in 1982 and currently has about 185 members. The current **board** ([https://oege18.org/?page\\_id=18](https://oege18.org/?page_id=18)) was elected on November 27, 2020 and will remain in office until the end of 2022. The society will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary at this year's annual convention by presenting an issue of its yearbook dedicated to the Enlightenment in Comics and Graphic Novels and by a keynote lecture on Public History of the Eighteenth Century. The OGE18 is still dedicating specific efforts to the recruitment of colleagues at the beginning of their academic career. Also, a specific focus remains on targeted information exchange between national Eighteenth-Century Societies. The mid-term goal is to initiate and coordinate larger international and trans-regional grant proposals.

### II **Publications**

Recently Published [Yearbooks](#) (double-blind peer-reviewed) of the OGE18:

Julian Lahner / Marion Romberg / Thomas Wallnig (eds.), Kirche und Klöster zwischen Aufklärung und administrativen Reformen. Jahrbuch der Österreichischen Gesellschaft zur Erforschung des achtzehnten Jahrhunderts, vol. 36, Wien – Köln – Weimar 2021.

Thomas Wallnig / Thomas Assinger / Elisabeth Lobenwein (eds.), Aufklärung populär: das 18. Jahrhundert in Comic und Graphic Novel. Jahrbuch der Österreichischen Gesellschaft zur Erforschung des achtzehnten Jahrhunderts, vol. 37, Wien – Köln – Weimar (forthcoming 2022).

Recent Publications in the [OGE18 Book Series](#):

Siegfried Kröpfel, Protestantismus in Wien am Beispiel der Totenbeschauprotokolle des 18. Jahrhunderts, Wien – Köln – Weimar 2021 (Schriftenreihe der Österreichischen Gesellschaft zur Erforschung des 18. Jahrhunderts, vol. 21).

Renate Zedinger, Maria Luisa de Borbón (1745–1792). Großherzogin der Toskana und Kaiserin ihrer Zeit, Wien – Köln – Weimar 2022 (Schriftenreihe der Österreichischen Gesellschaft zur Erforschung des 18. Jahrhunderts, vol. 22).

### III **Activities**

Unlike other Societies, the OGE18 does not feature a regular series of lectures. However, it tries to reach out to its members through different formats of academic exchange instead, while, of course, also participating in the co-organization of talks, conferences and excursions. Despite the restrictions on academic life due to the pandemic, a number of OGE18 events have been hosted and collaborations have been fostered digitally.

On October 22, 2021, the OGE18 hosted an **international online roundtable** on **popular** dimensions of the **Enlightenment** in the 18th century and today. Gregory S. Brown (Las Vegas), Stephanie Catani (Wuerzburg), Anne Conrad (Saarbruecken) und Wolfgang Schmale (Vienna) presented their perspectives on the topic and discussed questions posed by moderator Thomas Wallnig.

The **OGE18 PhD colloquium** was held in cooperation with the University of Graz from 24 to 27 October 2021 in Schloss Retzhof/Leibnitz. Ongoing dissertation projects on the 18th century were presented and critically discussed there.

On November 16, 2021, the former OGE18 President and ISECS Secretary general **Wolfgang Schmale** gave the 12<sup>th</sup> **Gerald Stourzh-Lecture on the History of Human Rights and Democracy** at the University of Vienna. The title of this farewell lecture was: *In der Krise, in der Kritik: die ‚Aufklärung‘ und demokratische Identität im 20. und 21. Jahrhundert.*

On November 25 and 26, 2021, the **conference** *Kontinuität und Wandel. Neue Ansätze zur Buchgeschichte der Habsburgermonarchie im langen 18. Jahrhundert* was held in Vienna and online. Organizers Mona Garloff (Innsbruck) and Thomas Wallnig (Vienna) are currently setting up the international **Research Network on Central European Book Culture** (“The Habsburg Book”) based on the research results of the conference.

On November 26, 2021, the society’s annual convention **Tag des 18. Jahrhunderts** was celebrated in Vienna. Julia Ackermann, Doris Gruber and Benedikt Stimmer were given the **Franz-Stephan-Award** for their outstanding PhD/MA-theses on Central European topics of the eighteenth century. Further, Grete Walter-Klingenstein (Graz) was awarded **honorary membership**. Violinist Maxim Tzekov played sonatas by J.S. Bach and caprices by Paganini.

At the **Geschichte am Mittwoch** lecture series at the Department of History, University of Vienna, on March 16, 2022, Doris Gruber (Vienna) presented new research results on computer-assisted analysis of German-language travelogues (1500-1876). On June 15, 2022, Shaun Blanchard (Pittsburgh, PA) discussed *The Rise and Fall of the Counter-Enlightenment Narrative in the Catholic Church*.

Beyond these events, the OGE18 also organizes regular seminars for the discussion of pre-circulated papers (“**jours fixes**”) as well as reading groups concerned with fundamental texts on Enlightenment research (“**Arbeitsgespräche zur Aufklärungsforschung**”): [https://oege18.org/?page\\_id=1769](https://oege18.org/?page_id=1769). In order to convey hands-on knowledge about digital humanities research, the OGE18 is continuing its series of “**digital days**”, an open exchange format for DH-oriented projects on the (long) eighteenth century ([https://oege18.org/?page\\_id=1890](https://oege18.org/?page_id=1890)).

Regarding the society’s **outreach efforts**, the OGE18 has expanded its **social media activities**. In addition to the society’s website and Facebook, a group of early career members has established presence of the OGE18 on Twitter and Instagram. Moreover, since 2021 there has been established an **OGE18 Youtube channel** (“[OGE18 Bücherkiste](#)”), where new books in 18<sup>th</sup> Century Studies are presented in short videos and interviews.

For a detailed account of all OGE18 activities please visit our website ([www.oege18.org](http://www.oege18.org)).