

HIU34513: The Great Awakening': 18th Century Transatlantic Evangelicalism
Module Coordinator: Dr. Simon Lewis

Weighting: 10 ECTS

Assessment: 40% Essay, 60% Exam

Duration: Michaelmas Term

Contact Hours: 2 hours per week

The religious revivals of the mid-eighteenth century in America, Britain, Ireland, and parts of continental Europe constitute one of the great turning points in Protestant history, giving birth to the populist religious movement known as 'evangelicalism'. But what was 'evangelicalism'? What did it mean to be 'born again'? One crucial dimension we will address is that of gender. To what extent did evangelicalism provide women with greater opportunities to communicate their religious experiences? We will also address evangelicalism's relationship with print culture. How did preachers, such as John Wesley and George Whitefield, utilise and manipulate print? How did print enable evangelicals to forge transatlantic connections? We will also explore the seemingly disparate themes of 'enthusiasm' and 'Enlightenment'. By trusting feelings and alleged miracles, revivalists were often labelled as 'enthusiasts'. But what was 'enthusiasm'? To what extent did allegations of 'enthusiasm' render evangelicalism a 'counter-Enlightenment' movement? We will also discuss evangelicalism's interactions with politics. To what extent did evangelicalism fuel radical/revolutionary sentiments? What was evangelicalism's relationship with slavery/abolitionism? By addressing these questions, this module will not only enhance our understanding of transatlantic Protestant communities, but also the ways in which social, political and intellectual tensions played out in various religious establishments.