Émilie Du Châtelet has emerged in recent years as a major figure of the French Enlightenment. Her anonymous but significant presence in the Encyclopédie raises urgent questions about the status of the woman scientist in the period, while recent manuscript discoveries are encouraging us to look afresh at Émilie Du Châtelet as a scientist and philosopher. This study day, open to all, provides an informal forum for researchers at all levels to discuss recent discoveries and reflect on the directions for future research.

This study day is organised by the Besterman Centre for the Enlightenment (TORCH) in connection with the Maison Française, Ertegun House and ITEM (CNRS/ENS). Speakers include Karen Detlefsen (UPenn), Andrew Janiak (Duke), Katherine Brading (Notre Dame), J.B. Shank (Minnesota), Anne-Lise Rey (Lille), Wilda Anderson (Johns Hopkins), Ruggero Sciuto (Oxford) and Nicholas Cronk (Oxford).

PROGRAMME

**Wednesday 13 May**

5.00 Professor Dominique Rabaté (Université de Paris VII): ‘Figures de la disparition dans le roman français contemporain’, Main Hall, Taylor Institution, St Giles'.

Reception at the Taylor Institution following the lecture.

Own arrangements for dinner

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**Thursday 14 May: Ertegun House, 37A St Giles’**

WORKSHOP: all timings approximate

9.00 Arrivals. Coffee available throughout

9.15 Karen Detlefsen (UPenn) & Andrew Janiak (Duke): ‘Émilie Du Châtelet & the Encyclopédie’

10.15 Katherine Brading and Anne Seul (Notre Dame): ‘Reading the Institutions de Physique as a philosophical text: content and context in relation to the Encyclopédie’

11.15 Nicholas Cronk (Oxford): ‘What are the Reflexions sur le bonheur? The evidence of the manuscript’

Graduate student contributions followed by general roundtable discussion, featuring:

Ruggero Sciuto (Oxford): ‘The Principle of Sufficient Reason, Emilie Du Châtelet and… an anonymous Encyclopédiste’
Jean-Olivier Richard (Johns Hopkins): ‘The Mémoires de Trévoux and the Marquise: What Père Castel had to say about Emilie du Châtelet’s Works’

Glenn Roe (Australia National University) presented by Nicholas Cronk: ‘Émilie du Châtelet, une encyclopédiste inconnue’

1.00 Lunch

2.00 Walk to Maison Française, 2-10 Norham Road [Lecture Room]

2.30 J.B. Shank (Minnesota): ‘Beyond the Herstory of Emilie du Châtelet’

3.30 Anne-Lise Rey (Université des Sciences et Technologies de Lille 1): ‘Le statut des hypothèses dans les Institutions de Physique d’Emilie du Châtelet’

4.30 Coffee available

5.15 Wilda Anderson (Johns Hopkins): ‘Conjecture versus Hypothesis’. Chair: Caroline Warman (Oxford)

Followed by wine reception

7.45 Dinner at the Old Library, St Edmund’s Hall (by invitation only)

For catering purposes please register your attendance to kelsey.rubin-detlev@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk by 1 May 2015. All other enquiries can be directed to email@voltaire.ox.ac.uk.

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For information:

Friday 15 May


To register for this event please email: jean-alexandre.perras@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk