

# Re: X6 GLASGOW

<http://www.reenlightenment.org/>



## **ReX 6: Applied Enlightenment**

**Kelvin Hall, Glasgow 27-28 October 2016**

Previous Re:Enlightenment Exchanges have focused on the genres, taxonomies and transmissions of knowledge and how knowledge gives rise to events, actions, innovations, and transformations, the subject of the May 2015 Oslo ReX 5. ReX6, *Applied Enlightenment*, will explore the application of Enlightenment values to society and what that would mean today. On the occasion of the opening of the unique Kelvin Hall facility, bringing into partnership university, museum, national library, sport and civic partners for the first time in the world, ReX6 will foreground the importance of connectivity and the breaking down of boundaries not only between disciplines in the academy, but between the academy and external knowledge producers and providers. How can we be the change we wish to see in the world? Gandhi's question, is the question for ReX6 on the eve of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of Indian independence and in the year of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first paper of Henry Cavendish, the birth of John Dalton and the passing of the first freedom of information legislation in the world by the Kingdom of Sweden. In Scotland in 1766, James Craig's winning entry for the New Town was approved and Charles Mackintosh, the inventor of the raincoat, was born. Shortly after finishing his portrait of William Hunter, whose legacy to Glasgow founded the first museum in the world based on the Enlightenment principle of improvement, Allan Ramsay painted both Hume and Rousseau in 1766. Among the Glasgow faculty of 250 years ago, James Watt's wife was expecting their first child, Adam Smith began work on *The Wealth of Nations* and Joseph Black moved to Edinburgh.

ReX6 will be engaged in an exchange not with their memories, but with their legacy, and the characteristic value of the Scottish Enlightenment: the application of reason to knowledge in a context of material improvement. In 1783, our national academy, the Royal Society of Edinburgh, dedicated itself to 'useful knowledge'; in 1796, Anderson's University, now the University of Strathclyde, was dedicated to 'useful learning', and became the first higher education institution to admit women to its lectures. In 1796-7, women were 50% of the 972 students who had attended James Garnett's Natural Philosophy class there.

The challenge we face now is the challenge Anderson faced, or Black, or Watt or Hunter: to break down the defensive boundaries and territories of particularist cultures self-defined by origin not potential, memory not legacy-whether they be disciplinary or institutional- in pursuit of a more unified field of enquiry in which all can more fully share. That was the vision of the Enlightenment; that is the vision of the Kelvin Hall partnership and its funders; and that is the principle of engagement of ReX6. The centrality and importance of these issues is reflected in the commitment of our supporters and sponsors, chiefly The University of Glasgow and the AHRC Digital Transformations programme. We also acknowledge the support of Glasgow City Council in hosting a reception in the City Chambers on 27 October.

All sessions are open to the public, who are particularly invited to Session 3, designated a public session.

**Provisional Programme:**

**October 27**

**9.30am Session 1: Applied Enlightenment- Roundtable: Kelvin Hall Seminar Room 2 (AV)**

**Convenor: Murray Pittock (Glasgow)**

*The Changing Face of the Academy:*

*Murray Pittock (Glasgow)*

*Craig Lamont (Glasgow)*

*Colleagues from the University of Glasgow to be confirmed*

Topics include:

Outsourcing the curriculum

Research, Curation, Digitization: the portfolio career

The Academy for Cultural Heritage Skills

Civic partnerships and new directions

11.0 Coffee: Foyer, first floor

**11.30 Tour of Kelvin Hall with Martin Munro**

12.30 Lunch: Foyer, first floor

**1.30pm Session 2: AHRC Digital Transformations session. Hands on and digital : Collections Centre, Kelvin Hall**

**Convenor: Professor Andrew Prescott (Glasgow), UK Theme Lead, AHRC Digital Transformations.**

*Watt's Workshop and the Making and Remaking of Enlightenment*

3.30pm Tea

**4pm: Session 3: Migrations, Cultures, Beliefs: The Limits of Tolerance: ReX6 public event. Lecture Theatre, Kelvin Hall. Convenor: Bill Warner (UCSB)**

*Scott Spurlock (Glasgow)*

*Bill Warner (UCSB)*

*Saeko Yazaki (Glasgow)*

*William St Clair (SAS London)*

6pm-8.30pm Lord Provost's evening reception and dinner, Glasgow City Chambers, George Square

## **October 28**

### **8.00am Re:Enlightenment Steering Committee Breakfast, Grosvenor Hotel**

#### **9.30 am Session 4: Enlightened Spaces: Seminar Room 2: format roundtable (AV). Convenor Leslie Siskin (NYU) and Geoff Bowker (UC Irvine)**

Topics include

The dimensionality of Enlightenment, including its strong association with single cities or confined spaces (the 500 x 250m intellectual, institutional and trading core of Amsterdam and the 900 x4 450m Old Town of Edinburgh proper). Beginning with brief (10 minute) presentations on the Enlightenment Museum and the new campus. Re:E participants will then divide into three groups: one to examine the dimensionality of encounter with objects in the Collections Centre, one to traverse the building and report back on the impression made on them in the context of ideas of Re:enlightened space, and one to consider the role of the visual (in the shape of the Moving Image Archive) on our understanding of space. Nominated Rapporteurs will return to report back to the roundtable at 10.30am and a general discussion will follow.

*Rigas Arvanitis*

*Geoff Bowker (UC Irvine)*

*Justine Kolkata (Cambridge)*

*Leslie Siskin (NYU)*

*Others tbc*

11.15 am Coffee: Foyer, first floor

#### **11.30 am Session 5: New Knowledge Machines II. Kelvin Hall Seminar Room 2. Convenor: Bill Blake (NYU)**

*Bill Blake (NYU)*

*Mark Algee-Hewitt (Stanford)*

*Ryan Heuser (Stanford)*

*Lorna Hughes (Glasgow)*

*Rachael King (UCSB)*

*Seth Rudy (Memphis)*

12.45 pm Lunch: Foyer, first floor.

2pm:

**Session 6: Re-organization of knowledge. Kelvin Hall Seminar Room 2 (AV). Convenor: Cliff Siskin (NYU) and Helge Jordheim (Oslo)**

The territoriality and problem of incompatibility of disciplines and their terminologies; what would a new knowledge platform look like.

*Lisa Gitelman (NYU)*

*Tony Jarrells (USC)*

*Helge Jordheim (Oslo)*

*Murray Pittock (Glasgow)*

*Cliff Siskin (NYU)*

3.30pm: Tea: Foyer, first floor

4.0pm Tour of Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery with Professor David Gaimster and Mungo Campbell.

5.15pm Reception, Hunterian Museum with launch of Cliff Siskin's book on *System*.

6.30pm Dinner, Hunterian Museum. End of Exchange.

Murray Pittock (Glasgow), with the support of other members of the steering committee:

Cliff Siskin (New York University: Chair)

Peter de Bolla (Cambridge)

Helge Jordheim (Oslo)

William St Clair (London)

Leslie Siskin (NYU)

Kim Sloan (British Museum)

William Warner (UC Santa Barbara)