The Eighteenth-Century Novel and History

Guest Editor:

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Deadline for manuscript submissions:
closed (30 April 2024)

Message from the Guest Editor

In Ian Watt's influential account of the "rise of the novel," this new type of fiction broke away from ancient models and traditions. The new novels narrated events that were set in modern and contemporary times, with spatial, temporal, and psychological specifics considered crucial.

New historiographical paradigms introduced by the Scottish conjectural historians, as well as by David Hume and Edward Gibbon, underpinned a fiction with complex roots in a newly conceptualized past. Fiction based on history, at least in its more hortatory functions and versions, aligned itself to traditional historiography and, in turn, derived some of its rhetorical structures and tools.

We invite contributions on the interplay between fiction and history, competing or parallel narrative traditions, the structuring use of historical references in fiction, the fictional/narrative approach to history writing, and the issue of the adherence to truth both in fiction and history in the English literature of the long eighteenth century.

Special Issue

Editor-in-Chief

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

We welcome contributions that address fundamental issues in the Humanities from any meaningful perspective, combining past and present concerns in order to blaze a path toward the future. Interdisciplinary approaches are particularly welcome. All submissions will be critically reviewed by peers, aiming for the highest possible scholarly level. Being an online journal, the published papers will reach their desired audiences faster, more reliably, and much more easily than traditional print versions, while upholding the same, if not even higher, scholarly standards.

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