



BULLETIN

Rousseau

ROUSSEAU BULLETIN • BULLETIN OF THE ROUSSEAU ASSOCIATION
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ROUSSEAU ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

2021

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NOTE from the President, Brigitte Weltman-Aron

Thank you to all members who support our activities and promote Rousseau and his work. We hope all our members continue to be well and safe, and wish a prompt recovery to those who are ill. Thank you to Nathan Martin, who successfully organized and hosted the XXIInd Biennial Colloquium of the Rousseau Association online. The Association is glad to announce new events planned for the rest of the year and in 2022, and the topic of the next colloquium, which will take place in Paris in 2023. We look forward to working with you on these projects!

REPORT ON THE XXIInd BIENNIAL COLLOQUIUM OF THE ROUSSEAU ASSOCIATION

“Rereading Rousseau’s *Essay on the Origin of Languages* /
L’Essai sur l’origine des langues de Rousseau : une relecture”

Online Colloquium (May 21–23, 2021)

Director: Nathan Martin, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Report by Adam Schoene, Rousseau Association Webmaster

The 22nd Biennial Colloquium of the Rousseau Association convened online via Zoom on Friday, May 21, 2021, with around forty attendees for opening remarks by Colloquium Director Nathan Martin and a keynote address by Jacqueline Waeber. While the colloquium was initially envisioned to take place on site at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, the ongoing pandemic necessitated the shift to a fully virtual format, a transition to which Martin seamlessly rose, cultivating the colloquium ambiance over Zoom. His opening remarks situated Rousseau’s *Essai sur l’origine des langues* in relation to significant historical moments of engagement with it, notably within the realm of music, and underscored how what was once a predominantly anglophone and francophone analytical affair has since become a more global phenomenon.

Waeber’s keynote, “Rousseau’s Palimpsests,” revealed how the *Essai* was positioned at a crucial moment in Rousseau’s musical career, written at the same time as the *Dictionnaire de musique*, when he was unable to compose anything but French music while at the same time criticizing it, and in the aftermath of his public quarrel with Rameau leaving him as a “wounded composer.” After illustrating how the goal of musical notation for Rousseau was to reduce mediation between score and listener, Waeber juxtaposed two conceptions of music in the *Essai*: one as mediating object that could only exist in society, and another as forever lost object whose aura traces its original accent. The Q&A examined Rousseau’s paradoxical stance while belonging to two different styles of music, Baroque and Gallant, his conception of creating music together as a collective act, as well as the advent of sound studies in relation to his approach and his work.

After a lunch pause during which a number of colloquium participants continued discussion inspired by the keynote, Ourida Mostefai and Masano Yamashita chaired the first two paper sessions on “Natural History” and “Emotions and Alterity.” In the former, Brigitte Weltman-Aron analyzed the role of catastrophe in the *Essai*, aligning both its negative and positive potential for Rousseau in relation to the concept of supplementarity. Zev Trachtenberg read the *Essai* as conjectural environmental history, drawing upon the notion of niche construction by which species have a role in shaping their own evolutionary construction to posit in Rousseau a vocal niche with a role in transforming the environment into a place in which people can live.

In the “Emotions and Alterity” session, Thierry Côté spoke of musical expression as metaphor, with the substitution of primitive passion for idea of object, drawing connections with Dubos, Lully, and theories of synesthesia. Martin McCallum aligned the *Essai* with nostalgia as a central feature of Rousseau’s theory,

discussing the medical effects of music such as the *Ranz des vaches* on Swiss soldiers abroad who yearned to return home, and explored the imaginative component of nostalgia as related to memory, in dialogue with Condillac, arguing that nostalgia employs active capacities not opposed to reason and connected to mutual freedom in community.

Saturday began with a session chaired by Johanna Lenne-Cornuez on “Language” in which Patrick Cox suggested that Rousseau’s *Essai* offers persuasive contentions about Arabic and Persian maintaining elements of passionate force close in character to the original languages, analyzing various characteristics such as prevalence of compound words and vocal inflection. Breakout sessions allowed for further dialogue on this topic and for other threads of discussion.

James Swenson next led an “Editing and Translating” roundtable featuring Jacqueline Waeber, Michael O’Dea, and John T. Scott. Waeber addressed the challenges of editing Rousseau’s musical works and determining which source or manuscript as best for works that may have been “disfigured” over the course of an extended life on stage, highlighting three different versions of recitative from the libretto of *Le Devin du village* to illustrate how comparing these alterations may reveal new insight. O’Dea cited Rousseau’s hesitation to publish the *Essai* as due in part to not wanting to give Rameau the honor of a direct response, and situated Pierre-Alexandre Du Peyrou as in a sense the first editor of the text, underscoring some of the choices he made that may have altered the *Essai*, such as his seemingly erroneous treatment of several passages in Latin from Cicero and Isidore of Seville that were initially quoted differently by Rousseau. Scott’s presentation referenced how leaving the original capitalization and punctuation when translating Rousseau may actually render things unintelligible, creating both unreadable and ungrammatical English, and losing what these aspects are meant to do in the original French.

Following a lunch break and the RA business meeting, Nathan Martin chaired a “Contemporary Resonances” session. It began with Stephanie Ban’s exploration of disability in how Rousseau uses music to think about and move through some of his own physical and mental impairments, highlighting his musical notation system as an example of a desire to enhance accessibility and transparency, friendships formed around music that helped to alleviate social difficulties, and music as a form of assistive technology for Rousseau to express otherwise incommunicable ideas or emotions. Wilson Alves de Paiva brought the *Essai* into dialogue with *Émile*, illustrating how *Émile* must evolve in language and music education to employ correct conversation and to avoid “babbling,” situating such education as a form of ethical compass without which social bonds are weak. Stuart Cottle aligned Rousseau’s speculative historical anthropology and treatment of metallurgy, agriculture, and “savagery” with colonialism and the threat that expansion of a mining colony brings to the Indigenous Na’vi tribe of Pandora in James Cameron’s *Avatar*, arguing that the film offers a vision of simulated human existence corresponding in surprising detail to related Rousseau images deconstructed by Jacques Derrida in *De la grammatologie*.

Sunday opened with a session on “Music” chaired by Flora Champy, followed by a final session on “Politics” led by Brigitte-Weltman Aron. In the first panel, Martin Stern spoke about the pastoral musical and poetic style that inform much of the *Essai*, with specific attention to Rousseau’s depiction of the first festivals and declarations of love. Danielle Herrington illuminated how Rousseau’s musical notions intersect with the *sensibilité* movement, with an emphasis upon audience and listener experience, and on how Rousseau’s musical position fits into his broader stance on sense theory. John T. Scott examined how Rousseau seems to model his own writing style on the persuasive qualities of the original languages of the *Essai*, and the analogue Rousseau implies between musical copying and writing. In the “Politics” session, Jason Neidleman interrogated Rousseau’s paradoxical deployment of “cold” discursive speech in his political theory in order to evoke “warm” figural speech that conveys feelings, suggesting that both play a

fundamental role in relation to the somewhat open space of activity that is necessary for an ever-changing demos to enunciate the general will. Trip McCrossin identified how the *Essai* offers insight into reacquiring the ability to use language in a novel capacity with the development of the body politic, situating it as key to emergence from a newfound state of nature. Flora Champy analyzed the political implications of linguistic specificity in the *Essai*, focusing on “popular languages” in connection with the prevalent concept of “nation” and the general will to reassess the significance of the text within Rousseau’s broader political corpus.

The colloquium concluded on a musical note with a concert featuring a carillon performance by Mitty Ma, as well as the *Ranz des vaches* and the *Air chinois* from the *Dictionnaire de musique*. Nathan Martin's interest in current research and in the elaboration of new critical approaches to Rousseau's essay provided promising answers, and the meeting generated animated interdisciplinary discussions. While we look ahead to gathering in person once again at our next colloquium, this year’s virtual gathering served as a successful example of the potential in pursuing future online collaboration.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2023 COLLOQUIUM IN PARIS

We are delighted to announce that we will meet in Paris for the XXIIIrd Biennial Colloquium of the Rousseau Association in 2023. It will tentatively take place in May, but the exact dates of the conference will be confirmed and a Call for Papers will be posted on our website. Johanna Lenne-Cornuez (Laboratoire Sciences, Normes et Démocratie/CNRS) has proposed the topic of “Le réel, le possible et l’idéal chez Rousseau/The Real, the Possible, and the Ideal in Rousseau.” She will be the colloquium director, and will organize it with Louis Guerpillon (Centre d’histoire des philosophies modernes de la Sorbonne, HIPHIMO). We thank Johanna for her proposal, we thank both for organizing the colloquium, and look forward to meeting in Paris in 2023!

PUBLICATION PLANS FOR A VOLUME ON ROUSSEAU AND MUSIC, LANGUAGE, EXPRESSION

As a follow-up to the 2021 colloquium, Flora Champy and Nathan Martin will be editing a volume tentatively titled: *Jean-Jacques Rousseau: Music, Language, Expression/Jean-Jacques Rousseau: musique, langue, expression*. For further information, or to discuss potential submissions in advance of the December 15, 2021 deadline, please contact the editors at: fchampy@princeton.edu, natha@umich.edu.

ROUSSEAU ASSOCIATION PANELS AT THE 2022 ASECS CONFERENCE

The Association will be hosting a panel at the next meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS) to be held in Baltimore, Maryland (March 31-April 2). Chaired by Rudy Le Menthéour (Bryn Mawr College), this panel will be devoted to “Grievances in Rousseau/Doléances chez Rousseau,” and will feature presentations by Christophe Martin (Sorbonne Université), Maureen Kelly (University of Chicago), and Nathan Martin (University of Michigan). Ourida Mostefai (Brown University) will also chair a roundtable on *Lettre à d’Alembert* during the conference, “Dans le vif du combat: la *Lettre à d’Alembert*/In the Heat of the Fight: Rousseau’s *Letter to d’Alembert*,” with Rudy Le Menthéour, Christophe Martin, Pierre Frantz (Sorbonne Université), Tili Boon-Cuillé (Washington University in Saint Louis), Flora

Champy (Princeton University), and Mladen Kozul (University of Montana) as participants. Thank you to Rudy and to Ourida!

ROUSSEAU ASSOCIATION WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

We thank our webmaster Adam Schoene for taking care of our website, and to Masano Yamashita for her work on Facebook. Please send your Rousseau-related publication updates to Adam, and check out our website, which can be accessed at:

<http://www.rousseauassociation.org/>

ROUSSEAU ASSOCIATION VIRTUAL CONVERSATION SERIES

Thanks to John Scott, Zev Trachtenberg, and Masano Yamashita, the Rousseau Association is launching a virtual conversation series where we will be discussing the latest scholarship on Rousseau.

Our first kick-off event in October featured a discussion of John Scott's book, *Rousseau's reader: strategies of persuasion and education* (University of Chicago press) moderated by Geneviève Rousselière (Duke University). Our next virtual conversation will take place December 3rd, featuring Elliot Montagano (University of North Georgia). We welcome scholars from literature, political science, history, philosophy and education to join us in these exchanges.

Please check our Facebook page for regular updates or join our Association for more news.

MINUTES OF THE 2021 BUSINESS MEETING

ROUSSEAU ASSOCIATION / ASSOCIATION ROUSSEAU
Since 1979/ Fondée en 1979

XXIInd Biennial Colloquium of the Rousseau Association
XXII^e Colloque bisannuel de l'Association Rousseau
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Business Meeting / Assemblée générale
Saturday, May 22, 2021, 3:30pm / Samedi 22 mai 2021, 15h30

Attendees:

Steph Ban
Nathan Martin
Chris Bertram
Brigitte Weltman-Aron
Trip McCrossin
Johanna Lenne-Cornuez
Louis Guerpillon
Sara Furnal
Flora Champy
Rudy LeMentheour
Jason Neidleman
John Scott

Ourida Mostefai
Grace Roosevelt
Christopher Kelly
Masano Yamashita
Wilson Paiva
Adam Burgos
Pauline McKenzie Aucoin
Peter Westmoreland
Pierre Saint-Amand
Adam Schoene
Zev Trachtenberg
Michael O'Dea

1. Brigitte Weltman-Aron called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.
Approval of the Minutes of the 2019 Business Meeting in Stockholm University.
The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report (Jason Neidleman)
The Association's membership sits at 173, generously tallied.

In 2019, the treasury held almost \$8000. It now has \$1899.40. Dues collected over that period were \$762.53.

In that period the Association spent \$1888.00 on the new website and \$4693.80 on purchasing volumes of *Rousseau and Silence* for our membership.

Jason proposed revising the membership model into a \$40/\$20/\$10 renewal structure for senior faculty/junior faculty/students or retired faculty. There was some discussion regarding "junior" and "senior" faculty. The group agreed that the honor system would suffice. Jason suggested that the Association select a date for the annual renewal deadline. January 1 was agreed to by acclamation. Jason will also send regular reminders to those members who have not renewed. Jason recommended pursuing alternatives to PayPal as a method of payment, because PayPal collects a fee for each transaction. There was some discussion but international transfers remain a stumbling block.

Motion \$40 for senior, \$20 for junior, \$10 for students and retired, seconded by Nathan.
Unanimously approved.

Perhaps pursue alternatives to PayPal, will need to update website, starting January 1.

Jason suggested the need for a larger discussion about the Association's "business model." The model we have for publication is expensive. We probably will not take in as much as we spend, if we are publishing every two years. John Scott pointed out that there is nothing in the bylaws guaranteeing a book, so we could offer a heavily discounted price. If purchasing a publication for all members proves too expensive, other solutions might include: i. asking members to buy the publication at a discounted price with the difference being covered by the RA; ii. publishing ebooks rather than hardcover books; iii. print on demand options for publications.

3. Webmaster's Report (Adam Schoene)
Adam thanked everyone for their help. He took this position in 2019, and has led the process of moving to the new website. Thanks to Michael for helping with the transition. The website may be accessed through either rousseauassociation.org or rousseauassociation.com. The objective was to maintain the character of the old website but also give it an open, contemporary feel.

If there are people interested in the website or who have ideas for how to engage via the web, please contact Adam.

There is a page for Rousseau scholarship from members. Send notice of research to Adam.

4. Report on Facebook (Masano Yamashita)

Thank you to Michael who started the Facebook group in 2013. It's a public group with 418 members. Some posts even go public beyond that range.

Please post as a way of sharing ideas.

5. Proposal for the 2023 Colloquium (Johanna Lenne-Cornuez) + future colloquia

Johanna Lenne-Cornuez and Louis Guerpillon have a project for the next 2023 colloquium at Sorbonne Université, Paris. The theme is *Le possible, le réel, et l'idéal chez Rousseau*. This theme is multidisciplinary, rich, with diverse axes that allow for a new reflection on Rousseau.

There followed a discussion on the dates of the future colloquium: tentatively, June 2023.

Steph wanted to know if virtual attendance would be an option, and a discussion followed about the respective advantages of face to face and remote sessions for the 2023 colloquium and future colloquia.

Johanna concluded that she would look into organizing some virtual sessions while keeping in-person presence, and would not attempt hybrid models of both virtual and in person sessions all at once.

Jimmy asked: Which room?

Johanna: A prestigious room in Sorbonne if possible.

Louis: It is difficult to know at this time. Several options are possible.

Ourida reminded everyone that every session is plenary at the colloquium.

Flora: An in-person event gives us the possibility of talking outside of sessions. Maybe we could have some virtual events outside of the colloquium, so that the colloquium would be fully in person.

Ourida: Maybe we could have events in 2022 that would be connected to the colloquium.

Johanna: We could have an early session tied to the colloquium.

Jason: We could adopt a theme that we then address over an extended period, culminating in the colloquium.

Rudy: We want to avoid a two-tiered colloquium. We should think about solidarity.

Brigitte: We can think about how to fund travel for students.

Zev moved to approve the conference proposal, Jimmy seconded: unanimously approved.

Wilson Paiva proposed a colloquium on Rousseau and education in Brazil in 2025. Brazil has a thriving community of people reading Rousseau. A colloquium in Brazil could produce a meaningful expansion of the Rousseau Association.

Masano: Would the colloquium be bilingual?

Wilson: It would have to be trilingual. Officially English and French but maybe with parallel sessions. We could get the government to pay for interpreters.

There followed a positive discussion on the topic. Wilson answered practical questions such as the prices of airfare: the same as to Europe.

The vote will take place at the next colloquium.

6. Brief Report on Affiliate Society: 2021 ASECS Session (organized by Brigitte Weltman-Aron)

Johanna, Flora, Rudy, and Nathan gave papers, and had an informal gathering of the RA.

7. Affiliate Society Business: 2022 ASECS Session (organized by Ourida Mostefai)

The RA has a guaranteed session every year. Next year ASECS is in Baltimore and the session title is Grievance in Rousseau, around grievance, restorative justice, protest.

8. Nominations and elections of Officers for 2021-2023.

The following slate was proposed by Peter Westmoreland:

President; Brigitte Weltman-Aron
Vice President, Facebook: Masano Yamashita
Secretary/Treasurer: Jason Neidleman
Colloquium director: Johanna Lenne-Cornuez
Webmaster: Adam Schoene

Board Members:

Flora Champy
Nathan Martin
Ourida Mostefai
John T. Scott
James Swenson

The proposed slate was elected unanimously.

9. Other Business

Brigitte thanked Zev Trachtenberg (University of Oklahoma) who is stepping down, for all his work on the Board and for the Association. Brigitte asked longtime Rousseau Association Grace Roosevelt to say some words.

Grace/Jinx: The Rousseau Association was Canadian and American when I joined. The word that comes to mind is nostalgia. The language is not dead. In the pre-postmodern world, our meetings were a little lighter. There was a lot of after-dinner banter. I first joined in the summer of 1989 at Columbia. Howard Cell first me at the entrance and said, "Welcome to a grouping of Rousseau's lost children." Howard Cell would put out a bulletin every couple of months that had wonderful news. I entered a replica of Rousseau's writing desk that I had seen at Bloomingdale.

In 1983, I joined the peace movement and became interested in a fragment called "l'état de guerre" and Rousseau's writings on the abbé de Saint-Pierre. I went to the library at Neuchatel, and saw that the order of the manuscript was incorreced. I folded one piece and the whole thing fit together better. Someone who teaches at West Point has published the revised document in the International Journal of Political Thought.

Nathan: There are plans for a future publication based on the Michigan colloquium. These are volumes based on the colloquium rather than formal proceedings. They will go out for peer review, and that will determine what is ultimately included.

Ourida: We might want to start a listserv, along the model of some other organizations where news can be posted.

Zev: We may do some meetings in between now and the next colloquium. They will be free to attend.

John: Second this. One of the positives of Zoom is being able to do seminars across universities. Once a semester would be good. Maybe a paper with a couple commentators.

Brigitte adjourned the meeting at 5:01. Submitted by Jason Neidleman.

ROUSSEAU ASSOCIATION / ASSOCIATION ROUSSEAU

Executive Committee / Bureau

(2021-2023)

PRESIDENT / PRESIDENTE

Brigitte Weltman-Aron, University of Florida, USA

VICE-PRESIDENT / VICE-PRESIDENTE

Masano Yamashita, University of Colorado Boulder, USA

SECRETARY-TREASURER / SECRETAIRE ET TRESORIER

Jason Neidleman, University of La Verne, USA

COLLOQUIUM DIRECTOR / DIRECTRICE DU COLLOQUE

Johanna Lenne-Cornuez, Laboratoire Sciences, Normes et Démocraties/CNRS, FRANCE

WEBMASTER / WEBMESTRE

Adam Schoene, Cornell University, USA

FACEBOOK

Masano Yamashita, University of Colorado Boulder, USA

BOARD MEMBERS / MEMBRES DU BUREAU

- Flora Champy, Princeton University, USA
- Nathan Martin, University of Michigan, USA
- Ourida Mostefai, Brown University, USA
- John T. Scott, University of California, Davis, USA
- James Swenson, Rutgers University, USA

**ANNUAL DUES / COTISATION ANNUELLE
2022**

PLEASE RENEW YOUR DUES BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2022

MERCI DE RENOUVELER VOTRE COTISATION AVANT LE 1ER JANVIER 2022

Regular dues [senior faculty]/ Cotisation normale [professeurs]	US\$ 40.00
Dues [junior faculty]/ Cotisation [autres professeurs]	US\$ 20.00
Students & Retired / Etudiants et retraités	US\$ 10.00

2 PAYMENT OPTIONS / 2 MODALITÉS DE PAIEMENT

1. BY MAIL/PAR COURRIER

Send a US check or money order (made out to the Rousseau Association) to:

Jason Neidleman
Rousseau Association Treasurer
University of La Verne
1950 3rd St.
114 Founders Hall
La Verne, CA 91750
USA
jneidleman@laverne.edu

2. ELECTRONICALLY /EN LIGNE

Go to www.paypal.com, click on “Send Money,” and follow instructions (you will be required to open an account); payment should be directed to the following email address: jneidleman@laverne.edu.

Allez sur le site de Paypal -www.paypal.com – suivez les instructions pour envoyer de l’argent (il vous faudra ouvrir un compte) et adressez votre paiement à jneidleman@laverne.edu



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