

Brief report on the most important activities und publications of the DGEJ

The German Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (Deutsche Gesellschaft für die Erforschung des 18. Jahrhunderts [DGEJ]), is the German national branch of ISECS. The DGEJ consists of about 720 members. The DGEJ is constantly engaged in a wide variety of publication efforts and research projects. Its official seat is the Herzog August Library in Wolfenbüttel, one of Germany's leading research libraries of international importance with a large collection of books from the early modern period. The library houses about 1,000,000 books, of which 400,000 were printed between 1450 and 1830. Notable librarians have included Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1691-1716) and Gotthold Ephraim Lessing (1770-1781).

1.) DGEJ Activities (Research, Conferences)

Because of the formal and firm affiliations between the two institutions, several of the recent DGEJ-conferences have been – or will be – hosted by the Herzog August Library. In September 2023 the annual DGEJ conference will take place in Wolfenbüttel on the topic “Racism and World Knowledge. Practices, Discourses and Episteme of the German Enlightenment” (“Rassismus und Weltwissen. Praktiken, Diskurse und Episteme der deutschen Aufklärung”). Last year's DGEJ-conference was held in Augsburg on the topic “The Legacy of the Enlightenment: Actuality, Historiography, and Re-readings” (“Das Erbe der Aufklärung: Aktualität, Historiographie und Re-Lektüren”).

As part of the cooperation between the DGEJ and the American Society for Eighteenth-Century-Studies, the DGEJ participated in the 54rd ASECS Annual Meeting with the panel “‘L’homme mêle et confond les climats’: Jean-Jacques Rousseau and the Anthropocene”.

2.) DGEJ Publications

The German Society for Eighteenth Century Studies publishes the journal “Das Achtzehnte Jahrhundert”, which is distributed to all DGEJ members. Most university libraries in Germany subscribe to it. The main section of the journal is dedicated to scholarly articles on eighteenth century topics, but there is also a large review section; every second volume is dedicated to a particular topic, suggested by the volume's editors and finally proposed and accepted by the society's executive board. The most Recent theme was “Anna Louisa Karsch:

Edition and Public” (“Anna Louisa Karsch: Edition und Öffentlichkeit”) (vol. 46/2 (2022)). The current issue (vol. 47/1 /2023)) has been published in May. The journal is published by Wallstein Verlag, Göttingen.

Two book series are published by the DGEJ:

- a) “Das Achtzehnte Jahrhundert. Supplementa” is published in collaboration with Wallstein Verlag, Göttingen. In 2022, the monograph “The Art of Judging and the Judges of Art. The Role of the Literary Critic in the Enlightenment” and a collection of essays on “Johann Jacob Bodmer's Practices. On the Connection between Ethics and Aesthetics in the Age of Enlightenment” were published in this series.
- b) “Studien zum 18. Jahrhundert“ is published in collaboration with Meiner Verlag, Hamburg. The most recent volume is a collection of the contributions to the DGEJ Annual Conference 2018 “Cultures of Morality” (2021).