

# Al Coppola

Department of English  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice  
City University of New York  
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## EDUCATION

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Ph.D., Fordham University, English Literature, 2008.  
M.A., New York University, English Literature, 2001.  
B.A., Yale University, English Language and Literature, 1994.

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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Associate Professor of English, John Jay College, CUNY, 2015-present.  
Chair, Columbia University Seminar in Eighteenth-Century European Culture, 2010-2016.  
Assistant Professor of English, John Jay College, CUNY, 2008-2015.  
Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of English, Fordham University, 2007-2008.

## BOOKS

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*Enlightenment Visibilities*. This book manuscript in progress investigates a number of technologies, innovated in the Enlightenment, that render into knowledge that which had previously been invisible, unknowable and/or ephemeral. In so doing, the project traces these legacies of Enlightenment as the structuring sinews of 21-century modernity. Chapters are projected on sensory prostheses, from Hooke's microscope to VR goggles; mathesis, from the Newtonian synthesis to Big Data; and the quantified body, from iatromechanical medicine to the Fitbit.

*The Theater of Experiment: Staging Natural Philosophy in Eighteenth-Century Britain*. Oxford University Press, 2016.

Reviewed in *Studies in English Literature* 57.3 (Summer 2017): 645-696; *Metascience* 27 (2018): 63-65; *Isis* 109.1 (March 2018): 179-180; *Bulletin of the Comediantes* 69.2 (2017): 129-13; *British Society for Literature and Science* (online); *The Scriblerian and the Kit-Cats* 52.1 (Autumn 2019): 83-83; *Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation* 60, no. 1 (2019): 111-114.

## ARTICLES

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“Fully Prov'd by the Plates’?: Desaguliers’ Unauthorized System and the Epistemology of Science in Performance.” Forthcoming in *Science and Storytelling in the Eighteenth Century: Knowledge, Narrative, Discipline*, eds. Danielle Spratt and David Alff, under contract with

Virginia University Press, Summer 2022.

“Enlightenolatry from Peter Gay to Steven Pinker: Mass Marketing Enlightenment and the Thick Eighteenth Century.” Forthcoming in *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation*.

“Some Daemon Rides in th’Air’: Lightning and the Problem of the Supernatural in Walpole’s Second Gothic.” Proceedings of 2018 Yale British Arts Center workshop on *The Mysterious Mother*, eds. Cynthia Roman and Jill Campbell. Forthcoming from Yale University Press.

“I am emailing to inform you that another member of my family has passed away’: A Response to Restoration’s Special Issue on COVID/Defoe.” *Restoration: Studies in English Literary Culture*, 1660-1700 45, no. 2 (2021): 77-88. doi:10.1353/rst.2021.0010.

“Latour and Balloons: *Gaia Global Circus* and the Theater of Climate Change,” *Configurations* vol. 28, no.1 (Winter 2020): 29-50.

“Without the Help of Glasses’: The Anthropocentric Spectacle of Nehemiah Grew’s Botany,” *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation* vol. 54, no. 2 (2013): 263-277. Special issue on “Sensitive Subjects,” eds. Rivka Swenson and Manushag Powell.

“The Secret History of Eliza Haywood’s *Works*,” *1650-1850: Ideas, Aesthetics and Inquiries in the Early Modern Period* vol. 18 (2012): 133-161.

“Harlequin Newton: John Rich’s *Necromancer* and the Public Science of the 1720’s” in Jeremy Barlow and Berta Joncus, eds., *The Stage’s Glory’: John Rich (1692-1761)* (Newark, DE: University of Delaware Press, 2010): 238-252.

“Imagination and Pleasure in the Cosmography of Thomas Burnet’s *Sacred Theory of the Earth*” in Allison B. Kavey, ed., *World-Building and the Early Modern Imagination* (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2010): 119-139.

“Retraining the Virtuoso’s Gaze: Behn’s *Emperor of the Moon*, The Royal Society, and the Spectacles of Science and Politics.” *Eighteenth Century Studies* vol. 41, no. 1 (2008): 481-506.

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#### REVIEW ESSAY

“Science/Spectacle,” *Eighteenth Century Studies* vol. 44, no. 1 (2010): 117-134. Review of Bernadette Bensaude-Vincent and Christine Blondel eds., *Science and Spectacle in the European Enlightenment* (Ashgate, 2008.); Aileen Fyfe and Bernard Lightman eds., *Science in the Marketplace: Nineteenth-Century Sites and Experiences* (Univ. Chicago Press 2007); and Hillary M. Nunn, *Staging Anatomies: Dissection and Spectacle in Early Stuart Tragedy* (Aldershot UK: Ashgate, 2005).

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#### PUBLIC MEDIA

“Science Hasn’t Been This Controversial Since 1676,” *18<sup>th</sup> Century Common*. May 19, 2017.  
<https://www.18thcenturycommon.org/science-hasnt-been-this-politicized-since-1676/>  
 Republication of *Medium* article.

“Science Hasn’t Been This Controversial Since 1676,” *Quartz* April 22, 2017.  
<https://qz.com/966053/science-hasnt-been-this-controversial-since-1676/>  
 Republication of *Medium* article.

“Science Hasn’t Been This Controversial Since 1676,” *Medium* April 19, 2017.  
<https://medium.com/@alcoppola/science-hasnt-been-this-controversial-since-1676-dccc995b4a24>. Analysis of the 2017 March for Science that discusses a late 17<sup>th</sup> century context for contemporary debates about the value and credibility of science. Featured story. 1.5k+ views.

## REVIEWS

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Review. Michael Brown, *The Political History of John Toland* (London: Pickering & Chatto, 2012). *The Scriblerian and the Kit Kats* 47.1 (Autumn 2014): 74-76.

Performance Review. Aphra Behn’s *The Rover* by the Hudson Warehouse Theatre, New York, NY, July/August 2012. *Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Theater Research* vol. 27, no. 1 (2012 [published Summer 2013]): 97-101. Co-authored with John Jay undergraduate Jessica Paiz.

Review. Catie Gill ed., *Theatre and Culture in Early Modern England, 1660-1737: From Leviathan to the Licensing Act* (Basingstoke, UK: Ashgate, 2010). *Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Theater Research* vol. 26, nos. 1-2 (Winter 2012): 114-118.

Review. Markman Ellis ed., *Coffee-House Culture*. 4 vols. (London: Pickering & Chatto, 2006). *Eighteenth-Century Novel* vol. 8 (2011): 344-347.

Pre-publication review of Tobias Smollett, *Travels Through France and Italy*, ed. Frank Felsenstein (Broadview, 2011).

Participant in collaborative on-line review of Steven Karian, *Jonathan Swift in Print and Manuscript* (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 2010) on the scholarly blog, *Early Modern Online Bibliography*, maintained by Anna Battigeli (SUNY Plattsburgh) and Eleanor Shevlin (West Chester University). 26 July 2010. <<http://earlymodernonlinebib.wordpress.com/2010/08/01/>>

Review. John O’Brien, *Harlequin Britain: Pantomime and Entertainment, 1690-1760*. (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004). *Eighteenth-Century Novel* vol. 5 (2006): 359-364.

Review. Claude Rawson, *God, Gulliver and Genocide*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001). *Eighteenth-Century Novel* vol. 4 (2005): 250-255.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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Joh Jay Digital Humanities Innovation Award. May 2021.

Senior Scholar Release Award, Office for the Advancement of Research, John Jay College, Spring 2020.

Invited Participant and Grant-in-Aid, The Languages of Nature: Science, Literature and the Imagination, Folger Institute Fall 2019 Seminar, Washington, DC, 13-14 September 2019

Mid-Career Scholarship Support, John Jay College, Spring 2019.

Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology Resident Scholar Fellowship, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., October 2017.

Mid-Career Fellowship, Committee for Interdisciplinary Science Studies, The Graduate Center, CUNY, 2016-17. Participated in the seminar "Science and Art."

Sabbatical Leave, John Jay College, CUNY. Fall 2016 and Fall 2017.

PSC-CUNY Research Grant, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2017.

John Jay College Grant Writing Seminar, 2016-2017.

Leonard Hastings Schoff Fund Publication Subvention, Columbia University Seminars Program, 2016.

John Jay College "Discover, Design, Develop" Online Teaching Fellowship, Spring 2016.

NICHE (Numeracy Infusion Course for Higher Education) seminar at Lehman College, a competitive CUNY-wide faculty development initiative, Summer 2014.

John Jay College Office for the Advancement of Research, Discretionary Award, 2014.

William Stewart Travel Award, CUNY Academy for the Humanities and Sciences, 2011.

CUNY Faculty Fellowship Publication Program participant, 2010.

Lewis Walpole Library Travel Grant, 2008.

Fordham University, Alumni Dissertation Fellowship, 2006-2007.

Folger Shakespeare Institute, Seminar Participant, 2005-2006. "Researching the Archives," lead by David Scott Kastan, Columbia University, and Linda Levy Peck, George Washington University.

Fordham University Dissertation Research Grant, British Library, Summer 2004.

Folger Shakespeare Institute, Seminar Participant, 2003 "Women on the Verge of Science: Gender and Knowledge in Early Modern Europe," lead by Paula Findlen, Stanford University.

Fordham University, Charles A. Donohoe Prize for Best Graduate English Essay, 2002.

Fordham University, University Research Fellowship, 2001-2002.

New York University, MacCracken Fellowship, 1998-2000.

## INVITED TALKS

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Discussant and Talk-Back Facilitator, R/18 Collective's Zoom performance of Aphra Behn's *The Emperor of the Moon*. November 22, 2020.

"'A Scent of the Universal': From Newtonian Mathesis to the Santa Fe Institute." The History of Science Department, Cambridge University, UK. December 13, 2018.

- “Invisible Visibilities: From Newtonian Mathesis to the Santa Fe Institute.” Sherman Center for Digital Scholarship. MacMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario. November 19, 2018. *Forthcoming*.
- “Science and Sociability in 1700s England.” Public lecture at the Minnesota Institute of Arts as part of their *Living Rooms* program in the Georgian and Queen Ann period rooms. February 16, 2018.
- “Hand, Eye, Image, Self: Enlightenment Microscopy and Modernity.” Center for Early Modern History, University of Minnesota. February 16, 2018.
- “Hand, Eye, Image, Self: Enlightenment Microscopy and Modernity,” Columbia University Seminar in Eighteenth-Century European Culture. December 7, 2017.
- “Enlightenment Microscopy and the Lure of Self-Evidence.” National Museum of American History Colloquium, Smithsonian Institution. October 17, 2017
- “The Secret History of Spectacle in Enlightenment Science.” John Jay College English Department Thinking and Drinking Lecture Series. May 4, 2017.
- “Quantified Bodies.” The Center for Humanities and the Public Sphere, Seton Hall University. March 16, 2017.
- “The Secret History of Spectacle in Enlightenment Science.” Public lecture at the Morbid Anatomy Museum, Brooklyn, NY. November 28, 2016.
- “Modest Witnesses and Eager Spectators: Gendering and Engendering Enlightenment Science.” Restoration-Victorian Work In Progress Group. Department of English. University of Pennsylvania. February 25, 2016.
- “Modest Witnesses and Eager Spectators: Gendering and Engendering Enlightenment Science.” Transatlantic Eighteenth-Century Working Group. Rutgers University, January 28, 2016.
- Introductory Remarks for the keynote address delivered by John Bender, Distinguished Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies at Stanford University, at the “Ends of the Eighteenth Century” Conference, Columbia University, November 15-16, 2013.
- "Physiology, Commerce and Comedy: Humoral Satire and the 'New Economic Man' of the Early Eighteenth Century." Invited talk, "Science, Mind, and Language" Conference, Cornell University, February 24 - 25, 2012.
- “Tricks and Talk: Popular Science in Newtonian England.” Columbia University Seminar in Eighteenth-Century European Culture. 22 November 2009.

Co-organizer, with Nicole Horejsi (Columbia, English), “The Study of Eighteenth-Century European Culture: Past, Present and Future,” interdisciplinary academic conference, 4-5 April, 2014, Columbia University.

#### CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PANELS

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“Newton on the Mesa.” Society for Literature, Science and the Arts (SLSA) Annual Conference. Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, 6-10 October 2022.

“Newton on the Mesa.” American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS) Annual Conference. Virtual. 7-11 April 2021.

“Experiencing the Past: Bringing Collections to Life through Experiment and Reconstruction.” Chair. ASECS Annual Conference. 7-11 April 2021.

Invited participant and panel chair, *The Languages of Nature: Science, Literature and the Imagination*, Folger Institute Fall 2019 Seminar, Washington, DC, 13-14 September 2019

“*The Enlightenment in 1967: ‘the malice of the Right and the naivete of the Left.’*” American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS) Annual Conference. Denver, CO. March 21-24, 2019.

“Hand, Eye, Image, Self: Enlightenment Microscopy.” SLSA Annual Conference. Toronto, ON. November 15-18, 2018.

“How Can We Not Talk About the Present When We Talk About the Eighteenth Century?: The Case of Newton and the Santa Fe Institute.” ASECS Annual Conference. Orlando, FL. March 22-24, 2018

“Quantified Bodies II” ASECS Annual Conference. Orlando, FL. March 22-24, 2018

“Quantified Bodies.” ASECS Annual Conference. Minneapolis, MN. March 29-April 3, 2017.

“What Was the Eighteenth Century Then?” Discussant on the Roundtable, “What is the Eighteenth Century Now?” ASECS Annual Conference. Minneapolis, MN. March 29-April 3, 2017.

“Quantified Bodies.” SLSA Annual Conference. Atlanta, GA. November 3-6, 2016.

“Latour and Balloons.” Discussant on the Science Studies Caucus Roundtable, “Science Studies Around the Eighteenth Century.” ASECS Annual Conference. Pittsburgh, PA. March 30-April 2.

“Farcical Reconstruction: or, What We Can Hope to Know about *Harlequin Doctor Faustus*” ASECS Annual Conference. Pittsburgh, PA. March 30-April 2, 2016.

- “How Do We Study Eighteenth-Century Science?” (Science Studies Caucus Roundtable). Discussant. ASECS Annual Conference. Los Angeles, CA. March 18-21, 2015.
- “Gendering and Engendering Enlightenment Science.” Northeast American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies (NE/ASECS) Annual Conference. Trinity College, Hartford, CT. 8-11 October 2015.
- “Seeing Science” ASECS Annual Conference. Williamsburg, VA. 19-23 March 2014.
- “The Role of Literary Studies in Eighteenth-Century Science Studies.” Chair. Science Studies Caucus Inaugural Roundtable. ASECS Annual Conference. Williamsburg, VA. 19-23 March 2014.
- “Modest Witnesses and Eager Spectators: Engendering Enlightenment Science.” East Coast American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Conference. Philadelphia, PA. 6-10 November 2013.
- “At War with Human Nature.” Chair. NE/ASECS. New Haven, CT. 4-6 October 2013.
- “Networks of Exchange and Knowledge Production.” Co-Chair (with Cristobal Silva). Cultural Studies Caucus Panel. ASECS Annual Conference. Cleveland, OH. 1-4 April 2013.
- “‘Fully Prov’d by the Plates’: Desaguliers’s Unauthorized System.” ASECS Annual Conference. Cleveland, OH. 1-4 April 2013.
- “Modest Witnesses and Eager Spectators.” NE/ASECS. Middletown, CT. 11-14 October 2012.
- “Satire in Theory” and “Satire in Practice.” Chair and Moderator for both panels. John Jay College Literature and Law Conference, 2012. New York, NY. March 29, 2012.
- “Current and Future Directions in the Studies of Eighteenth-Century Science.” Roundtable chair and discussant. ASECS Annual Conference. San Antonio, TX. 22-25 March 2012
- “Appropriating Moliere’s Learned Ladies in the Eighteenth Century.” ASECS Annual Conference. Vancouver, British Columbia. 16-18 March 2011.
- “Reading/Reciting Eighteenth-Century Verse.” Roundtable discussion. ASECS Annual Conference. Vancouver, British Columbia. 16-18 March 2011.
- “Mediating Natural Philosophy.” Chair. ASECS Annual Conference. Vancouver, British Columbia. 16-18 March 2011.
- “Imagination and Pleasure in the Cosmography of Thomas Burnet’s *Sacred Theory of the Earth*.” Sixteenth-Century Society and Conference. Montreal, Quebec. 16-18 October 2010.

- “‘Bare, unfinish’d Histories’: The *Rehearsal* of Natural Philosophy.” ASECS Annual Conference. Albuquerque, NM. 18-21 March 2010.
- “Representations of Natural Philosophy I & II.” Chair. ASECS Annual Conference. Albuquerque, NM. 18-21 March 2010.
- “Imagination and Pleasure in the Cosmographies of Burnet and Fontenelle.” Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies Annual Conference. Dallas, TX. 22-25 October 2009.
- “Surprising Phenomena.” ASECS Annual Conference. Richmond, VA. 26-29 March 2009.
- “Science and Spectacle in the Long Eighteenth Century.” Chair. ASECS Annual Conference. Richmond, VA. 26-29 March 2009.
- “Historical Approaches to Science and Literature.” Roundtable. ASECS Annual Conference. Richmond, VA. 26-29 March 2009.
- “Retraining the Virtuoso’s Gaze: Aphra Behn’s *Emperor of the Moon* and the Spectacles of Science and Politics.” ASECS Annual Conference. Portland, OR. 27-30 March 2008.
- “Harlequin Newton: John Rich’s *Necromancer* and the Public Science of the 1720’s.” John Rich and the Eighteenth -Century London Stage: Commerce, Magic and Management. Lincoln’s Inn Fields, London. 26-27 January 2008.
- “Staging the Virtuosa in the Eighteenth Century.” NEASECS Annual Conference. Hanover, NH. 25-28 October 2007.
- “Harlequin Scientist: *Faustus*, Pantomime and the Theatricality of Experiment.” ASECS Annual Conference. Atlanta, GA. 22-25 March, 2007.
- “Retraining the Virtuoso’s Gaze: Wonder, Politics and the Anthropocentric Spectacle of the *Musaeum Regalis Societatis*.” SLSA Annual Conference. New York, NY. 9-12 November 2006.
- “The State of Nature and the Nature of State: Science, Politics and Behn’s *The Emperor of the Moon*.” South Central Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (SCSECS) Annual Conference. Cocoa Beach, FL. 23-26 February 2006.
- “‘You’ll Apprehend It Better When You See It’: Satires of Science on Stage in the 1670s.” SCSECS Annual Conference. St. Simon’s Island, GA. 23-26 February 2005.
- “What’s Funny about a Virtuoso?: Conflicting Critiques of New Science in the 1670s.” SLSA Annual Conference. Durham, NC. 14-17 October 2004.
- “The Secret History of Eliza Haywood’s *Works*: A Study of the Book Trade.” SCSECS Annual Conference. Santa Fe, NM. 26-29 February, 2004.



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**COURSES OFFERED**


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*CUNY Graduate Center*

Cultures of Natural Philosophy: Science and Society in the Long Eighteenth Century

*John Jay College*

Science in the Making

Restoration and Early 18<sup>th</sup> Century Drama

Text and Context: Anatomizing *Frankenstein*

The Word As Weapon: Satire from Horace to Hip-Hop.

Crime and Punishment in Literature

Introduction to Literary Study

Literature as Witness: Science and Modernity

Modern Literature, 1800-Present.

Medieval and Renaissance Literature

Science and Society: An Inquiry-Based Writing Course. (First-Year Learning Community)

*Fordham University*

Invited Lecturer on “Science in the Public Sphere” in Dr. Frank Boyle’s graduate seminar, “18<sup>th</sup> Century Contexts.”

Literature & The Public Sphere in 18<sup>th</sup> Century London.

Literature and Society: The Literatures of Revolution.

Close Reading and Critical Writing.

English Composition/Rhetoric.

Basic Writing Skills.

Summer Writing Seminar, Higher Education Opportunity Program.

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**SERVICE**


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*Professional Service*

Clifford Prize Juror. Awarded to best article published in eighteenth-century studies by the American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies. 2016.

Founder and Co-Chair, Science Studies Caucus, American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. 2013-2016

Editorial Board Member, *Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Theatre Research*.

Peer Reviewer, *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, *Restoration*, *Tulsa Studies in Women’s Literature*, *Broadview Press*, *Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Theatre Research*, *Configurations*, *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation*, *Nuncius*, *Boydell & Brewer Press*, *Bucknell University Press*, *Bloomsbury Press*, *Cambridge University Press*, *Review of English Studies*.

External Doctoral Dissertation Reviewer: Alex Solomon, ““The Rhetoric of Probability, from the New Science to Common Sense” (Rutgers University, English, 2017); Collin Cook, “Strange Subjects: Explorations of Embodiment in the Long Eighteenth Century” (Tufts University, English, 2020)

Grader, AP English Examination, 2006.

### *John Jay College Service*

Invited Speaker, Digital Humanities Webinar Series, John Jay College Department of Online Education and Support, October 29, 2020.

Mentor/Facilitator, Effective Practices in Online Teaching Summer Intensive Workshops for Faculty. John Jay College Department of Online Education and Support. May-August 2020. Guided 80 John Jay Faculty members through a three-week intensive seminar devoted to best practices in online instruction. These workshops were designed to mentor and support faculty who struggled during the shift to emergency remote instruction due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

English Department Curriculum Committee member, 2019-present.

English Department Grade Appeals Committee member, 2019-present.

Undergraduate Curriculum and Academic Standards Committee, English Department Representative, 2013-2015.

Participating Instructor, Transfer Transition Program. Taught specialized version of “Crime and Punishment in Literature” on eighteenth-century crime and society for a cohort of incoming community college students in collaboration with Peer Mentors. Fall 2015.

Participating Instructor, Learning Communities Program. ENG 101 / CHEM 101 collaboration for incoming science majors with Prof. Anthony Carpi, Fall 2009.

English Major Advisory Committee Member, 2009-2012

John Jay Faculty Writing Group Participant.

CUNY Eighteenth-Century Interdisciplinary Group Participant.

Editor, *English Matters*, The John Jay College English major newsletter. 2009-2013.

### *CUNY Graduate Center Service*

Doctoral Oral Examination Committee Member (Diana Epelbaum, Suzanne Uzillia).

Member, Eighteenth-Century Interdisciplinary Group

English Department Friday Forum Organizer, November 2012

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### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Modern Language Association. American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. Society for Literature, Science and the Arts. Northeast American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. East Coast Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies.