



Seminar

DENA GOODMAN

Lila Miller Collegiate Professor of History and Women's Studies,
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Science in the Service of a Conquering State, 1793-1814

Wednesday, 6 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 contact marie-christine.skuncke@littvet.uu.se no later than 1 May to sign up.

In collaboration with *Uppsala Interdisciplinary Seminar in Eighteenth-Century Studies*, the
Department of History and the *Office for History of Science, Uppsala University*.

S W E D I S H
C O L L E G I U M
for ADVANCED STUDY

ABOUT DENA GOODMAN

Dena Goodman is Lila Miller Collegiate Professor of History and Women's Studies at the University of Michigan and co-director of The Encyclopedia of Diderot and D'Alembert Collaborative Translation Project, a digital humanities project housed at the University of Michigan. Her research centers on the cultural history of early modern France, with particular interests in the Enlightenment, women and gender, material culture, writing, and sociability. She has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Camargo Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, and the Voltaire Foundation.

Her publications include *The Republic of Letters: A Cultural History of the French Enlightenment* (1994) and *Becoming a Woman in the Age of Letters* (2009). She has also edited or co-edited several volumes, including *Going Public: Women and Publishing in Early Modern France* (1995), *Marie-Antoinette: Writings on the Body of the Queen* (2003) and *Furnishing the Eighteenth Century: What Furniture Can Tell Us about the European and American Past* (2006). She is currently engaged in a family history during the era of the French Revolution which explores Enlightenment legacies in a variety of domains, including science and technology, intellectual sociability, and state service. In 2016-17 she will serve as president of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies.

ABSTRACT

In the two decades following the levée en masse of 1793, France's insatiable demand for soldiers presented both threats and opportunities to young men dedicated to science and technology. As defensive wars turned into wars of conquest, these young men avoided the conscription and advanced their own careers through the use and production of scientific knowledge at the expanding borders of the French hexagon. Invoking their greater usefulness to the patrie as scientists and engineers than as soldiers, they were propelled by a scientifically-based idea of social and economic progress that complemented and supported military conquest and political transformation beyond the Pyrenees, the Mediterranean, and the Rhine. In her paper, the American historian Dena Goodman focusses on five young men who came of age in France between the beginning of the French Revolution in 1789 and the collapse of the Napoleonic Empire in 1814.