

Power on Trial: Public Opinion and Political Legitimacy from the Enlightenment to the  
Napoleonic Era and its Modern Implications

International Colloquium at the University of Chicago

April 14-15, 2023

The Franke Institute for the Humanities

1100 East 57<sup>th</sup> Street, JRL S-102

Chicago, IL 60637

**Day 1 (April 14, 2023)**

- **Panel 1: 10:30am-11:30am**

**Theme:** Public Opinion and Social Cohesion/Opinion publique et lien social

**Chair:** Jan Goldstein (University of Chicago: Norman and Edna Freehling Professor Emerita of History, the Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science, and the College)

**Susan Maslan (University of California, Berkeley: Associate Professor of French):** "Transformations of the social bond on the revolutionary stage: equality, judgment, affect"

**Agathe Meridjen (Université Paris Nanterre : Doctorante en Sociologie):** "Les discours aliénistes face à l'opinion publique à la fin du XVIIIe, entre promesses de réorganisation de la société, révolutionnaires pathologiques et assurances contre de « Nouvelles Bastilles »"

- **Panel 2: 11:30am-12:30pm**

- **Theme:** Public Opinion and Publicity: From Impostures to Posters/Opinion publique et publicité : de l'imposture aux posters

- **Chair:** Robert Morrissey (University of Chicago: Benjamin Franklin Professor of French Literature, and the Committee on Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities)

- **Antoine Lilti (Collège de France: Chaire d' "Histoire des Lumières, XVIIIe siècle – XXIe siècle):** "Charlatanisme et imposture : les philosophes à l'épreuve de la publicité"

- **Laurent Cuvelier (Université de Tours: Maître de conférences en histoire moderne):** "Les murs ont la parole. Publicité affichée et opinion publique à Paris au XVIIIe siècle"

- **Lunch: 12:30pm-1:30pm**

- **Panel 3: 1:30pm-2:30pm**

**Theme:** Opinion on Trial: Legislation and Legalization/L'opinion en procès : législation et légalisation

**Chair:** Paul Cheney (University of Chicago: Professor of European History, Fundamentals, and the College)

**Ryan Brown (University of Chicago: PhD Candidate in French and Francophone Studies):** “The Autobiographer as Jurist: Rousseau's Confessions, the Practice of Judicial Proof, and the Court of Public Opinion”

**Raphaël Cahen (JLU Giessen: Senior Researcher; Vrije Universiteit Brussel and École Pratique des Hautes Études: Guest Lecturer):** “Les jurisconsultes du Ministère des affaires étrangères et l'opinion publique (1789-1830)”

- **Panel 4: 2:30pm-3:30pm**

**Theme:** Representing and Measuring Public Opinion: Revolutionary Fever and its Excesses/Représenter et mesurer l'opinion publique : la fièvre révolutionnaire et ses excès

**Chair:** William H. Sewell Jr. (Frank P. Hixon Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Political Science and History)

**Maximilien Novak (University of Chicago: Humanities Teaching Fellow):** “Le thermomètre de l'opinion publique : mesure de la fièvre sociale au tournant du 19ème siècle en France.”

**Andrei Pop (University of Chicago: Allan and Jean Frumkin Professor, Committee on Social Thought, Art History, and the College):** “The King's Head or Bust': aesthetic and political representations of popular mob beheadings”

- **Coffee Break: 3:30pm-4pm**

- **Keynote address: 4pm-5pm**

**Keith M. Baker (Stanford University: J.E. Wallace Sterling Professor in Humanities and Professor, by courtesy, of French and Italian):** “Public Opinion: Reason or Will?”

- **Dinner: 7pm**

**Day 2 (April 15, 2023)**

- **Panel 5: 1pm-2pm**

- **Theme:** Trickery and Deception: Twisted Opinion/Tromperie et déception: l'opinion travestie

- **Chair:** Colin Jones (Queen Mary University of London: Emeritus Professor of Cultural History; University of Chicago: Visiting Professor of History)

- **Doina Pasca Harsanyi (Central Michigan University: Professor of History, World Languages, and Cultures):** “Wrongful Praising: flattery and strategies of survival in Napoleonic Italy”
- **Robert Morrissey (University of Chicago: Benjamin Franklin Professor of French Literature, and the Committee on Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities):** “Mystification et Victimisation : Diderot le « Trickster » des Lumières.”
- **Panel 6: 2pm-3pm**  
**Theme:** New Perspectives: the development of questions around race and disability/Nouvelles perspectives : la question de la mise en valeur de la question raciale et des invalides  
**Chair:** Yann Robert (University of Illinois Chicago: Associate Professor French and Francophone Studies)  
**Christy L. Pichichero (George Mason University: Associate Professor of History and French with affiliations in African and African American Studies, Women and Gender Studies, and War and the Military in Society Programs):** “Public Opinion and Empire: a Black Epistemological Approach”  
**Thomas Ramonda (Sciences Po Aix: Doctorant en histoire):** “Prendre les invalides pour témoins : l’instrumentalisation du sort des militaires en Espagne dans le procès du système politique napoléonien”
- **Coffee break: 3pm-3:30pm**
- **Final Roundtable: 3:30pm-4:30pm**  
**Theme:** “Public Opinion Today”  
**Moderator:** Colin Jones (Queen Mary University of London: Emeritus Professor of Cultural History; University of Chicago: Visiting Professor of History)  
**Participants:** TBD (Open Invitation)
- **Concert: 6pm-7pm**  
**Pianist:** Pierre Delignies Caldéron  
**Location:** Fulton Recital Hall (University of Chicago Campus) 5845 S. Ellis Ave, Chicago, IL, 60637