This workshop will address women’s activities at the scale of the circle, network, or community. It will explore how communities and networks of women were created and maintained. It seeks to understand the contexts in which they operated, how they related to existing scientific communities or how they generated new ones. It will ask what were the acceptable topics, the ways of doing, and the preconditions for these communities to be able to engage in science. How did they foster new femininities, and new roles for women in society? How did their practices mirror, reinforce, and sometimes challenge contemporary ideas of gender, and how did they demarcate masculine domains in science? What forces were at work to enable such network-building and scientific activity? What forces disaggregated these communities, preventing their formation or disrupting their continuity?
PROGRAM
13 SEPTEMBER

Strand Building S8.08 (8th floor)
King’s College London
Strand
London WC2R 2LS

9:30-9:45.
Welcome

9:45-11:15.
Session 1: Bodies
Lucy Havard (UCL). Trying and Testing in the Early Modern Kitchen
Helen Esfandiary (Kings’ College London). Maternal Responsibilities and Knowledge of Smallpox Inoculation in eighteenth-century England
Chair: Simon Werrett

11:15-11:30.
Coffee

11:30-13:00.
Session 2: Economies
Loïc Charles (Université de Paris 8) and Christine Théré (Institut national d’études démographiques). Les femmes économistes: The place of women in the physiocratic community
Elena Serrano (MPIWG-Berlin). Women Improvers: Gendering Useful Knowledge in the Spanish Enlightenment
Chair: Mónica Bolufer (Universitat de Valencia)

13:00-13:30.
Lunch

13:30-15:00.
Session 3: Displays
Arlene Leis (University of York). Intellectual Collecting and Sociable Display: The Scientific Networking of Lady Dorothea and Sarah Sophia Banks
Francesca Antonelli (EHESS). Representations of Women in Madame Lavoisier’s Correspondence
Chair: Anna Maerker

15:00-15:15.
Coffee

15:15-16:45.
Session 4: Politics
Mascha Hansen (University of Greifswald). Between Bluestockings and Botanists: Queen Charlotte’s Networks
Harriet Lloyd (UCL) Rulers of Opinion: The Distinguished Patronesses of the Royal Institution of Great Britain
Chair: Elena Serrano

16:45-17:30.
General Discussion

18:30.
Dinner (for invited speakers)

Organizers
Anna Maerker (Kings College London)
Elena Serrano (MPIWG-Berlin)
Simon Werrett (University College London)

Sponsors
Department of History and Centre for Enlightenment Studies, King’s College London