

The Revolutionary Age

France, Haiti, and America

April 9–11, 2026

The Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Van Pelt Library
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, Philadelphia, Penn.



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THURSDAY

April 9

5:00 – 5:15 pm

Welcome

Emma Hart, Richard S. Dunn Director, The McNeil Center for Early American Studies

Sean Quimby, Associate Vice Provost and Director, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

5:15 – 6:45 pm PLENARY

Books and Revolution

CHAIR Sophia Rosenfeld, University of Pennsylvania

Robert Darnton, Harvard University

Roger Chartier, University of Pennsylvania

Jordan Alexander Stein, Fordham University

Reception to follow at the Kislak Center

FRIDAY

April 10

9:00 – 10:30 am PANEL 1

Atlantic Testimonials of Revolution

CHAIR Jeremy D. Popkin, University of Kentucky

Suzanne and the Surgeon: A Love Story in the Age of Revolution

Christopher Hodson, Brigham Young University

Slave-Trader and Revolutionary: Nathaniel Cutting between France, West Africa, Saint-Domingue and Philadelphia, 1789–1793

Micah Alpaugh, University of Central Missouri

Letters from a Revolution: Joseph Elisée Pèyre-Ferry and Leonora Sansay

Kristen H. Mahlis, California State University, Chico

“Look there for your children”: Freedom and Slavery Between Saint-Domingue and the United States, 1790–1804

Carrie L. Glenn, Niagara University

10:45 am – 12:15 pm PANEL 2

St. Dominguan Microhistories across Revolutions

CHAIR Christopher Hodson, Brigham Young University

Sovereignty in Miniature: Legal Process Against Haitian Seafarers, 1790s-1800s

Nathan Perl-Rosenthal, University of Southern California

“not one solitary quality of circumstance to recommend them”: Haiti’s Reverberations in Early American Louisiana and Beyond

Rashauna Johnson, University of Chicago

Black Saint-Dominguans and French Refugee Status in Early National Baltimore

Frances Bell, Bates College

Ransoming a Revolution

M. Scott Heerman, William & Mary

12:15 – 1:45 pm: Break

1:45 – 3:15 pm PANEL 3

Revolutionary Print Cultures and Media

CHAIR Julia Gaffield, William & Mary

The Past in Haitian History: Constructing Legitimacy through the Revolution

Benjamin Wharton, University of Missouri

Creole Whiteness and Colonial Resistance in Print: Saint Domingue's *Affiches Américaines*

Yvonne Fabella, University of Pennsylvania

"The Time of Slaves had Passed": Narrating and Defining Revolution in France and Saint-Domingue, 1793–1798

Joanna Hope Toohey, Princeton University

French Consular Archives in Philadelphia and the 1825 Haitian Indemnity

Chelsea B. Stieber, Tulane University



3:30 – 5:00 pm PANEL 4

Race and the Rabble in the Revolutionary Age

CHAIR M. Scott Heerman, William & Mary

Riotous Assemblies: Direct Popular Action in New York City during the Age of Revolution

Eva Cilman, New York University

Freedom-Seeking in Philadelphia: Enslaved Refugees and the Pennsylvania Abolition Society Working Together

Gail V. Coleman, George Mason University

Sans-Culottes and *Petits Blancs*: Negotiating Race, Class, and Whiteness between the French and Haitian Revolutions

Patrick Travens, University of Wisconsin–Madison

The Ambit of Pennsylvanian Freedom in the Age of the Haitian Revolution

James Alexander Dun, Princeton University



5:15 – 6:45 pm PLENARY

Philadelphia and the Crosscurrents of Atlantic Revolutions

CHAIR Emma Hart, University of Pennsylvania

François Furstenberg, Johns Hopkins University

Sara Johnson, University of California, San Diego

Reception to follow at The McNeil Center for Early American Studies

SATURDAY

April 11

9:00 – 10:30 am PANEL 5

Commercial Connections Across the Revolutionary Atlantic

CHAIR Nathan Perl-Rosenthal, University of Southern California

“Shipped in Good Order”: Trade, Law, and Nation-Making in the Revolutionary Caribbean

Manuel Covo, University of California, Santa Barbara

The Caisse des Libertés and the Case for Liberties in the Age of Revolutions

Arielle Alterwaite, Brown University

On the Alert? Mary Wollstonecraft's Other “Missing Silver Ship” [1794–2026]

Wayne Bodle, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

“The Springs of Universal Motion in My Tongue and Hands”: The Remaking of James Swan and the Making of a Franco-American Revolutionary Economy

Erika Vause, St. John's University



10:45 am – 12:15 pm PANEL 6

An Enlightened Revolutionary Age?

CHAIR John Pollack, University of Pennsylvania

Haitian Enlightenment: A delayed and forgotten academic prize contest on “The Prejudice of Skin”

Iwan-Michelangelo D'Aprile, University of Potsdam

Tocqueville's Anti-Slavery: Rethinking a Liberal Narrative of the Age of Revolution

John Savage, Lehigh University

Subversive Sparks: Electricity as Revolutionary Energy across the French Atlantic World

Samantha Wesner, Science History Institute

The Haitian Revolution's Impact on Perceptions of Black Intellectual Capabilities and its Implications for North Carolina's Free Black Population

Andrea Miles, Middle Tennessee State University

12:15 – 1:45 pm: Break

1:45 – 3:15 pm PANEL 7

Refuge, Sociability, and Elite Politics in Post-Revolutionary Philadelphia

CHAIR James Alexander Dun, Princeton University

From Exile to Return: White Creole Refugee Women, Work, Gender, and Urban Change between Saint-Domingue, Philadelphia, and France

Amanda Maffei, University of Milan

A Thing of Concert: Federalist Caucus Building, Frenchified Sociability, and the Development of Partisanship in Early National Philadelphia

Mercedes Haigler, Florida State University

“She Moved a Queen”: Anne Willing Bingham and the Building of a French Royalty in Republican Philadelphia

Nicole Mahoney, Iona University

