

The Ebbs and Flows of the Eighteenth Century and Eighteenth-Century Studies

East-Central ASECS Annual Conference

Washington College

October 9th-11th 2025

Call for Papers

The East Coast American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies (ECASECS) invites to its 55th Conference from October 9th to 11th, 2025, hosted by Washington College, the first college chartered after the American Independence. This year's theme is "ebbs and flows." Honoring the maritime legacy of Chestertown, MD, one of the leading royal ports in the eighteenth-century, we seek panel and paper proposals that deal directly or indirectly with aspects of this theme broadly conceived:

- Proposals that address the natural rhythms and fluctuations, the highs and lows, of aquatic realms, with a particular focus on bodies of water during the eighteenth-century, centering the Atlantic, the Pacific, the Chesapeake Bay, the Caribbean, etc.
- Proposals that consider theoretical, empirical, or analytical approaches to the idea of *contact zones* as those in which environmental and/or social bodies meet and collide, recede and advance, etc. These would consider markers such as coasts, rivers, bays, oceans, as well as coastal cities, beaches, archipelagos, and other types of sites of both contact and boundaries, be geographic, political, interpersonal, or personal.
- Proposals that metaphorically consider the theme of "ebbs and flows" as one that delineates an understanding of the rise and fall of trends, patterns, belief systems, ideologies, and social values of and around eighteenth-century studies.
- Proposals that reflect on how mainstream trends belie the often messy and sometimes violent coexistence of countertrends, delays, drags, and outliers.
- Proposals that consider the use and reuse of materials, and interdisciplinary approaches that challenge and expand the boundaries of traditional perspectives. We hope to have a rich discussion on the multiple iterations of eighteenth-century studies, where the field has been, what has ceased to exist, what has remained, and what we envision for its future.
- Proposals dealing with any other aspect of the long eighteenth century in any geographic area.

Deadline for individual papers: **May 1st, 2025**

Deadline for complete panels: **May 15th, 2025**

Email proposals or send queries to ecasecs2025@gmail.com.

Washington College is honored to host the ECASECS 2025 annual conference as it is a historic college located in the heart of the mid-Atlantic region in Chestertown, on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Considered during the mid eighteenth century as the second royal port of entry in the Chesapeake Bay, and nestled along the banks of the Chester River, Chestertown offers ECASECS participants a town with a uniquely eighteenth-century appeal and legacy, as well as an environmentally-centered community. For **lodging**, the conference organizers privilege the Comfort Inn, a pet friendly hotel that offers free parking, free WIFI and free hot breakfast, and that is a short walking distance to campus. Downtown, there are inns such as the White Swan Tavern, a small colonial-era guesthouse. **Traveling** to Washington College is a 90-minutes car ride from Philadelphia or Baltimore's airports; and a 60-minutes car ride from the Amtrak train station in Wilmington, DE or New Carrollton in the DC area.

We are looking forward to welcoming many new and returning members in the fall of 2025 to the ECASECS conference in Chestertown. We encourage undergraduate and graduate students to present and to graduate students to submit their papers to the Molin Prize. Students pay a reduced registration fee of \$25.00 due to the generosity of ECASECS members.

For complete details see our forthcoming conference website (available February 2025): <https://ecasecs2025conference.wordpress.com>

We look forward to seeing you at Washington College for 2025