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Preface to Volume 2 of a Special Double Issue of *The Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies* on Enlightenment Identities, edited by Brycchan Carey and Caroline Warman.

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This special issue of *The Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies* is the second of two that aim to reflect the range and diversity of research that was presented in July 2019 at the International Congress on the Enlightenment at the University of Edinburgh. The quadrennial congress, organised under the auspices of the International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ISECS), is the largest regular gathering of scholars interested in the long eighteenth century. In 2019, it was organised by the British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (BSECS) in partnership with the Eighteenth-Century Scottish Studies Society (ECSSS) and the University of Edinburgh, with the theme 'Enlightenment Identities'. As we noted in the introduction to the first of these special issues, the 1519 papers given at the Congress demonstrated considerable national, linguistic, and disciplinary diversity and gave no sign that the subject of Enlightenment identity has yet been exhausted or resolved. These special issues offer, therefore, fifteen papers that give, we hope, some impression of the extensive and energetic debates that took place across that July week. We have organised the essays into two categories. In the first instalment of our special double edition, which also includes a more substantial introduction, the contributors focused on the ways in which identity was constructed, experienced, understood, asserted, and

performed in a variety of public and political spaces. In this, the second instalment, the contributors consider the same questions in relation to personal and private identity. While these fifteen essays show that there is considerable overlap between the ways in which identity was asserted, performed, or adopted in public and in private, it is nevertheless also apparent that group identities and individual identities are constructed and deployed differently, are often in tension, and sometimes entirely at odds with one another.

This second instalment opens with 'L'Histoire de ma littérature' de M^{me} d'Arconville (1720-1805): écriture de soi et généalogie d'une personnalité intellectuelle', Marc André Bernier's exploration of scientist and woman of letters Madame d'Arconville's creation for herself of an 'intellectual personality' in autobiographical writings that constitute a genealogy of her thought stemming from her childhood's encyclopaedic curiosity. It continues with Deirdre Coleman's 'Creole Identity in the Enlightenment', which examines issues of sameness and difference within constructions of racial, class and gender identities, taking as its central subject the Jamaican Susanna Gale (1749–1823), a member of the spectacularly wealthy Gale clan which at one point claimed ownership of more than one thousand enslaved people on the island. Coleman begins by discussing Joshua Reynolds's 1763 portrait of Gale, in which the alert young woman looks directly at and challenges the viewer. By contrast, in 'L'identité du dormeur en question: de l'expérience du sensible à la représentation du cauchemar', Florence Fesneau asks how an artist might represent a sleeping subject while at the same time preserving their identity. By examining paintings exhibited at *l'Académie royale de peinture et de sculpture*, Fesneau concludes that in these works, sleepers are no longer merely resting bodies, but also identities that are formed, deformed, and transformed according to dreams which find a place in the painting. Moving from art to literature, and from Europe to China, Wen Jin provides an analysis of *Zaishengyuan*, an eighteenth-century romance authored by Chen Duansheng, who exemplifies the ways in which early modern Chinese women entered the field of prose fiction. Her article 'Self-Absorption and Performance in *Tanci* Fiction: Eighteenth-century Chinese Conceptions of Identity in Comparative Perspective' shows that, with exuberant representations of female cross-dressing and many other forms of self-transformation, *Zaishengyuan* experiments with radical conceptions of individual identity as discontinuous and self-determined. Also examining the self-construction of a female literary identity, in

‘Écriture et identité féminines : Giustiniana Wynne Orsini v. Rosenberg : économie relationnelle et formation d’identité de femme auteur dans ses correspondances’ Rotraud von Kulesa explores the epistolary relationships of Anglo-Venetian novelist Giustiniana Wynne, Countess of Rosenberg Orsini to trace how a woman of letters created herself through the relational economy manifest in letters addressed to William Beckford, Aurelio Bertola, and Elisabetta Mosconi. The sixth article in this special issue is Robert Paulett’s “‘This Mighty Fabric’: Allan Ramsay, British Union, and the Body of the King’. Paulett shows how personal identity might impact on national identity in his examination of Allan Ramsay’s 1760–61 portrait of the young King George III in his coronation robes which depicted the new king as both a metaphoric and as a literal embodiment of England, its constitution, and its people. This special issue concludes with Alexis Wolf’s investigation into ‘Identity and Anonymity in Lady Mount Cashell’s 1798 Rebellion Broadside’. Attributing a republican broadside of the 1798 Irish Rebellion to Anglo-Irish aristocrat Margaret Moore, Lady Mount Cashell, the article considers ‘The Bard of Erin’ in the light of Mount Cashell’s relationship with Mary Wollstonecraft, her participation in women’s networks of antiquarian sociability in Dublin, and her affinity with the United Irish cause. Mount Cashell’s anonymous involvement, argues Wolf, illustrates the often-concealed contribution of women writers to radical print culture.

These seven essays collectively explore a variety of ways in which personal and private identities could be constructed and performed from Europe to the Caribbean to China. As with the eight essays presented in the first issue, they show that the boundaries between public and private identities were sometimes carefully maintained but more often blurred or transgressed. Nevertheless, whether in public or in private, questions of identity were at the heart of the human experience in the long eighteenth century. Taken together, the fifteen essays in this double special edition not only reflect the diverse and important work presented at the 2019 International Congress on the Enlightenment but also attest to the continuing scholarly interest in identity, one of the most fundamental of all human attributes and an integral component of human social, cultural, economic, and personal behaviour.

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