



GLOBAL 1776 PROGRAMME
Edinburgh
5-6 December 2019

Dear Friends,

The Global 1776 Project

In July 2017 representatives from the University of Notre Dame, University College Dublin, the University of Edinburgh, Heidelberg University, the University of Melbourne, and the University of Oxford gathered in London to discuss creating a network of institutions (mainly outside of the United States) that study the United States and its antecedents. The group discussed a long-term research project which seeks to place the events of 1776 in a global perspective. In 2026 Americans and others will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the US Declaration of Independence. If the 1976 bicentennial is any guide there will be numerous public and scholarly efforts to celebrate, analyse, and mark that anniversary. Again, if 1976 offers a lesson many of these will be uncritical, nationalistic celebrations, at least those held within the United States. The group in 2017 discussed a project, “Global 1776” with the object of placing the events of 1776 in a broad, global, context. At a subsequent meeting, involving the International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello, as well as colleagues from Harvard, the National University of Ireland – Galway, the University of New Hampshire, the University of St Andrews, and the University of Virginia we discussed future activities. Colleagues at Monticello, Notre Dame and Edinburgh agreed to lead the project. We decided to hold a series of seminars and workshops in coming years dedicated to various events, themes, and publications associated with 1776. We committed to holding events on every continent with the intention of engaging with scholars, students (both postgraduates and undergraduates) and interested stakeholders at partner/host institutions. We’re doing so with the intention of creating a coherent programme of study of 1776.

The first of these is this workshop focussed on the publication of Adam Smith’s *Wealth of Nations*. While worthy in itself, the workshop is part of a larger project. We intend to identify and archive primary sources that we discuss during the workshop. Having held similar seminars on key themes in subsequent years in different locations we will assemble the materials and expertise for a course on “Global 1776” which can be offered at the partner institutions during the 2025-26 academic year. We are not intending to team-teach the course but rather to offer it concurrently at institutions around the world. Essentially, we will build a global (both in its coverage and delivery) course that will be offered at the core partner institutions. (The course materials can be made available to institutions around the world whether they participate in the original seminars or not.) If the resource exists we could bring the

students who take the course to Monticello in July 2026 to mark the 250th anniversary of the American Declaration of Independence at Jefferson's home.

This is an ambitious, exciting, programme for which there is a great deal of enthusiasm. I think it will be a distinctive, intellectually-rewarding, way to approach 2026. It should create a resource which will endure and be of use to students, teachers and scholars in the future.

This, first, Global 1776 workshop has been made possible through the generous support of Mr Simon Fennell and the School of History, Classics & Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh.

With best wishes,



Thursday 5 December

All Sessions in Meadows Lecture Theatre, School of History, Classics and Archaeology, University of Edinburgh. Doorway 4, Old Medical School

- 9:00** **Coffee/registration**
- 9:30-11:00** **Reading *The Wealth of Nations*, I** convened by Eliga Gould
(University of New Hampshire)
- 11:00** **Morning coffee**
- 11:30-1:00** **Reading *The Wealth of Nations*, II** convened by Eliga Gould
(University of New Hampshire)
- 1:00-2:00** **Lunch**
- 2:00-3:30** **Teaching *The Wealth of Nations*.** Convened by Mackie Mackillop
(University of Glasgow) & Dan Carey (NUI-Galway)
- 3:30-4:00** **Afternoon tea**
- 4:00-5:30** **Keynote Address**
- Emma Hart (University of St Andrews), "Trade will regulate itself: The making and unmaking of a free market in early America." Response by John McCusker (Trinity University)

Friday 6 December

All Sessions in Meadows Lecture Theatre, School of History, Classics and Archaeology, University of Edinburgh. Doorway 4, Old Medical School.

9:00 Coffee

9:30-11:00 Panel 1

Hannah Spahn (University of Potsdam), Chair

Florence Petroff, (Universite Paris-8) "The Influence of *The Wealth of Nations* on Scottish Views of the American Revolution (c.[1776-1782](#))."

Christa Dierksheide (University of Virginia), "Adam Smith and Slavery."

11:00-11:30 Break

11:30-1:00 Panel 2

Patrick Griffin (University of Notre Dame), Chair

Michael Brown (University of Aberdeen), "The Emotional *Wealth of Nations*; Alienation and the Pursuit of Happiness in Smith's Economic Reasoning

Hannah Tucker, (University of Virginia), "Limits on the Division of Labor: Adam Smith and the Global Marketplace."

1:00-2:00 Lunch

2:00-3:30 Plenary discussion

Andrew O'Shaughnessy (International Center for Jefferson Studies – Monticello), Chair

Annette Gordon (Harvard University) and Peter Onuf (University of Virginia), "Thomas Jefferson and the Scottish Enlightenment."

3:30-4:30 Afternoon tea, informal discussion

4:30 Close