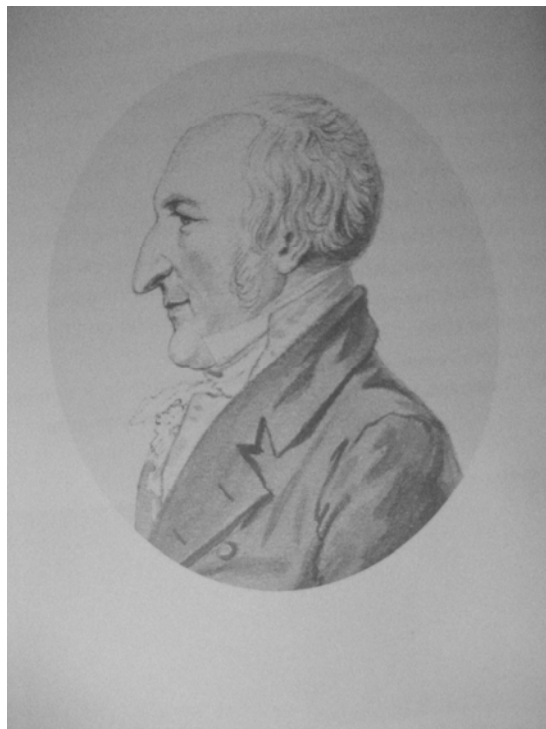


**JEAN-ANDRÉ DELUC (1727-1817)  
AND THE EMERGENCE OF MODERN SCIENCE**

**Workshop Program**



**Geneva, Wednesday April the 16<sup>th</sup> – Saturday April the 19<sup>th</sup>**

**European Institute of the Geneva University and Voltaire Museum**

The period which spans between Jean-André Deluc's first field trips, around 1750, and his last publication in 1816 was unquestionably an age of profound transformations not only in society and economy, but also in the intellectual, religious and political spheres. The slow and silent constitution of an autonomous scientific field was only one of the changes of a period which shaped the long term process of modernization of Western societies. As one of the last great "biblical geologists", Deluc saw himself faced with challenges coming from the Earth sciences, but also from philosophy, epistemology, rational theology, and even from human sciences and political thinking. The answer he gave to these various challenges determined, up to a certain point, the way he was considered by the increasingly professionalized world of science and the way he would be remembered by the historians of science and culture. Recognized as a great physicist by the ones, he was considered a bad chemist by the others. His geological theories and descriptions have been subject to contradictory judgements; his positions as a natural theologian and philosopher have been appreciated or despised.

One of the aims of our workshop is to examine Deluc's attitudes regarding Enlightenment philosophy and to reassess his position in the religious and historical debate about Creation and the origin of man. By a careful reconstitution of some of the debates he had been fighting in, we hope to shed a new light on the intellectual configuration of the time and to perceive some of its changes. Being himself inside and outside the emerging "Republic of science", for and against Enlightenment, Jean-André Deluc unquestionably crossed many intellectual frontiers of his age. He is therefore a good starting point for a broader investigation in the cultural and social contexts of Enlightenment, Revolution and in the process of modernization of science and intellectual life.

Organisation et contact:  
René Sigrist  
[Sigrist.rene@bluewin.ch](mailto:Sigrist.rene@bluewin.ch)

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**Wednesday April the 16<sup>th</sup> – Saturday April the 19<sup>th</sup>**

Host institutions: European Institute of the Geneva University and Voltaire Museum  
Organizers: John Heilbron, Claude Reichler and René Sigrist, with the help of Wladimir Berelowitch, François Jacob, Nicolas Levrat, Marc Ratcliff and Natalia Tikhonov

**Wednesday April the 16<sup>th</sup>**

Participants arrival

19.00: Welcome drink in Geneva old town (24, place du Bourg-de-Four)

20.00: Welcome dinner

**Thursday April the 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Morning : Public session at Voltaire Museum (25, rue des Délices)**

9.00 to 9.30: Welcome greetings (François Jacob, Voltaire Museum)

Introduction (Nicolas Levrat, European Institute, Geneva University)

Workshop methodology (John Heilbron, University of California, Berkeley and Worcester College, Oxford)

9.30 to 12.30: First session. Presentations by authors (10 to 15 minutes each)

1. Marita Hübner (University of California, Berkeley), Jean-André Deluc. Biographical insight into the career, works and networks of a Protestant “*Philosophe*”
2. Lydia Barnett (Stanford University), For and Against Revolution: The Politics of Catastrophism in the Age of Revolution
3. Jessica Riskin (Stanford University), The Divine Optician
4. René Sigrist (Paris Observatory and European Institute, Geneva University), Actors of the scientific enterprise at the time of J.-A. Deluc: a terminological survey
5. Rod Home (University of Melbourne), Magnetic research in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century: From aetherial vortices to precision measurement
6. Giuliano Pancaldi (Università di Bologna), Deluc and Volta: imponderables, measurement, and the battery

*coffee break*

7. Martin Rudwick (University of California, San Diego and University of Cambridge), Deluc on geohistory and the historicity of Genesis
8. Marc Ratcliff (Geneva University), Instruments and society
9. Massimo Mazzotti (University of Exeter), Instruction and popularization
10. Bernardino Fantini (Institute for the History of Medicine, Geneva), The search for causes in 18<sup>th</sup> century science and medicine
11. John Heilbron (University of California, Berkeley and Worcester College, Oxford), Scripture and science in Deluc’s Göttingen
12. Claude Reichler (Lausanne University), Writing images: Deluc and the Alps
13. Marc Neuenschwander (Geneva University), Nature and politics in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century Geneva

12.30: Lunch (near Voltaire Museum)

**Afternoon : Working session at Voltaire Museum**

14.00 to 15.45: Second session. Papers discussion in two separate groups:

group A (contributors 1 to 6) discusses papers 7 to 9

group B (contributors 7 to 12 or 13) discusses papers 1 to 3

Summaries of the group discussions will be prepared by a chairman-rapporteur for presentation at the Fourth Session.

*coffee break*

16.15 to 18.00: Third session. Further papers discussion in two separate groups:

group A discusses papers 10 to 12 (or 13)

group B discusses papers 4 to 6

Summaries of the group discussions will be prepared by a chairman-rapporteur for presentation at the Fourth Session.

18.30 to 20.30: Visit of the History of Science Museum by Marc Ratcliff, followed by reception

## **Friday April the 18<sup>th</sup>**

### **Morning : Public session at the Chateau de Coppet**

9.15 to 9.30: Introduction (Claude Reichler, Lausanne University)

9.30 to 12.30: Presentation of some local research projects related to the 18<sup>th</sup> century science and culture (chair : Jean-Daniel Candaux, Public Library of Geneva)

- René Sigrist and Eric Widmer (Geneva University), The 18<sup>th</sup> century “Republic of science”: an inquiry into the networks and identities of the emerging men of science

- Daniela Vaj (FNS, Lausanne), Les images des Alpes dans la littérature de voyage au 18<sup>e</sup> siècle

- Manuela Canabal (Institut d'Histoire de la Médecine, Genève), Les observations microscopiques de Saussure comme illustration d'un courant de méthodologie empirique des Lumières

#### *Coffee break*

- Nathalie Vuillemin (Université de Lausanne), Jean Senebier, entre pratique et théorie de la nature

- Irène Passeron (Observatoire de Paris), Sciences physico-mathématiques et sciences empiriques chez d'Alembert

- Sonia Zanier (Institut d'Histoire de la Médecine, Genève), Science et sociabilité à Florence au temps de Targioni Tozzetti

12.30: Lunch in Coppet

13.15: Guided tour of the Chateau de Coppet.

### **Afternoon : Working session at the chateau de Coppet**

14.00 to 16.30: Fourth session. Chairmen present the results of the group discussions

#### *coffee break*

17.00 to 18.30: Final session

Discussion of the edited volume: each contributor indicates his intentions in the light of the discussions.

Preparation of requests for manuscripts kept in the Public Library of Geneva (BGE) and in the Geneva State Archives for the individual working sessions on Saturday.

20.00: Dinner in Geneva

## **Saturday April the 19<sup>th</sup>**

9.00 to 12.00: Individual working sessions in the Manuscript department of the Public Library of Geneva and in the Geneva State Archives.

12.30: Lunch in the old town

14.00 to 16.00: Visit of the old town: focus on the history of science in Geneva

More information about the workshop and paper abstracts are available online :

<http://www.unige.ch/ieug/recherche/colloques.html>