

## Call For Papers

### Women and Work across the 18<sup>th</sup>-century Francophone Globe

Conference. 13-14 October 2022

#### Keynote Speakers:

- **Jenny Mander**, University of Cambridge
- **Gregory Brown**, University of Nevada

<https://www.ucd.ie/slcl/newsandevents/slclconferencesandevents/womenandwork/>

**This interdisciplinary conference invites reflection on the intersection between women and all possible forms of work within text, image and music across the 18<sup>th</sup>-century Francophone global world**

'Work' might not have the same connotations in the 18<sup>th</sup>-century and the 21<sup>st</sup> century worlds and yet it appears equally central to both. For the *Dictionnaire de l'Académie française* work is centred around *labeur, peine, fatigue*. Women are starkly absent from such definitions, while childbirth is the only labour recognised as inherently female. Yet, as Sylvie Schweitzer's study of historical gendered (in)equalities underscores, women across the globe have always worked. This conference wishes to explore what constituted work in the century preceding the landmark Napoleonic Code restrictions. The aspiration is to build on studies by Daryl M. Hafter, Nina Kushner and Françoise Battagliola, through two focuses: firstly, by looking at how the 18<sup>th</sup>-century Francophone globe defines women at work and, secondly, by capturing instances of work by women across the wider 18<sup>th</sup>-century Francophone global world.

This conference at University College Dublin will be hybrid in nature: while our primary aspiration is to enjoy in-person papers, online paper contributions may be facilitated.

We invite scholars to contribute papers (in French, English, Irish or Italian) on the broad topic of Women and Work across the 18<sup>th</sup>-century Francophone globe including, but not exclusively:

- What is work and/or how was work defined for/by women in the context of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century global Francophone world?
- Female communities and networks
- Gendered perspectives on 18<sup>th</sup>-century women at work
- Published and unpublished female writers/workers in male disciplines (including law, medicine, the military and more)
- Women managing official structures: Academies; Institutions; Orphanages
- Evolution, evocation and interpretation of the oldest profession
- Involvement by women in global politics and geopolitics
- Professional actresses, female theatre managers, musicians, composers
- Invisible, overlooked and forgotten female workers, including those in domestic service (servants, maids, cooks, governesses, housekeepers)
- Cross-dressing and/or adapting to a work position or role
- Variations in women's vision or performance of work beyond metropolitan France

Guide for submissions:

Please send a 200-300 word abstract and mini-biography to both conference organisers ([siofra.pierse@ucd.ie](mailto:siofra.pierse@ucd.ie) & [Lucille.raynal@ucdconnect.ie](mailto:Lucille.raynal@ucdconnect.ie)) indicating your preferred mode of delivery (online; in-person) by June 15. Following the conference, a book publication is envisaged.

Deadline for submissions: June 15, 2022

Confirmation of acceptance: June 30, 2022

This conference is generously supported by UCD School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics, UCD Humanities Institute and UCD Seedfunding.