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*Thesis Title: Prostitution, Space and Social Control in Eighteenth-Century Paris and London*

My thesis seeks to understand the relation between the shared spaces of Western-European capital cities (in this case Paris and London) and female sex work during the eighteenth century. Historians have identified the eighteenth century as a period in which there existed a heightened awareness of urban disorder, leading to further anxieties relating to crime and poverty. Robert Shoemaker and David Hitchcock argue that most historians have shied away from these two forces which were behind the complex systems of charity and justice which ultimately shaped the urban environment. This project takes a focused approach to this hypothesis and aims to take it one step further with an emphasis on spatial awareness. The thesis does not merely compare Paris and London, rather it uses both as examples in order to understand the wider concept of space and social control in relation to the sex trade.  Not unlike the prostitute, at its heart, the eighteenth-century city was chaotic, disordered and difficult to manage. In short, I aim to understand the ways in which the sex trade shaped the urban topography and the ways in which that prostitution can be used as a ‘window’ onto urban society in both cities.

    My last trip to Paris, in October of 2017, was funded in full by the SSFH. During this trip, I visited four different archives. The focus of the trip was to access the *Châtelet* records housed within the *Archives Nationales*. I ended up discovering more than I thought I would on the trip and found detailed descriptions of women running brothels or disorderly houses (‘*lieux de mauvaise vie*’). This was particularly useful to me because I already have some similar documents that I had recently acquired on my trip to London and it is not often that one finds criminal documents that are easily compared between the two cities. I also visited the *Archives Historique de la Ville de Paris* to gather some more general information regarding some neighbourhoods which were also of interest to a chapter I’m developing on the nature of urban landscape and prostitution. I also managed to include visits to see more of the Bastille Archives at the Arsenal Library as well as those regarding hospital admissions from the *Assistance Publique des Hôpitaux de Paris*. Overall, for a week-long research trip, it proved to be incredibly productive and extremely useful to my thesis. I remain incredibly grateful to the SSFH for this opportunity.