

## ABSTRACTS

**Corey Goergen, “Dr. Johnson’s Palliative Care: The Spiritual Economics of Dissipation in *The Life of Savage*”**

This article argues that Samuel Johnson’s *The Life of Savage* both responds to and challenges eighteenth-century anxieties about dissipation as a spiritual, bodily, and economic problem. Read in the context of Richard Bentley’s sermons, *The Folly of Atheism*, Johnson’s *Life* demonstrates the importance of dissipation to histories of both addiction and disability. Johnson and Bentley’s shared insistence that dissipation’s most telling symptoms are economic traces a common logic between the early, moral models of addiction and disability and later, medical models that are often understood to be distinct and even contradictory. But Johnson, in narrating Savage’s repeated failures to escape his cycle of dissipation through spiritual or intellectual means, ultimately raises questions about the capacity for moral or medical interventions to effect a satisfactory cure.

**Adam Schoene, “Silence in the Seraglio: Women and Legislation in Montesquieu”**

This article aligns silence in Montesquieu’s *Lettres persanes* with his notion of legal spirit as central in the transition from despotism to liberty. Exploring the imbrication of despotism and the passions, it traces the means by which the protagonist Usbek’s wives rewrite the laws of the seraglio as they co-opt its silence to emancipatory ends. By both concealing and revealing their passions, the women access a new language and philosophy, while seizing the subversive political potential of ineffability and dramatizing it through the transgressive epistolary form.

**Eva Krause Jørgensen, “The Feud of the Jutlandic Proprietors: Protesting Reform and Facing the Public in Late Eighteenth-Century Denmark”**

Within triumphalist histories of Denmark, the so-called reform era in the late eighteenth-century is hailed as the height of enlightened absolutism, when the ideal of an opinion-driven monarchy was realized. This article explores how different conceptions of the public sphere emerged in the wake of late eighteenth-century reforms. Specifically, it shows how the idea of a rational and uniform public held by many political elites was continuously contested by rising social movements during this period. Converging around the issue of reform, these tensions produced new dynamics in political culture and new ways of utilizing the public sphere.