

Australian and New Zealand Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ANZSECS) Annual Report 2023

As usual, the activities of ANZSECS have centred on the David Nichol Smith Seminar, which is the premier eighteenth-century studies conference in our region. Included below are details about the most recent DNS Seminar, and of ancillary ANZSECS activities and publications.

Publications

The successful 2020 ANZSECS conference in Adelaide has resulted in the preparation of a special issue of *Eighteenth-Century Life*. Edited by Dr Eric Parisot, and with the title 'Dark Enlightenments,' the special issue is due to be published in 2023.

A call for papers has been issued for a publication deriving from the recent 2022 ANZSECS conference in Melbourne, entitled 'Marine Materialities in the Long Eighteenth Century.'

Public Lecture

As part of the 18th David Nichol Smith Seminar, a public lecture was hosted by the Australian Catholic University, featuring a presentation by Professor Lynette Smith (Monash) on 'Global Encounters and Marine Worlds.'

Major Conference

The 18th David Nichol Smith Seminar was held from 7-9 December 2022 at Australian Catholic University (ACU) in Melbourne. It was convened by Professor Kate Fullagar, Dr Killian Quigley and Dr Kristie Flannery. The theme for the conference was 'Marine Worlds of the Long Eighteenth Century.'

In keeping with the tradition of past DNS events, the conference had a distinctively antipodean perspective on the global Enlightenment, not least because of its innovative 'marine' theme. It was the first eighteenth-century event in the region to address the "blue humanities."

Keynote presentations were given by Professor Lynette Smith (Monash), Professor Kevin Dawson (UC, Merced) and Dr Miranda Stanyon (Melbourne).

In addition, the conference included a fantastic online gallery of mini-presentations on different aspects of oceanic culture in the eighteenth century, which culminated in a rich plenary session featuring a number of overseas scholars.

Committee

At the previous AGM, a number of long-serving officers stood down, having completed their maximum periods of service (two terms). This included our founding president, Jennifer Milam (Newcastle) and secretary, David Garrioch (Monash).

An election was held for new officers on the executive committee. Lisa O'Connell and Peter Denney were elected to the positions of Co-Presidents, while Eric Parisot was elected Vice President and Paul Tankard was elected Secretary.

In addition, Thomas Combe (Griffith) came on board prior to the AGM as Webmaster and Postgraduate Student Representative.

Other News

The next David Nichol Smith Seminar is scheduled to be held in November 2024 in New Zealand at the University of Otago, Dunedin. It will be convened by Paul Tankard and Shef Rogers, and the provisional theme for this conference is 'Uneasy Enlightenment.'

Peter Denney (Griffith), Co-President

Lisa O'Connell (ACU), Co-President

Paul Tankard (Otago), Secretary