

# Cultural Encounters in The Global Eighteenth Century

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**Short Title:** Global Eighteenth Century (10 ECTS)

**Semester Taught:** MT **Year:** SS

**Lecturer name and email address:** Dr Amy Prendergast (Prendea1@tcd.ie)

## Description and learning aims:

Transcultural exchanges evidenced in the encounters between Europe and the wider world in the eighteenth century provoked a variety of literary responses. Writings by people who chose to travel existed alongside those forced to emigrate for socio-economic reasons, as well as those men and women forced into the horrors of enslavement. Many who remained in their country of birth learned of other lands and cultures through literature, following the fictional exploits of adventurous protagonists or reading the life writings generated by those forced into exile or servitude. This global world brought into focus the fragility of local social norms and attitudes as the extent of cultural relativity was revealed.

The module incorporates a variety of genres, from Gothic and picaresque novels to poetry, letters, travel writing, and a play. It also prioritises a focus on primary material, and includes a class in Early Printed Books to engage with original eighteenth-century texts, including maps and early edition travel accounts and novels.

*Global Eighteenth Century* strives for breadth of representation, and engages with a variety of voices and perspectives, exploring indigenous accounts alongside the life writings of colonisers. It explores the power dynamics at play within this global century, at both the political level as well as the domestic one, analysing imperial quests, native uprisings, and patriarchal rule. As different cultures come together, the module considers both the blossoming of interracial relationships and the literal demonization of difference. Anxieties regarding class, gender, and race are joined by those of religion too, as the module repeatedly considers the construction of 'the other'; patterns of emulation, assimilation, and rejection; and the creation of a global self.

## Module Content

1. **Introducing the Global Eighteenth Century**
2. **Gender and The Orient:** Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, Turkish Embassy Letters
3. **Enlightened Travel:** Voltaire, *Candide* (1759)
4. **Emigration:** Selected poetry from Whyte, Goldsmith, and James Orr.
5. **Castaways and Conversion:** Anon., *The Female American* (1767)
6. **Exploring the Archives:** Travel journals, guides, maps and reports in EPB
7. Reading week
8. **Poetic Encounters:** Phillis Wheatley, *Poems* (1773)
9. **Colonialism and Commodification:** George Colman, *Inkle & Yarico* (1787)
10. **Colonial Travels:** Selected life writing from New South Wales
11. **Gothic Anxieties:** Charlotte Dacre, *Zofloya, or, The Moor* (1806)
12. **Conclusions** Mirza Abu Talib Khan, *Travels* (trans. 1810)

### **Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Analyse critically the set texts while also relating them to each other and their social, cultural, and political contexts.
- Engage confidently with primary archival material from Early Printed Books.
- Appreciate and engage in existing debates regarding the global eighteenth century.
- Demonstrate the capacity to perform close reading across a range of genres, employing key transferable skills of analysis and advanced writing techniques.
- Undertake independent research, identifying topics of interest and employing appropriate research methods.
- Employ appropriate critical vocabulary to discuss the primary texts, and understand key concepts that underpin a full understanding of literature from the period.

### **Assessment Details:**

This module will be assessed by one essay (5,000 words, 100%). The essay topic can be of the student's own choice, reached upon consultation with the module convenor.

Please note:

- *Curricular information is subject to change.*
- **Information is displayed only for guidance purposes, relates to the current academic year only and is subject to change.**