‘What is Enlightenment? What is Enlightenment? What is Enlightenment?’”
Caroline Rooney, *Decolonising Gender* (2007)

‘What is Enlightenment?’ was once Kant’s question, and later Foucault’s. As Caroline Rooney suggests, this is a question that continues to need to be posed again and again. Following Bilkent University’s 2013 conference ‘Alternative Enlightenments’, which asked to what extent the ‘the concept of Enlightenment’ might be distinguished from ‘the era of European history long taken to have discovered or invented it?’, this conference likewise proposes an examination of ‘Enlightenments in the plural’, whether ‘revisionary accounts of the Age of Enlightenment’ or ‘explorations of Enlightenment in other times and places’, as the Bilkent organisers formulated it. Gathering together researchers from the University of Kent’s interdisciplinary Centre for Studies in the Long Eighteenth Century with research collaborators from elsewhere, this event seeks to further the unfolding and exchange of new approaches to a plurality of Enlightenments, counter-Enlightenments, radical Enlightenments, enthusiastic Enlightenments, and enlightened alternatives.

The Mystical and Enlightenment
Sexuality, Gender, Enlightenment
Science, Empire, Improvement, Enlightenment
 Commerce and Cosmopolitanism: Globalising the Enlightenment?

Jan Loop, Ziad Elmarsafy, Caroline Rooney, Marine Ganofsky, Declan Kavanagh, Kim Simpson, Jenny di Placidi, James Fowler, Will Pettigrew, Donna Landry, Gerald MacLean, Peter Kitson, Pratik Chakrabarti, Robbie Richardson, Rajani Sudan

Sponsored by the Centre for Studies in the Long Eighteenth Century, the Eighteenth-Century MA in Paris, and KIASH.

[www.kent.ac.uk/english/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/english/)