

**Knowing Landscape, Knowing Country: Improvement, Enlightenment, and Ideas of Nature in
Scotland, 1750-1815**

Emma Moesswilde, Class of 2018

My research for the summer focused on the role of landscape and nature in the eighteenth-century Scottish Enlightenment, an intellectual movement focused on using new types of knowledge to change individuals, society and even nature. I asked how these changes came about both intellectually and culturally, and how they influenced and impacted the physical environment. Although there are numerous studies of the cultural importance of the Scottish landscape, as well as studies of nature in the Enlightenment, my research brought together these two lines of inquiry to form a more complete picture of how nature was used and perceived in the eighteenth century. My work explores and expands upon the role and agency of nature in the Scottish Enlightenment to further understand how human ideas of nature changed at the beginning of the modern era.

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