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Dear Dr Scott

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## **BRITISH ENLIGHTENMENT RESEARCH NETWORK ANNUAL REPORT**

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### **1. Introduction**

This annual report has been prepared in accordance with and in satisfaction of the conditions of funding for the British Enlightenment Research Network (BERN) by the ARC Network for Early European Research.

The report covers the period from 30 June 2006, being the date of funding notification, to the date hereof.

The purpose of this report is to provide the Management Committee of the ARC Network for Early European Research with information on the development of BERN during the period covered by this report; its activities and outcomes during the same period; the future development and activities of BERN; and its financial position as set against the original budget as at the date of this report and as set out in the Appendix.

### **2. Background**

BERN was established in 2006 through funding under the Research Clusters scheme of the ARC Network for Early European Research. Funding notice was provided on 30 June 2006 and funding instructions were received on 11 August 2006.

BERN has been established to foster and facilitate collaborative links between Australian and international researchers in the field of British studies during the period of the Enlightenment.

The main aims of BERN are:

- To develop innovative team-based projects, with a scale and scope that will be competitive in today's research funding environment;
- To harness Australia's international standing in British Enlightenment studies and to coordinate existing research expertise to generate collaborative, interdisciplinary research partnerships and linkages;
- To link Australia researchers with international scholars, with a view to building a new capacity for collaborative research;
- To generate national benefit by enhancing Australia's capacity to develop innovative and significant research with international recognition as well as to provide high-quality research training opportunities for postgraduate and postdoctoral scholars; and
- To foster exchanges and relationships with networks and research centres within Australia and abroad.

These aims are consistent with the broader intentions of NEER 'to mobilise existing strengths to build up national and international research partnerships in key emerging areas of scholarly enquiry' and to 'coordinate large-scale cross-disciplinary investigations'.

In the period 2006-07, the Convenor of BERN set about developing the British Enlightenment Research Network in line with the said intentions of NEER and the specific aims of BERN.

### **3. Development of BERN**

#### **3.1 BERN Website**

In accordance with the proposed activities for 2006-07 in the BERN funding application dated 26 May 2006, a BERN website has been designed and constructed. It is hosted by the University of Tasmania and is available at the following address:

[http://www.utas.edu.au/history\\_classics/bern/index.html](http://www.utas.edu.au/history_classics/bern/index.html).

The BERN website is authorised by the Convenor. Ongoing technical support and site development is provided through the Faculty of Arts Flexible Education Office at the University of Tasmania.

#### **3.2 BERN Membership**

At the date of the original funding application, the following seven registered members of BERN were identified: Professor John Gascoigne (UNSW); Professor David Lemmings (University of Adelaide); Professor Iain McCalman (University of Sydney); Dr Anthony Page (University of Tasmania); Dr Alan Tapper (Edith Cowan University); Associate Professor Alex Tyrrell (La Trobe University); and Professor Richard Yeo (Griffith University).

In addition to the inaugural members of BERN, a contact list of interested parties is maintained. This list includes academics at the University of Tasmania, members of the local community as well as postgraduate students and postdoctoral scholars at the University of Tasmania and mainland universities.

### 3.3 Research Nodes & Projects

Pursuant of the main aims of BERN, a series of generic research nodes have been established. The research nodes are:

- Biography
- Britain & the World
- Law & Justice
- Literature & the Arts
- Philosophy
- Politics
- Religion
- Science & Medicine
- Society & Culture

Projects will foster collaborative research by linking Australian researchers with international scholars and will be conducted under a research node. Current projects are:

#### *The Courtroom, Lawyers and the Press: Negotiating Justice in the Age of the Public Sphere* [Law & Justice Research Node]

Project Leaders: Dr Michael T. Davis (History, University of Tasmania) and Professor David Lemmings (History, University of Adelaide).

This project has been funded by the Australian Research Council between 2007 and 2010. It takes an original perspective on a key period of transition in British legal history when the modern culture of the lawyerised trial decisively took shape. It hypothesises that the intervention of lawyers and the concurrent rise of the press largely displaced lay participation in trials and relocated popular criticism of justice to the public sphere.

#### *Radical Enlightenment in the Age of Revolutions* [Politics Node]

Project Leaders: Dr Michael T. Davis (History, University of Tasmania), Professor Michael Durey (History, Murdoch University), Professor Jeffrey Alexander (Sociology, Yale University), Professor Jack Fruchtman (Political Science, Towson University), Professor John Keane (Politics, University of Westminster), and Professor Jim Walvin (Centre for Eighteenth-Century Studies, University of York), Dr Gavin Daly (History, University of Tasmania) and Dr Anthony Page (History, University of Tasmania).

This project will be submitted to the Australian Research Council in 2008 as a Discovery grant application. It brings together an international team of historians, political scientists and a sociologist to explore the progressive development in the late eighteenth century of a subversive “Radical Enlightenment”, comprising radical-democratic theories, controversial political economies and heterodox theologies. Together, these ideologies

desacralized the traditional political order and assisted in the emergence of the lower orders on to the political stage in Britain, Ireland, the United States and much of Europe, as well as in the Caribbean. It is more than fifty years since the idea of the 'Age of Revolutions' was first put forward. This project aims to re-examine this concept, focusing on the influence of extremist 'men' of letters and cosmopolitan public intellectuals. The international character of the “Radical Enlightenment” will be emphasized.

### **3.4 Governance**

An Advisory Committee was established, comprising the following members:

- Dr Michael T. Davis, Chair (University of Tasmania)
- Professor Michael Bennett (University of Tasmania)
- Professor Deirdre Coleman (University of Melbourne)
- Professor David Lemmings (University of Adelaide)
- Professor Iain McCalman (University of Sydney)
- Professor Wilfrid Prest (University of Adelaide)
- Professor Pam Sharpe (University of Tasmania)
- Professor Richard Yeo (Griffith University)

The aim was to have an annual meeting of the Committee. However, the success of facilitating a collaborative exercise of this nature is subject to coordinating the competing academic schedules of the members and in 2007 this was not possible. *See section 5 of this report for details of a plan to address this issue.*

### **3.5 Affiliations**

Pursuant of the aim of BERN to foster exchanges and relationships with networks and research centres within Australia and abroad, affiliations with the following centres have been established:

- Centre for British Studies, Harlaxton College
- Centre for the History of European Discourses, The University of Queensland
- National Europe Centre, The Australian National University

Negotiations are currently underway to affiliate BERN with the Centre for Eighteenth-Century Studies at the University of York.

### **3.6 BERN in the News**

During the period covered by this report, BERN and its activities received coverage in the following print media:

- *The Advocate*, 31 August 2006
- *The Advocate*, 14 December 2006
- *Discovery* [ARC newsletter], winter 2007 edition.
- *The Advocate*, 10 September 2007
- *The Sunday Examiner*, 9 September 2007

In addition to this coverage in print media, the following interviews were conducted with BERN visitors:

- Interview with Professor Jonathan Lamb (Vanderbilt University) on ABC Radio Tasmania (14 June 2007)
- Interview with Professor John Barrell (University of York) on ABC Radio Tasmania (7 September 2007)

Recordings of these interviews as well as copies of articles in the print media are available on the BERN website at the following page:

[http://www.utas.edu.au/history\\_classics/bern/bern\\_in\\_the\\_news.html](http://www.utas.edu.au/history_classics/bern/bern_in_the_news.html)

### **3.7 *Reviews in the Enlightenment***

With a view to fostering an interest in Enlightenment studies, *Reviews in the Enlightenment* was established to offer critical and constructive reviews of works addressing topics and themes during the Enlightenment period of the “long eighteenth century”. Published as an e-journal, it is edited by the Convenor of BERN and will be issued on an annual basis. The first issue will appear in early 2008 and will be available through the BERN website.

## **4. Activities & Outcomes of BERN**

### **4.1 Events**

The following BERN events were conducted during the period covered by this report:

#### ***Symposium***

‘The 1790s: An International Symposium’, UTAS Cradle Coast Campus, 8 September 2007.

This one-day symposium surveyed the political, cultural and ideological landscape of the 1790s, with a particular emphasis upon the impact of the French Revolution in Britain and Ireland. Topics will range across issues of social inequality, music and radical culture, the Irish rebellion, and the operation of martial law in Ireland. The symposium will highlight the importance of this turbulent and historically significant period and will capture some of the continuing interest in late eighteenth century studies.

Speakers included Professor John Barrell (University of York), Professor Gregory Claeys (Royal Holloway, University of London), Professor Michael Durey (Murdoch University) and Professor Cassandra Pybus (University of Sydney).

#### ***Public Lectures***

Public lecture by Professor Randall McGowen (University of Oregon), UTAS Cradle Coast Campus, 13 December 2006.

‘Fierce Justice and Legal Reform: The Limits of the Enlightenment Programme in Late-Eighteenth Century England’.

Public lecture by Professor Jonathan Lamb (Vanderbilt University), UTAS Cradle Coast Campus, 13 June 2007.

'Making Babies in the South Seas: Captain Cook's Unreconciled Accounts'.

### *Seminars*

Seminar presentation by Professor Michael Durey (Murdoch University), UTAS Launceston campus, 7 September 2007. Co-sponsored by BERN, the School of History & Classics and Riawunna, University of Tasmania.

'Who Became a Convict? Transportation to New South Wales from Ireland in the Rebellion Era'.

Seminar presentation by Professor John Barrell (University of York), UTAS Launceston campus, 12 September 2007. Co-sponsored by BERN and the School of History & Classics, University of Tasmania.

'Radicalism and Visual Culture in the 1790s'.

### *Masterclasses*

Masterclass with Professor John Barrell (University of York), UTAS Cradle Coast Campus, 11 September 2007.

Masterclass with Professor Gregory Claeys (Royal Holloway, University of London), UTAS Cradle Coast Campus, 11 September 2007.

These masterclasses were attended by UTAS Honours students from the Launceston and Cradle Coast campuses as well as first-year and recently graduated History students from the Cradle Coast Campus.

## **4.2 Outcomes**

One BERN project (which was submitted to the funding agency prior to the establishment of BERN) has been funded by the Australian Research Council. *See section 3.3 of this report for details.*

Another BERN project will be submitted to the Australian Research Council in 2008. This project was a direct outcome of the BERN symposium convened on 8 September 2007 and will bring together an international and interdisciplinary team of researchers to consider democracy and civil society in the 'age of revolutions'. *See section 3.3 of this report for details.*

## **5. Future Development & Activities of BERN**

In the years 2008 and 2009, BERN will pursue the following plans:

- Remodelling of the governance of BERN. As indicated in section 3.4 of this report, it was not possible to convene the Advisory Committee of BERN in 2007. To facilitate a meeting of the governing body of BERN, it is proposed that the current Advisory Committee be disbanded and a smaller Board of Collaborators

established. This is in line with the original BERN submission to NEER, dated 25 May 2006, in which a governing body of 3 to 5 members was proposed. The establishment of a Board of Collaborators will also foster the aim of collaborative research.

- A regular BERN seminar series to be hosted at the three campuses of the University of Tasmania will be pursued. Guest speakers from Australian universities will be invited to participate.
- The Convenor is currently negotiating new projects to be included in the BERN programme.
- The Convenor is currently negotiating with international scholars for visitors to participate in symposia, public lectures, seminars and masterclasses in 2008 and 2009.

## **6. Financial Position of BERN**

The financial information of BERN is set out in the Appendix to this report and comprises the original budget and a summary consolidated financial statement.

Despite an expanded programme of activities during the period covered by this report, BERN has managed to achieve a budget surplus to the date hereof through savings on items of expenditure included in the original budget; contributions to the BERN symposium by the Vice Chancellor, Faculty of Arts and School of History & Classics, University of Tasmania as well as the Australasian Modern British History Association (AMBHA); and the allocation of strategic funds from the University of Tasmania.

Yours sincerely

Dr Michael Davis  
CONVENOR

**APPENDIX****British Enlightenment Research Network  
Original Budget**

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	<b>Estimated Expenditure</b> <b>(\$)</b>
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<b>EXPENDITURE TYPE</b>	
Construction of website	2,188.00
Convening of governing body	2,640.00
Events	8,340.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>13,168.00</b>

**APPENDIX****British Enlightenment Research Network  
Summary Consolidated Financial Statement to November 2007**

	<b>Credit / Debit</b> <b>(\$)</b>
<b>CREDITS</b>	
NEER funding	10,000.00
UTAS Vice Chancellor funding	1,500.00
UTAS School of History & Classics funding	1,500.00
UTAS Faculty of Arts funding	7,000.00
AMBHA funding	3,000.00
Symposium registrations	604.53
UTAS T&L Performance Funds	5,000.00
<b>(a) Total Credits</b>	<b>28,604.53</b>
<b>DEBITS</b>	
Symposium airfares	9,781.95
Symposium accommodation	1,954.28
Symposium & masterclasses catering	1,303.60
Symposium petty expenses	247.00
Seminar expenditures	505.37
<b>(b) Total Debits</b>	<b>13,792.20</b>
<b>Net Balance [(a) – (b)]</b>	<b>14,812.33</b>