

## SAMUEL RICHARDSON IN CONTEXT

Since the publication of his novel *Pamela; or, Virtue Rewarded* in 1740, Samuel Richardson's place in the English literary tradition has been secured. But how can that place best be described? Over the three centuries since embarking on his printing career the 'divine' novelist has been variously understood as moral crusader, advocate for women, pioneer of the realist novel, and print innovator. Situating Richardson's work within these social, intellectual, and material contexts this new volume of essays identifies his centrality to the emergence of the novel, the self-help book, and the idea of the professional author, as well as his influence on the development of the modern English language; the capitalist economy; and gendered, medicalised, urban, and national identities. This book enables a fuller understanding and appreciation of Richardson's life, work, and legacy and points the way for future studies of one of English literature's most celebrated novelists.

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Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-15012-6 — Samuel Richardson in Context  
Edited by Peter Sabor , Betty A. Schellenberg  
Frontmatter  
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## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom  
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
4843/24, 2nd Floor, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, Delhi – 110002, India  
79 Anson Road, #06-04/06, Singapore 079906

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[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781107150126](http://www.cambridge.org/9781107150126)

DOI: 10.1017/9781316576755

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First published 2017

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ International Ltd. Padstow Cornwall

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

ISBN 978-1-107-15012-6 Hardback

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