**ECSSS Annual Conference 2025: Scots and the Environment**

**Pathfoot Building, University of Stirling, 17–20 June 2025**

**Tuesday 17 June**

From 1pm Registration

**2pm Welcome**

**2.15–3.45pm Keynote lecture: Richard D. Oram, ‘We Need to Talk about “Improvement”: An Environmental History Perspective on “Improvement Era” Scotland’**

**3.45pm Tea**

**4–6pm PGR Lightning Talks**

**6–7.30pm Gin reception**

**7.30pm Dinner (own plans)**

**ECSSS Board Dinner and Meeting**

**Wednesday 18 June**

**Wed. 9–10.30am Panel Session A**

*Panel A1: Travel*

Catherine Jones, ‘Foreigners in Muscovy and the Hetmanate in a Time of War and Popular Revolt (*c*. 1655–c.1721)’

Matthew Lee, ‘From Seascape to Landscape: Travel, Environment and Scottish Perceptions of Colonised Places’

Pam Perkins, ‘Northern Environments: Charles Fothergill's Travels in Orkney and Shetland’

*Panel A2: James Hutton and David Skene*

Adrian Shaw, ‘Why no shock and horror? The response of Church of Scotland ministers to James Hutton's Theory of the Earth’

Gregory Todd, ‘James Hutton: Philosophical Improver, Theorist of the Earth’

Brad Bow, ‘“David Skene’s “Study of Mankind” and Natural History in the Wise Club’

*Panel A3: David Hume’s Account of James I* (chair: David Raynor)

Pamela Ahern

Alasdair Raffe

Jean-François Dunyach

*Panel A4: From Boswell to Muir through Politics* (chair: Emma Macleod)

David Purdie and J. N. Davie, ‘Classical quotation & allusion in James Boswell’s Life of Samuel Johnson’

James Caudle, ‘Making Sense of James Boswell’s Politics’

Rémy Duthille, ‘The Forgotten Hero? The Reception of Thomas Muir (1765–1799) in France’

**10.30–11am Coffee**

**Wed. 11am–12.30pm Panel Session B**

*Panel B1: Urban and garden improvements*

Anthony Lewis, ‘In the name of improvement: planning and building new cities, harbours and transport systems, and their impacts on the environment’

Alex Benchimol, ‘“The foremost commercial city in Scotland”: Constructions of an Industrial Urban Environment in the *Glasgow Advertiser*, 1783–1800’

Camilla Allen, ‘A Most Enlightened Structure: Sir James Hall’s arboreal architecture’

*Panel B2: Gaelic and the Highlands*

Anja Gunderloch, ‘Place and imagery in the nature poetry of Donnchadh Bàn Macintyre’

Ellen Beard, ‘The Music of Gaelic Nature Songs’

Beatriz Leitão, ‘There and Back Again: Unearthing the Rural Memory of the Scottish Highlands through the Bothy’

*Panel B3: Family, food and credit*

Jocelyn Zimmerman, ‘“Into the Hilly Country”: Hills, Sexuality and Kinship in Eighteenth-Century Expeditions of Discovery’

Lucy Henry, ‘‘The extreme dearth and scarcity of the times’: Food Scarcity and Crime in the Inverness Sheriff Court, 1782–4’

Leïla Cheurfa, ‘Environment and credit relations in eighteenth-century Scotland’

*Panel B4: ‘Tyrannic man's dominion’: Earth, Environment, Ecology and Robert Burns*

The Centre for Robert Burns Studies, University of Glasgow

Ronnie Young, title tbc

Nigel Leask, title tbc

John Watson, ‘Burns and Bioregionalism’

**12.30–1.30pm Lunch**

**Wed. 1.30–3.30pm Panel Session C**

*Panel C1: Built environment*

Ann V. Gunn, ‘Paul Sandby’s Formative Depictions of Scotland’s Buildings’

Reva Wolf, ‘Architecture as Nature and Nation: Roslyn Chapel in Word and Image, 1761–1812’

Samantha Carrie, ‘The Role of Painting in William Henry Playfair’s Development of the Urban Picturesque’

Clarisse Godard Desmarest, ‘The Early Work of William Burn: Style and Identity in Urban Scotland, *c*. 1810–1830’

*Panel C2: Jacobites*

Calum Cunningham, ‘Jurisdictional Overreach? Prosecuting Treason in the post-Union Scottish Legal Environment, 1708–48’

Kang-yen Chiu, ‘Sir Robert Strange, His Print Works and the Jacobite Cause’

Michael Taylor, ‘Charlwood Lawton and Whiggish-Jacobite Latitudinarianism’

Alanna MacTavish, ‘A House Divided: Factionalism and the Fall of a Jacobite Education’

*Panel C3: Coal, sea, and horses* (chair: Katie Halsey)

Robbie Tree, ‘The Collier, the Natural Philosopher and the Black, Black Gold: Sustainability and Environmental Thought in the Eighteenth-Century Scottish Coal Fields’

Scott McFie, ‘Coal and the Agricultural Revolution in Central-West Scotland, 1750–1815’

Florence Petroff, ‘The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, the sea, and improvement’

Miriam Bibby, ‘From “Golden Age” to “totally worn out” and vanishing from the landscape: the changing fortunes of Scotland’s Galloway Nag in the Eighteenth Century’

*Panel C4: Text and environment*

Michael Gavin, ‘Scottish Geoinformatics: Sir John Sinclair and the Statistical Account of Scotland’

Alexander Dick, ‘Island Lords: Walter Scott, Resource Management, and Coastal Poetics’

Siobhan Carroll, ‘James Hogg and the Demons of Improvement’

Eric Gidal, ‘Design with Nature: Sir John Sinclair to Ian McHarg’

**3.30–4pm Tea**

**4–5.30pm Keynote lecture: Noelle Duckman Gallagher, ‘Disease and the Environment in the Art of Isaac Cruikshank (1764–1811)**

**5.45–6.30pm ECSSS AGM**

**6.30–7.30pm Concert**

**7.30pm Dinner (own plans)**

**Thursday 19 June**

**Thurs. 9–10.30am Panel Session D**

*Panel D1: The Clarendon Edition of Hume’s* History of England: *Observations and Preliminary Findings*

Mark Spencer

Marc Hanvelt

Mikko Tolonen

*Panel D2: Leisure*

Brycchan Carey, ‘From *Scotia Illustrata* to *The* *Statistical Accounts*: Scottish Clerical Naturalists in the Long Eighteenth Century’

Edward Hardiman, ‘‘The mischiefs of misapplied activity’: Improvement, Industriousness, and Idleness in The *Lounger*’

Brianna Robertson-Kirkland, ‘How the Corris influenced Edinburgh’s Musical Environment’

*Panel D3: Women writers* (chair: Moira Hansen)

Katie MacLean, ‘Jane Austen in Scotland’

Carmen-Veronica Borbely, ‘Distilled Ecologies: Elizabeth Hamilton’s Sense of Place’

JoEllen DeLucia, ‘Frances Wright and the Scottish Enlightenment: Defining Women’s Progress’

*Panel D4:* *Adam Smith and James Beattie*

Craig Smith, ‘Adam Smith’s Lectures on Natural Religion: Re-constructing what he might have said’

Eugene Heath, ‘The Tragic Sense of Adam Smith’

Michael Brown, ‘James Beattie's Political Thought’

**10.30–11am Coffee**

**Thurs. 11am–1pm Panel Session E**

*Panel E1: Empire and race*

Nicola Martin, ‘Scots and the Imperial Environment: James Murray, ‘improvement’ ideology, and imperial governance in Canada’

Gioia Angeletti, ‘Narratives and Images of Other Places and People: Lady Anne Barnard and the human/non-human South African Environment’

Thomas Tyson, ‘From “Enlightened” Persecution to “Romantic” Racism: Scottish Gypsies in the Long Eighteenth Century’

Suchitra Choudhury, ‘Sir Walter Scott and Paisley Shawls: Fiction, Industry, Empire’

*Panel E2: Poetry and Environment*

John Watson, ‘“The Restoration of Nature”: James Thomson and Ecology’

Amy Wilcockson, ‘Auld Reikie’s unofficial laureate’: Robert Fergusson and Scotland’

Rosamund Paice, ‘A Very English Eden: Echoes of Stephen Switzer in Sir John Clerk of Penicuik’s ‘The Country Seat’

Matt Rowney, ‘Holding the Thread at Both Ends: Robert Burns as Industrial Tourist’

*Panel E3: Science*

Tamás Demeter, ‘Humean Chemistry’

Jeff Wolf, ‘On (Scottish) Airs, Waters, and Places: Dr. William Cullen’s (1710-1790) Rules for the Preservation of Health’

Alasdair Raffe, ‘The Environment of Natural Philosophical Debate in Newtonian Scotland’

*Panel E4: The birth-place of value, the country of wealth: Improvement policies in the long eighteenth century and their environmental legacies in the Scottish Highlands* (chair: Jean-François Dunyach)

Thomas Archambaud, ‘‘Improvers and backbenchers: the Macphersons, East India Company capital and the improvement of nature, 1780-1821’

Tom Pye, ‘Rethinking the origins of ‘liberal’ political economy: Adam Smith, enclosure, and feudal land law’

Juliette Desportes, ‘The Moral Ecologies of Improvement: the Forfeited and Annexed Estates (1745-1782)’

Annie Tindley, ‘A ‘Nimrod’s paradise’ or ‘man-made desert?’ The devastation of Scotland’s uplands: drivers, responses and resilience, c. 1780 to the present’

**1–2pm Lunch**

**2–3.30pm Keynote lecture: Gerard Lee McKeever, ‘Regionalism and the Logic of Improvement in Eighteenth-Century Scotland’**

**3.30pm Expeditions to the Leighton Library (by coach), or to historic Stirling (walking tour)**

**7.00pm Conference Dinner: Stirling Court Hotel (on campus)**

**Friday 20 June**

**Friday 9–11am Panel Session F**

*Panel F1: Scots Authors in Korea*

Paul Tonks and John Frankl, ‘‘Translating Scottish Authors for Korean Readers: Intellectual and Literary Legacies of Eighteenth-Century Scotland in Korea’

*Panel F2: Libraries and Social Capital / Nineteenth-century memories of eighteenth-century Scotland*

Jacqueline Imrie, ‘Scots, Libraries, and the Socioeconomic Environment in the Long-Eighteenth Century’

Josh Smith, ‘Reading and Writing the Land: Readers, Writers and Farmers at the Leighton Library, Dunblane, 1780–1830’

Michael Ratnapalan, ‘Robert Louis Stevenson, Religion, History, and Scottish Political Economy’

Zubin Meer, ‘“Modern’ Enchantment”: Adam Ferguson’s Nineteenth-Century Reputation’

*Panel F3: Environments of Remembrance*

Pamela Ahern, ‘Women in Power in David Hume’s History of England’

Tanner Ogle, ‘Ruins & Remembrance: Jacobite Impressions on the British Environment’

Bonnie Soper, ‘Covenanter Memory, the Construction of Sacred Sites, and the Scottish Landscape’

**11–11.30am Coffee**

**Friday 11.30am–1pm Panel Session G**

*Panel G1: Books & Borrowing*

Katie Halsey, ‘Demonstration of the 'Books and Borrowing' Database’

Matt Sangster, ‘Re-Framing the Scottish Literary Environment, 1750–1800’

Cleo O’Callaghan Yeoman, ‘Navigating Responses to the Scottish Literary Environment, 1800–1830: Novel Reading, Reviewing, Borrowing, and Improvement’

*Panel G2: Thomas Innes*

Kelsey Jackson-Williams, ‘Thomas Innes and His Books’

Dylan Fowler, ‘Dismantling the “deposing doctrine”: Thomas Innes and the discrediting of George Buchanan’

Clotilde Prunier, ‘The not so discrete personas of Thomas Innes’

**1.00pm Travel to Blackie House Library, Edinburgh for those who have booked this option: highly recommended! Visit kindly hosted by Bill Zachs.**