

Armel Cornu, Ph.D

Uppsala Universitet

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Current Position

October 2023 to September 2026: Postdoctoral position based at the University of Uppsala and ICT, funded by the Vetenskapsrådet International Postdoc Grant | Project title: Swedish Science & Copper in the Making of the Eighteenth-Century French Empire

Education

- 2012–2015: Bachelor degree in Chemistry
Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris VI
 - 2012–2015: Bachelor degree in History
Université Sorbonne, Paris IV
 - 2015–2017: Masters degree in History of science
Université Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris I
 - 2017–2022: Doctoral degree in History of Science
University of Uppsala, supervised by Otto Sibum, Hjalmar Fors, and Sven Widmalm.
Thesis title: *Enlightening waters, science, market and regulation of mineral waters in eighteenth-century France*
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Research areas

French Enlightenment • History of Science • History of Chemistry • History of Medicine • Public History

Fellowships & awards

2023 — Partington Prize, awarded by the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry for the essay: “Senses and Utility in the New Chemistry” (2023).

2022-2023 — Price postdoctoral fellowship at the Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry at the Science History Institute.

2022 — Research stipend awarded by the Karin Johannisson fond.

2022 — Research stipend awarded by the Ragnhild Blomqvist fond.

2019 — Travel grant awarded by the Othmer Library of Chemical History.

2019 — Travel grant awarded by the Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT).

2018 — Stipend awarded by the Riksbankens Jubileumsfond.

2014 — Research internship on the ENCCRE project funded by the Académie des Sciences and the UPMC.

Publications

Peer-reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

“Senses and Utility in the New Chemistry”, *Ambix*, 70:4, (2023) (Accepted, Forthcoming).

“Distribuer les eaux minérales à Lyon au XVIIIe siècle : entre sciences, marchés et régulation”, *Médecine des eaux. L’usage médical des eaux minérales (1300-1850)*, *Histoire, médecine et santé*, (2023) (Accepted, Forthcoming).

“Public history on the forum r/AskHistorians”, book chapter in Armel Cornu, Carl-Filip Smedberg, Sarah Vorminder (eds.), *Public history in action: past, present, and future practices of making history public*, (Uppsala: Opuscula Historica Upsaliensia, 2023).

“La chimie au service de la médecine des eaux, Intégrer l’analyse chimique à la Société Royale de Médecine”, *L’Actualité chimique*, 459, (2021), 41–46.

Review of Philip Rieder and François Zanetti (ed.), *Materia Medica, Savoirs et usages des médicaments aux époques médiévales et modernes*, (Genève: Librairie Droz, 2018), *Pharmacy in History*, 61:3-4 (2019), 169–170.

“Appraising waters, The assimilation of chemists into the trade of mineral waters in eighteenth-century France”, *Circumscribere*, 24, (2019).

Books

Armel Cornu, Carl-Filip Smedberg, Sarah Vorminder (eds.), *Public history in action: past, present, and future practices of making history public*, (Uppsala: Opuscula Historica Upsaliensia, 2023). ISBN: 978-91-984509-6-5.

Doctoral thesis

Cornu, Armel, 2022. Enlightening Water. Science, market & regulation of mineral waters in eighteenth-century France. Uppsala Studies in History of Ideas 55. (Uppsala: Acta Universitatis Upsaliensis). ISBN 978-91-513-1448-8.

Conferences and talks

Invited talks

“Spas, bottles, and water analysis in the French Enlightenment”, Meeting of the Apotekarsocieteten (Stockholm, 2022).

“Les critères d’évaluation d’une eau minérale au XVIIIe siècle : entre chimie, médecine et commerce”, Seminar series *Thermalisme et Politique (XVIIe–XIXe siècle)* (Online, 2021).

“Magical Waters, Holistic Cures, Scientific Remedies: Evolution of the use of mineral water in the eighteenth century”, *Seminário do Meio-Dia* at CESIMA (São Paulo, 2019).

“Enlightening Water: Chemical Analysis in eighteenth-century France”, *Seminário Especial em História da Ciência* at CESIMA (São Paulo, 2019).

Conference presentations

“Water and Minerals in the Economy of the French Eighteenth Century”, *The Water Cultures of Europe and the Mediterranean, 1500-1900* (Venice, 2023).

“La standardisation de l’analyse chimique de l’eau au XVIIIe siècle face au problème de la fiabilité”, XIVth Meeting of the Société française d’histoire des sciences et des techniques (Bordeaux, 2023).

“Drinking Mineral Waters in Eighteenth-Century France: A study of practices through the network of water distributors”, 14th European Social Science History Conference (Göteborg, 2023).

“The chemical analysis of mineral waters, constructing knowledge between spring and laboratory”, SHAC Postgraduate Workshop (Online, 2022).

“Tasting healing waters: The sensory experience of chemists in early modern France”, 9th ESHS Conference, Visual, Material and Sensory Cultures of Science (Online, 2020).

“Expertiser les eaux minérales: l’analyse chimique à la Société Royale de Médecine.”, Colloque de la Société Chimique de France (Paris, 2020).

“Negotiating chemical standards: the moral economy of mineral waters in eighteenth-century France”, International Conference on the History of Chemistry (I2CHC) (Maastricht, 2019).

“Analyser les eaux par les sens”, Cinquième Convention Internationale d’Histoire et des Cultures de l’Alimentation, (Tours, 2019).

“Adjusting the analysis of water to a chemical standard”, *Science and the Knowing Body: Material Practices of Science in a Global Context*, Workshop (Uppsala, 2019).

“Performing emotions when negotiating scientific expertise”, *Study on Emotion*, Workshop (Uppsala, 2019).

“The Moral Economy of Mineral Waters: Chemical and moral standards in the eighteenth-century bottled water trade.”, 7th Norwegian Conference on the History of Science (Oslo, 2018).

Teaching

“Technology, power and the future of humanity” (Teknik, makt och mänsklighetens framtid, 7.5 hp) Seminar leader at CEMUS (2021, 1 semester).

“What is modern love? Love as a philosophical, political and social concept, 1750–2000” (Vad är modern kärlek? Kärlek som filosofiskt, politiskt och socialt koncept, 1750–2000 7,5hp.) Co-creator of the course with Miranda Cox, lecturer, seminar leader, (2021, 1 semester).

“Modern history of medicine” (Modern Medicinhistoria, B course). Seminar leader and lecturer, (2018-2019, 2 semesters).

“STS and science studies” (Teknik- och vetenskapsstudier; historia, C course). Seminar leader and supervision of research projects (2018–2019, 2 semesters).

Private tutoring (2015–2017, 4 semesters).

Related Professional Experience

Professional Experience

Editor on the book *Public history in action: past, present, and future practices of making history public* (Uppsala: Acta Universitatis Upsaliensis, 2023) (2021–2023).

Editor of the series *Salvia Småskrifter* (2018–2021).

Administrative Assistant to the Rausing Chair for the History of Science at Uppsala University. (Travel organisation - Event coordination - Research Assistance and Editing) (2018–2021).

Professional Training and Certifications

Academic teacher training course at Uppsala University (2021).

Introduction to Digital Humanities, Python Programming workshop at Oxford University (2018).

Professional training in the arts and humanities (2017).

Introduction to the creation and use of historical databases (SQL, PHP, HTML/CSS) (2015–2017).

Outreach

“Mineral Water in the French Enlightenment: A Popular Remedy and Chemical Mystery”, Public lecture hosted by the Science History Institute’s Lunchtime lecture series ([Online](#), 2022).

“How do we know when water is safe to drink? The early modern origins of water analysis”, *Jargonium*, blog for the history of chemistry ([Online](#), 2022).