

This talk investigates the curious recurrence of the simian throughout the art and literature of the long eighteenth century to offer a reading of the simian's intimate connection with plural genders and sexualities. Pairing a canonical artist with a canonical author—Jacob Huysmans and Eliza Haywood—as models of a larger eighteenth-century hermeneutic, I read the simian's appearance alongside the entanglement and fraught intensity of polymorphous pleasures.