



December 16, 2013

Prof. Greg Clingham  
Bucknell University Press  
Bucknell University  
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Dear Professor Clingham,

I am seeking a publisher for my book manuscript, *Making Love: Sentiment and Sexuality in Eighteenth-Century British Literature*. Many of my colleagues in eighteenth-century studies, including Chris Mounsey and Tina Brownley, have recommended that I send this manuscript to you.

In *Making Love*, I argue that eighteenth-century philosophers, essayists, and novelists fundamentally reconceived the relations among sentiment, sexuality, and moral virtue. It is my contention that sentimental discourse, both philosophical and literary, posited heterosexual desire as the precondition of moral feeling and conduct. I further suggest that sentimental writers fashioned the ideal of conjugal love as an ideological antidote to the theories of self-love and self-interest found in the works of Thomas Hobbes and Bernard Mandeville. Heterosexual desire and its culmination in conjugal love, in other words, were represented as the privileged means for an individual to transcend self-love and to develop a moral sensibility attuned to the thoughts and feelings of others. At the same time, I suggest, other pleasures and desires—such as those rooted in friendship or same-sex eroticism—were increasingly depicted as antithetical to conjugal love and, thus, were morally devalued and socially disenfranchised. My argument unfolds through close readings of a variety of texts, including the moral treatises of the third earl of Shaftesbury and Francis Hutcheson, the *Tatler* and the *Spectator*, and the novels *Love in Excess*, *Pamela*, and *Tom Jones*. Although these texts embody diverse rhetorical strategies and thematic concerns, I show how they collectively reinforce an overarching sentimental ideology: on the one hand, heterosexual desire becomes synonymous with sympathy, benevolence, and moral goodness, while on the other hand, desires that fall outside the purview of conjugal love are pathologized as selfish withdrawals from procreation, domesticity, sociability, and ultimately, “humanity” itself.

The majority of my book manuscript contains unpublished material. I have published two peer-reviewed articles based on work drawn from *Making Love*. But I am mindful of Bucknell UP’s guidelines regarding pre-publication, and the material that already has appeared in print represents no more than 25% of my book manuscript. The first of these articles, “‘The Glorious Lust of Doing Good’: *Tom Jones* and the Virtues of Sexuality,” appears in the journal *Novel: A Forum on Fiction* (2005) and offers a shorter, earlier version of chapter 5. The second article, “Reason, Madness, and Sexuality in the British Public Sphere,” appears in the journal *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation* (2012) and presents a portion of Chapter 2.

This project began as a doctoral dissertation written under the direction of Claudia L. Johnson and Jeff Nunokawa in the Princeton English department. However, after substantial revision as well as the addition of new material, the manuscript of *Making Love* represents a significant departure from my dissertation.

Along with this letter, I include my book proposal and CV. My proposal provides an in-depth introduction to the project, a detailed summary of my chapters, an assessment of the project's audience and market competition, and a brief bibliography. The introduction and chapters 2, 3, 4, and 5 are ready for submission. I expect to complete revisions of chapter 1 by February 1, 2014.

I will be happy to answer any questions or to provide you with further information. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Kelleher".

Paul Kelleher  
Assistant Professor  
Department of English  
Emory University