

25th George Rudé Seminar in French History and Culture
8-10 July 2026
University of Western Australia
DRAFT Program

Wednesday 8 July

Opening Session - Online

4-5pm *Les Historiettes de Tallemant des Réaux*

Laurence Giavarini (Université Bourgogne Europe) and Élie Haddad (CNRS (histoire)) *Les Historiettes de Tallemant des Réaux: une histoire sociale et politique*

6pm Keynote: Jennifer Yee, University of Oxford, ‘Romanticism and the Oriental Despot: from Delacroix to Balzac and Baudelaire’ (Chair: Paul Gibbard)

Thursday 9 July

9-10.30 Session 1

Session 1 *Histories and Cultures of Political Contracts*

Julián Giglio (Universidad de Buenos Aires-online) The roots of authority: the role of mendicant controversy on absolute poverty as a key antecedent of Oresme’s political thought

Lucy King (Adelaide University) Co-monarch or male consort: the representation of dauphin Francis as King of Scotland

Rujeeluck Seelakate (Sorbonne University-online) The Napoleon’s “Conquest” of three Cleopatras: between imagination and reality

10.30-11 Morning Tea

11-12.30 Session 2

Keynote: Tracy Ryan, *Playing with the facts: writing French women's history into fiction*
(Chair: Susan Broomhall)

12.30-13.30 Lunch and George Rudé Society AGM

13.30-3 Session 3

Session 3A Environmental histories

Susan Broomhall (ACU) *Nature and Sovereignty in the French Renaissance*

Peter McPhee (University of Melbourne) *Rethinking the social and political history of rural France in the Age of the Anthropocene, 1770-2020*

Una McIlvenna (ANU) *'Le Grisou Trompeur': French Mining Disaster Ballads*

Session 3B Troubling Modernities

Anna Paola Manna (University of Exeter), Joint Alison Patrick Memorial Scholarship
Winner, *'Dans la vision poétique [...] il y a joie': Rethinking Illness Through Literature in Taine's De l'intelligence*

Stuart A. Blair (independent scholar-online) *"The politics of Tintin..." Context, stereotypes, representations, and controversies in the early adventures of Tintin*

Ben Mercer (Australian National University) *Conceptualising youth in twentieth-century France*

3-3.30 Afternoon Tea

3.30-5 Session 4

Session 4 Collecting and museums

Annabel Coulter (Canterbury University, NZ), Joint Alison Patrick Memorial Scholarship
Winner, *Curating conquest: the Louvre and the aesthetics of revolutionary plunder*

Susan Foley (University of Melbourne) *Conquerors and Collectors in Indochina: Officers, Their Wives and the Orientalist Vogue during the Tonkin Campaign (1884-5)*

Paul Gibbard (UWA) *The lost statues of Prambanan: an Odyssey from Java to the Musée Napoléon and beyond*

6pm Conference dinner, Matilda Bay Restaurant.

Friday 10 July

9-10.30 Session 5

Session 5A **Women making archives**

Maddison Taylor-Gillett (ACU-online) Convent crisis management and the Bourbourg Abbey manuscript (1691–1695)

Sarah Bendall (Australian Catholic University - online) ‘Out of France’: Couturières, French migration, and female skill in the late seventeenth century

Martin Lyons (UNSW) The judge, the maid and her seducer: pregnancy declarations in 18th-century France

Session 5B **Revolutions**

Aude Attuel-Hallade (Sorbonne Université) Lord Acton and the Terror: a condemnation of revolutionary violence?

Kirsty Carpenter (Massey University) Émigrés, property and appropriation in the region of Toulouse

Ian Coller (University of California, Irvine) Beyond the Cape: The French Revolution in the Indian Ocean

10.30-11 Morning Tea

11-12.30 Session 6

French exploration collections in Australia

Roundtable with Maggie Patton (SLNSW), Susannah Helman (NLA), Kate Gregory (SLWA), Julie Johnson (NMA), Jennifer Yee (Oxford), facilitated by Paul Gibbard and Susan Broomhall

12.30-13.30 Lunch

13.30-3 Session 7

Session 7A **Women in the Vision of Christianity**

Janice Pinder (Monash University) What were French beguines reading? A case study in the history of reading practices and textual transmission

Sylvie Brassard (independent scholar) Jean De Léry, women and European “demi-gods”: how gender and women’s history can inform Indigenous perspectives on colonisers in the colony of France Antarctique, Brazil, 1557

Vesna Drapac (Adelaide University) Violence against Priests and Religious in the Spanish Civil War: The View from Lisieux

Session 7B **Challenging Enlightenments**

David Garrioch (Monash University) The Age of Enlightenment faces fire: responses to the burning of the Petit-Pont in Paris, 1718

Simon Burrows (Western Sydney University) Policing Enlightenment: Book Confiscations at Parisian Customs, 1770-1791

Timothy Tackett (University of California, Irvine) From Enlightenment to Revolution: The Case of Nicolas Ruault

3-3.30 Afternoon Tea

3.30-5 Session 8

Session 8A **The Napoleonic Concordat**

Aude Attuel-Hallade (Sorbonne Université) Napoleon's Concordat and the 'Irish question': The Secularization of the British State in T.B. Macaulay's work

Peter Hicks (Fondation Napoléon) Napoleon Bonaparte, the Concordat, and Welsh Unitarians 1797-1803

Xavier Marechaux (State University of New York at Old Westbury, online) The Catholic Church and Napoleon: Restoring Catholicism in Québec?

Session 8B **Evolving Perspectives on Gender Relations**

Julie P. Johnson (National Museum of Australia) Fearless Female Voices: Joan of Arc, Charlotte Corday and Emilienne Moreau/Evrard

Katrina Kell (Murdoch University), A Black Swan on Belle-Île-en-Mer: The Russells and Auguste Rodin

Kate Averis (UWA) Back to the *béguinage*: Radical Feminist Aged Care in Contemporary France

5pm Conference close