

GIS SOCIABILITES / SOCIABILITY IN THE LONG EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

History, Models and Transfers in European and Colonial Societies from 1650 to 1850

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME 2022-26

1 - SOCIABILITY AND POLITICIZATION

1.1 Definitions of civil society and forms of political expression

- Political philosophy and the politics of sociability (from Aristotle's political anthropology)
- Individual ambition vs collective participation: a sociological approach
- Sociability and citizenship
- Printed media (press, pamphlets) and political discourse
- Sociable manners and the language of politics
- Sociability and revolution

1.2 Spaces of politicization

- Political institutions and party organisation
- Associational culture
- Popular vs elite, rural vs urban forms of politicization
- Sociabilities as counter-powers

1.3 Women: from sociable practice to political engagement

- The education of women and the invisible politician
- Women as visible agents of political sociability
- The road to women's suffrage and revolutionary movements

2 – FOOD, DRINK AND SOCIABILITY

2.1 The Essentials of Sociability

- Conviviality, community, sharing practices
- Social and cultural evolution of eating and drinking habits and practices (domestic/public) throughout the long eighteenth century

- Eating and drinking venues (typology and evolution)
- Popular vs elite practices

2.2 Eating and Drinking Rituals

- The dinner ritual
- Initiation rituals, toasting
- Family rituals vs public ceremonies
- Food games?
- Food and drink / political identities, national character

2.3 Food and Drink Consumption: from novelty to excess

- Exotic products / colonial influence
- Intoxicants and new addictions (alcohol, tobacco, drugs...)
- Transgressive sociable/unsociable behaviours

3 – THE SOCIABILITY OF THINGS

3.1 Sociability and objects

- Fashionable objects
- Performance and display: the materiality and visuality of sociability
- Collections, exhibitions...
- The circulation of commodities: from local to global perspective

3.2 Technical and scientific improvement

- Impact of science on sociable practices: inventions, exploration, emergence of scientific societies
- Building scientific correspondences, journals and networks
- Industrial progress and the transformation of sociability: new professional sociabilities
- Professional sociability: intellectual vs labour?

3.3 Influence of material culture / artistic and literary representations of sociability

- Painting
- Architecture and interior design
- Literary genres

4 - SOCIABILITY AND TRAVEL

4.1 The traveller's sociability

- Food and lodgings: inns, taverns, pubs...
- Means of transportation
- The logistics of hospitality: planning, letters of introduction

4.2 Exploring the world

- The Grand Tour
- Scientific exploration
- The appeal of the Orient

4.3 Travelling empires

- Travel and colonial settlement
- Colonial trade
- Diplomatic sociability