



Seminar

PIERRE BRIANT

Professor of History and Civilisation of the Achaemenid World and of the
Empire of Alexander, Collège de France, Paris

Images of Alexander the Great in Europe in the Long Eighteenth Century

Wednesday, 7 May, 6:15 p.m.

In the Thunberg Lecture Hall
SCAS, Linneanum, Thunbergsvägen 2, Uppsala
www.swedishcollegium.se

The seminar will be followed by a reception.
Please register by sending an email to rsvp@swedishcollegium.se no later than 5 May.

In collaboration with *Uppsala Interdisciplinary Seminar in Eighteenth-Century Studies* and the Seminar Series of the *Section for Rhetoric* and for *Greek and Byzantine Studies* respectively, *Uppsala University*.

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ABOUT PIERRE BRIANT

Pierre Briant is Professor of History and Civilisation of the Achaemenid World and of the Empire of Alexander at Collège de France, Paris since 1999. Among his recent publications are *Alexander the Great and His Empire: A Short Introduction* (Princeton University Press, 2010); *Alexandre le Grand* (Coll. Que sais-je?, 7e edition, PUF, Paris, 2011); and *Alexandre des Lumières: fragments d'histoire européenne* (Coll. NRF Essais, Gallimard, 2012).

ABSTRACT

Despite the growing interest in a re-evaluation of the historiography of the Enlightenment, particularly among specialists of the long 18th century, but also (even more recently) among specialists of Ancient History, it has long been assumed that the specific field of 'Alexander History' was not opened until J.-G. Droysen produced his *Geschichte Alexanders der Großen* in 1833. However, as one gets deeper into the European literature of the long 18th century, it soon turns out that Alexander played a central role in the story-telling of European History, particularly vis-à-vis the East. As early as J. C. Gatterer (1767), Alexander, as the victor of the Persians, was seen as the opener of a new phase in the history of European conquests and colonisation of the East; in this way, Alexander's history was de facto included in the *longue durée* of European history. He was considered as a European, or more exactly as 'the first European to have led the Europeans victoriously against the East' (in B.-G. Niebuhr's words, 1829–30). In many ways, actually, Droysen's *Alexander* is a legacy of the Alexander of the Enlightenment.