Revolution, Representation, Propaganda: Democracy in the 18th-Century Atlantic
**Workshop Information**

Date: Monday, June 4–Friday, June 8, 2018  
Time: 9:00 AM–5:00 PM daily  
Place: Utah State University, Logan, UT

**MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY MEET HISTORY:**

Various forms of media have long served as catalysts of revolution and change. This year’s Bennion Teachers’ Workshop will focus on media and the experiments with representative governments that emerged from the violent upheavals of revolution at the end of the eighteenth century in the United States, France, and Haiti. At the same time, participants will build a three-pronged media literacy that they can translate to their modern classrooms and lives as educators and citizens:

1) Integrating historical content and pedagogical innovation, participants will explore this topic through an immersive role-play simulation of the American Revolution (“Reacting to the Past”) that will offer participants broad background on social, ideological, and political forces at play in the 18th-century Atlantic.

2) The workshop will critically examine the uses of revolutionary-era media, including propaganda, newspapers, and pamphlets that expressed views of Rousseau, Montaigne, Locke, and Paine.

3) Participants will collaborate in a cumulative project to create an educational resource website on comparative Atlantic Revolutions that they can use in their classrooms.

Additionally, during the week, workshop participants will engage with a number of prominent historians and archivists, both in person and via various media formats, including:

- Keynote scholar Dr. William Klooster, Professor at Clark University and author of one of the workshop’s main texts, *Revolutions in the Atlantic World: A Comparative History*
- Dr. Robert Olwell, Jefferson historian who has used the “Reacting to the Past” platform in classes at the University of Texas at Austin
- Dr. Liz Covart, Digital Projects Editor at the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture and founder of the award-winning podcast *Ben Franklin’s World*
- Historian Dr. Julia Gaffield, who rediscovered the first draft of the Haitian Constitution
- Newberry Library Archivist Jessica Grzegorski, who manages the Newberry’s collection of nearly 30,000 pamphlets from the French Revolution
- Dr. Angela Diaz, USU, historian of territorial expansion in the Gulf South and Latin America and Haitian slave rebellions
WHO SHOULD REGISTER: The 2018 Bennion Teacher’s Workshop for the Perpetuation of Democratic Principles will appeal to History, Social Studies, Government, and Civics teachers (K–12), as well as community college instructors, homeschool teachers, and graduate and advanced undergraduate students who are interested in Digital Humanities and major in History, Political Science, English, or American Studies.

REGISTRATION: To register, please visit USU’s Mountain West Center for Regional Studies (MWC) website at www.mountainwest.usu.edu. Course and material fees will vary depending on the credit option selected. Due to limited seating, early registration is encouraged and a discount may be available.

MEALS, LODGING, AND PARKING: Continental breakfasts, lunches, and the Thursday night banquet are part of the registration fee. Accommodations should be arranged separately by participants and are not included. On-campus parking is available for an additional fee. For further details, including reasonably priced accommodations on campus, see the MWC website.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Thanks to the Ione Bennion Endowment, a limited number of modest scholarships are available for out-of-town participants (to help defray the cost of lodging or travel) and for those in degree programs enrolling for academic credit. Please apply early.

Additional details about scholarships, logistics, and the workshop are available at www.mountainwest.usu.edu.

Highlights of the Daily Schedule

Monday: What Is “Atlantic” and Comparative History? Discussion of the Methods and Themes of the 2018 Workshop

Evening: Keynote Address—Free and Open to the Public at 6:30 p.m.: “Discovering Democracy in the 18th-Century Atlantic” by Dr. William Klooster Book Signing and Light Reception will follow

Tuesday: Privileges versus Rights: Mock “Estates General” Meeting at the USU Amphitheater and Preparing for “Reacting to the Past” Role-Play

Wednesday: Media in the Age of Revolutions: Special Session in Merrill-Cazier Library’s Special Collections

Thursday: Competing Declarations: Comparing Independence Documents from America, France, and Haiti

Evening: Eighteenth-Century Feast: Offsite Banquet Celebrating Period Food & Music Tickets for additional guests may be purchased ahead of time at $20 each

Friday: Ben Franklin’s World: Revolutionary Podcast and Writing Our Own Constitutions
Ben Franklin at Computer
by Marsha Lederman
IONE SPENCER BENNION (1908–1997)

Utah State University’s Bennion Workshop for teachers was established in 1993 through the generous gift of Ione S. Bennion. She expressly aimed for the workshop to perpetuate democratic principles, namely “to explore the concepts upon which democracy is built, the conditions under which it flourishes, and the dangers to its existence….The seminar participants are encouraged to explore new themes in their teaching and writing with democratic principles in mind.”

A native of Salt Lake City, Ione Spencer Bennion moved to Logan when her first husband, Wayne Bennion, began teaching at what was then known as the Utah State Agricultural College (USAC). After her husband’s untimely death in 1942, she returned to Salt Lake to complete a BA in English. She was at work on a master’s degree when USAC’s President Franklin Harris called to offer her a position as the college’s first Dean of Women. She served in that capacity until 1952 when she had to resign due to an anti-nepotism law from the 1930s that was resurrected after she married her second husband, Ted Daniel, a USAC professor of forestry. But this kind of adversity never daunted her. She spent the next 28 years in the Logan school district, homeschooling the sick and disabled.

Committed to community betterment, especially in regards to issues of social justice, Bennion was recognized as the Governor’s “Outstanding Volunteer” in 1979 for her tireless work with numerous organizations, including the Alliance for the Varied Arts, the Foreign Students Committee, the Cache United Way, and the Nora Eccles Harrison Museum. During the Eisenhower Administration, she began work on the Utah Committee on Civil Rights, contributing to the national adoption of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. She also devoted much of her energy to women’s causes, including the Faculty Women’s League at USU, the Woman’s Legislative Council, and the League of Women Voters. During the 1960s, Bennion was instrumental in starting a program allowing pregnant teenagers to finish high school. Later she served on the board of Planned Parenthood. She was also an ardent supporter of the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and always hoped it would be passed during her lifetime. Another bequest from Ms. Bennion helped establish USU’s Women’s Center, which still exists today. Ione Bennion always went to great lengths to address any need she saw. Iranian and East Indian students often lived rent-free in her home while attending USU, and she was known for personally paying many disadvantaged students’ college tuition. According to a 1979 news story, “Kindness and action against injustices … [were] just an integral part of the fabric of her life.”
Course Requirements:
Participants must attend all days of the workshop to receive course credits. Prior to the workshop, participants will have reading assignments that need to be completed before the first session. During the workshop, participants will be expected to make use of materials, engage in critical reflection, and participate in individual and collaborative structured learning activities. A final project for the course will be due one month after the program on July 9, 2018.

Registration:
Please visit the Mountain West Center website at www.mountainwest.usu.edu to register for the 2018 Bennion Teachers’ Workshop. Past workshops have filled up quickly, so early registration is highly recommended. Workshop costs (see MWC website) will vary depending on the course option selected:

- USU Academic Credit Course (3 credits—Summer semester)
- Continuing Education Course (4.5 CEUs)
- Non-Credit Course (attendance only)