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978-1-107-19519-6 — Masculinity, Militarism and Eighteenth-Century Culture, 1689–1815

Julia Banister

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## MASCULINITY, MILITARISM AND EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY CULTURE, 1689–1815

This book investigates the figure of the military man in the long eighteenth century in order to explore how ideas about militarism served as vehicles for conceptualizations of masculinity. Julia Banister's discussion draws on a range of printed materials, including canonical literary and philosophical texts by David Hume, Adam Smith, Horace Walpole and Jane Austen, and texts relating to the court martial trials of Admirals Richard Lestock, John Byng and Augustus Keppel, to examine eighteenth-century arguments about militarism that presented masculinity as a product of the 'naturally' sexed body and those that construed masculinity as social construction and performance. By mapping ideas about militarism, including professionalism and heroism, alongside broader cultural concerns with politeness, sensibility, the gothic past and celebrity, Julia Banister reveals how those ideas about masculinity and militarism were shaped by and within eighteenth-century culture.

JULIA BANISTER is a senior lecturer in English Literature at the School of Cultural Studies and Humanities, Leeds Beckett University.

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