The Baylor Libraries invite faculty and students from all departments and disciplines to submit a proposal for the 2016 Baylor Libraries Symposium. This year’s Symposium will recognize the 225th anniversary of the publication of Thomas Paine's *Rights of Man*. While papers that directly address the book and its author or context are encouraged, we also seek abstracts that expand upon concepts and themes from the book. In addition to topics pertaining to the political, historical, or literary context of *Rights of Man*, submissions may include broader discussion of who has rights and who determines them; what rights people have; how rights are defined, violated, or protected; or the development of modern civil, women’s, children’s, and animal rights movements.

Submissions from both faculty and students in all departments are encouraged. **Proposals will be accepted beginning on Wednesday, April 11, 2016, through Wednesday, June 1, 2016, through the Baylor Libraries Symposium website (baylor.edu/library/symposium).** Selected speakers will be invited to give 15-minute oral presentations on Thursday, September 29, or Friday, September 30, 2016.

**Important Dates**

- **Wednesday, June 1, 2016** Abstract Submissions Due
- **Wednesday, July 13, 2016** Notification of Acceptance
- **Thursday, September 29, 2016** Keynote Address
- **Thursday, September 29 and Friday, September 30, 2016** Library Symposium Panel Sessions
- **Friday, September 30, 2016** Closing Address

**About Rights of Man**

The 2016 Annual Baylor Libraries’ Symposium marks the 225th anniversary of Thomas Paine’s *Rights of Man*. Published in London in 1791, *Rights of Man* refuted Edmund Burke’s critical work on the French Revolution, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (1790), which posited that social stability was only attainable through governance by a minority of wealthy social elites. By contrast, Paine reframed the French Revolution as an attack against the tyranny of the French monarchy, which made the government illegitimate, rather than one against the King himself. Throughout the text, he asserted that human rights, which are innate, can neither be granted nor taken away by any political charter. He concluded the treatise by proposing several reforms for the English government, including the establishment of a written Constitution composed by a national assembly, the elimination of aristocratic titles, a progressive income tax, and subsidized education for those living in poverty. Though there were more than 300 pamphlets published on the “revolution controversy,” *Rights of Man* is remembered as being the first to inflict serious damage to Burke’s case and to restore public opinion of the French in Britain and America.
About the Baylor Libraries Symposium

The annual Baylor Libraries Symposium celebrates the major anniversary of a significant publication in order to highlight research and scholarship at the University. This chosen work with a cross-disciplinary appeal changes each year highlighting the humanities, arts, and/or sciences. The symposium includes keynote and closing speakers in addition to conference sessions. A competitive “call for papers” is open to Baylor faculty and students, and a panel of Baylor librarians determines the selection of the final program. Symposium attendance is promoted to regional academic institutions as well as to the Baylor community.

2016 Baylor Library Symposium Planning Committee:

Christina Chan-Park
Debra Davendonis-Todd
Ivy Hamerly
Allison McCormack
Lauren Poor
Sinai Wood

For more information about the 2016 Baylor Libraries Symposium, please contact: librarysymposium@baylor.edu