**Performative Johnson**

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During their 1773 trip through the Hebrides, Johnson startled Boswell by mimicking a person that they had recently met:

Mr. Johnson called me to his bed-side this morning, and to my astonishment he *took off* Lady Macdonald leaning forward with a hand on each cheek and her mouth open—quite insipidity on a monument grinning at sense and spirit. To see a beauty represented by Mr. Johnson was excessively high. I told him it was a masterpiece and that he must have studied it much. “Ay,” said he. (Tuesday 7 September 1773; *Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides*, 121)

Perhaps we might be startled as well, given Johnson’s traditional image as a staid moralist. However, lively performance was endemic to him, whether in a social setting, such as that of the Literary Club, in intimate moments with a friend, or textually. This panel invites papers that examine Johnson the performer in any of these settings: as a “performer”: “one that makes a publick exhibition of his skill” (*Dictionary of the English Language*), or was one who creates a “performance”: “composition; work” (*ibid*.).

Please email a 300-500-word abstract plus a brief (1-2 pp.) current vita to Anthony W. Lee by 15 June 2018 at: [lee.tony181@gmail.com](mailto:lee.tony181@gmail.com).