

Final Report

Name of BritInn Fellow: Jonathan Singerton

Home Department: Institute for Historical Research **Home University:** University of Innsbruck

Guest Department: Faculty of History/Cambridge New Habsburg Studies Network

Guest University: University of Cambridge

From: 25.10.21 **Until:** 05.11.21

Title of the Research Project: New Perspectives on Eighteenth-Century Habsburg History

Report about visit and future plans (max. 200 words, English):

Thanks to the largesse of the BritInn programme, I was able to visit the University of Cambridge during the winter semester of 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic forced the original schedule of my visit to be delayed until this time and I am grateful to the programme for their support and generosity given this unforeseen circumstance.

The goal of my exchange was to present a paper at the Cambridge New Habsburg History seminar run by Prof. Joachim Whaley, Dr. William O'Reilly, and Dr. Janine Maegraith. The network exists as a forum to facilitate the cutting-edge research on the history of the Habsburg monarchy. It is frequented by a strong cadre of central European and German historians at Cambridge.

My paper focused on a novel approach to the history of the Habsburg Monarchy via the effects of the American Revolution. In my forty-five minute talk titled *The Importance of the American Revolution for the Habsburg Monarchy*, I argued that the Revolution's significant lay not only in its widespread influence within central Europe but also in its invitation to recast Habsburg history from a wider, transatlantic and even global dimension. The paper was well received with fruitful discussions occurring during and after the seminar. Attendance was well above average and featured academics from a broad range of historical fields.

The visit also allowed for broader plans to develop between myself and Dr. O'Reilly relating to widening the study of the eighteenth-century Habsburg Monarchy. One immediate result will be an international conference hosted at the University of Innsbruck in May 2022 focusing on

reconceptualising Habsburg history from a global perspective. Dr. O'Reilly and other members of the Cambridge will be in attendance.

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