

Call for Papers

Annual Meeting of the ASECS (American Society of Eighteenth Century Studies) April 9-11, 2026, in Philadelphia

<https://asecs.org/sessions2026/>

Popularizing the Global [ID 287]

Co-Chairs: Sigrid G. Köhler, University of Tübingen, and Birgit Tautz, Bowdoin College

During the 18th century, a growing sense of the global emerges not just among travelers, scientists, politicians, and philosophers but also among domestic publics, which is reflected in the establishment of journals. News must be communicated globally, because what happens in one part of the world affects all others. Journals play a vital part in this project, as they translate and circulate news, debates, and a wide array of topics. Their success is founded not least in patterns of popularization. Journals popularize their contents to communicate across social classes, borders, and peoples – in a manner that is easily accessible: in form and content and by stimulating interest and entertainment. News of the world should be understood and ‘soaked up’ by everyone, intentionally (and sometimes unintentionally) forging communities of readers. While a large body of research exists on 18th-century European and North American journals, we are especially interested in comparable media from other parts of the world that shape the news in a transatlantic context. As journals become popular, they reach into other media and genres, with resonances on stage, in advice literature, fiction, picture books, etc. Concepts of popular writing emerge implicitly, and sometimes explicitly. In any case, the popular become a force to be reckoned with. We invite contributions that are interested in the news, adjacent media, and methods of popularization and/or the reflection and conceptualization of the popular in the 18th century. A focus on German-language literature and media culture is desired; however, comparative approaches are most welcome.

Keywords: Atlantic World; Culture/Cultural Studies; German/Germany; Global/World/Any Country; Interdisciplinary; Literature

Deadline for Submission: September 22, 2025

Please submit a 250-word abstract and a short CV

Submission through the **Annual Meeting portal:** <https://asecs.org/2026-submission-page/>

Further links:

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<https://asecs.org/meetings/asecs-2025-annual-meeting/important-deadlines/>