

I. Annual Meetings

More than 700 attendees gathered in April 2024 for the 54th Annual Meeting, held in Toronto, Ontario. Program Chair Daniel O’Quinn organized a reading of *Zong!* by the acclaimed poet [M. NourbeSe Philip](#), an event graciously supported by Carleton University, the University of Guelph, the University of Ottawa, the University of Toronto, the University of Waterloo, and York University. For the second year in a row, the popular “Eighteenth-Century Café” sessions offered informal chats on issues of interest to members, including “In the Time of Cuts: Strategies for the Future,” made possible by the generous sponsorship of the Lewis Walpole Library. Two packed receptions offered attendees a chance to catch up and relax at the end of the day: the Executive Board’s hosted Membership Reception; and the Affiliate and Caucus Reception, hosted by Elizabeth Mell in honor of her father, Donald C. Mell, Jr. Kirsten Silva Gruesz (University of California Santa Cruz) spoke on “California Before America: Tilting the Eighteenth Century toward the Pacific” for the annual Clifford Lecture. The Presidential Address, “Annotations on the Representation of Race: Performing Edward Young’s *The Revenge* Then and Now,” was held by Lisa A. Freeman (University of Illinois, Chicago).

The [55th Annual Meeting](#) will be held virtually over 2 weekends, March 28-29 and April 4-5, 2025. Highlights include Marisa Fuentes (Rutgers University) as this year’s Clifford Lecturer, the 50th Anniversary of the Women’s Caucus, mentoring sessions with “The Dr. is In,” and a trivia night!

II. Publications

Volume 57 of ASECS’s quarterly journal [Eighteenth-Century Studies](#)—edited by **Ramesh Mallipeddi** (University of British Columbia), Managing Editor **Oliver Bedard** (University of British Columbia), and book review editor **Kathleen Lubey** (St. John’s University)—contained 14 articles, 2 roundtables (with 14 contributions), and 53 reviews. The summer issue featured a special section on the poet Christopher Smart, guest edited by Fraser Easton and Ian Balfour; the roundtable included a previously unpublished essay (“Trauma and Literature: The Case of Christopher Smart”) by the late Geoffrey Hartman, with a headnote by Kevis Goodman. Looking forward, Volume 58.1 (guest edited by David Alff and Jo Guldi) will focus on the theme of “Infrastructure,” and Alex Dick and Eric Gidal will guest edit Volume 59.1 with the theme of “Coasts.”

[Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture](#), Vol. 53, was the final volume overseen by David Brewer (Ohio State University), editor, and Crystal Lake (Wright State University), associate editor. It contained 22 essays and included scholars working in literary studies, book history, theater, the history of art, the history of science, the history of dress, political theory, the history of magic, musicology, and the study of political culture. The materials under investigation stem from Japan, the United States, Venice, Saxony, Austrian-occupied Milan, Great Britain, France, and their respective colonies in the Caribbean. **George Boulukos** (Southern Illinois University, Carbondale)

is the new editor of SECC, and will see the remainder of Vol. 54 through the production process. Highlights include Wendy Wassyng Roworth's Presidential Address on Angelica Kaufmann, the 2023 Clifford Lecturer Sanjay Subrahmanyam (UCLA) on P'tisam ud-Din, and the winning 2023 Catharine Macaulay Graduate Student Essay by Fauve Vandenberghe (Ghent University).

Both journals are available online via JHUP's [Project MUSE](#).

The quarterly [ASECS News Circular](#) enjoys a new format; photos from the recent Annual Meeting and advertisements from relevant partners make it an interactive publication.

III. Prizes

Although the number of prizes awarded continues to be affected by pandemic-era budgetary and travel restrictions, ASECS has continued to award a number of key prizes and fellowships. Highlights include:

The Louis A. Gottschalk Prize

The Louis Gottschalk prize annually recognizes the best scholarly book on an eighteenth-century subject. The 2024 Gottschalk was awarded to **April G. Shelford**, *A Caribbean Enlightenment: Intellectual Life in the British and French Colonial Worlds, 1750-1792* (Cambridge University Press, 2023). One book was also awarded honorable mention: **Katlyn Carter**, *Democracy in Darkness: Secrecy and Transparency in the Age of Revolutions* (Yale University Press, 2023).

The James L. Clifford Prize

The James L. Clifford Prize for the best article on an eighteenth-century subject published during the preceding year was awarded to **Lisa Forman Cody**, "Marriage is No Protection for Crime?: Coverture, Sex, and Marital Rape in Eighteenth-Century England," published in *Journal of British Studies*, 61. Two articles were awarded honorable mention. In alphabetical order, they were **Ramesh Mallipeddi**, "Roads, Bridges, and Ports: Infrastructures of Plantation Agriculture in the British Caribbean, 1627-1840," a chapter from the edited volume *The Aesthetic Life of Infrastructure*, and **Nana Osei Quarshie**, "Spiritual Pawning: 'Mad Slaves' and Mental Healing in Atlantic-Era West Africa" which appeared in *Comparative Studies of Society and History*, 65.3.

The Srinivas Aravamudan Prize

The American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS) awards the Srinivas Aravamudan Prize to the author of an article published in the previous year that pushes the boundaries, geographical and conceptual, of eighteenth-century studies, especially by using a transnational, comparative, or cosmopolitan approach. This year's prize was awarded to **Thomas Glesener and Daniel Hershenson** for "The Maghrib in Europe: Royal Slaves and Islamic Institutions in Eighteenth-Century Spain," in *Past & Present* 259.1 (May 2023): 77–116.

Theatre and Performance Studies Graduate Student Paper Prize

The newly endowed TaPS Caucus Prize was awarded for the first time to **Callum Blackmore** for the paper "Staging Paris's Commercial Revolution: Capitalist Form and the Merger of the Comédie-Italienne and the Opéra-Comique (1762)," read at the 2023 St. Louis ASECS Annual Meeting.

Graduate Student Conference Paper Prize

Hampton Smith was awarded ASECS' Graduate Student Conference Paper Prize for "Insurgent Making: Tools as Weapons in Slave Revolts," and Honorable Mention was awarded to **Jennifer Strtak** for "S(paces) of Policing: Urban Vehicles of Population Control in Eighteenth-Century Paris," both read at the 2024 Toronto Annual Meeting.

Women's Caucus Awards

Catharine Macaulay Graduate Student Prize: Natasha Shoory

Émilie du Châtelet Award: Kelly Plante

Editing/Translation Award: Juliette Paul

Gender and Intersectional Prize: Faith Barringer

New Endowed Awards

Generous donations have helped endow two new awards: The [George E. Haggerty Prize in LGBTQ+ Studies in Eighteenth-Century Scholarship](#) and the **ASECS/Ibero-American Studies in Eighteenth-Century Studies**.

[Donations](#) to these and other awards may be made by credit card, PayPal, or check; ASECS welcomes legacy gifts and other donor award initiatives.

IV. Grants to ASECS

ASECS and the [African Studies Association](#) have been awarded a joint **American Council for Learned Society-Intention Foundry Society Engagement Funding Initiative** on "Africa in the Eighteenth-Century." Ten graduate students from each society will participate in a year-long publishing workshop aimed at supporting emerging scholars' first article publication. The IF Funding Initiative works to support projects that name and intervene in the various kinds of precarity experienced by early career scholars from groups who have been systemically excluded, marginalized, or neglected in their fields and disciplines.

V. Major Actions by the ASECS Executive Board

- ASECS membership is currently voting on [proposed new Bylaws](#) as reviewed and approved by the Executive Board. These changes broaden the definition of fields of scholarship, promote more inclusivity, and provide representation for graduate students and early career scholars on the Board.
- Approved a new [Policy on Statements](#)
- Appointed **George Boulukos** as Editor to SECC
- Appointed **Michael R. Lynne** as Treasurer to begin July 1, 2025; Lynne will shadow current Treasurer Joseph Bartolomeo for the 2024-2025 Board Year