

Ros Ballaster is Professor of Eighteenth-Century Studies in the Faculty of English, University of Oxford and professorial fellow at Mansfield College. Ros is a literary historian with a particular interest in the history of narrative and performance. She has published monographs and many articles on the 'rise' of the novel exploring the significance of romance fiction, women's writing (*Seductive Forms*, 1992), and the oriental tale (*Fabulous Orientals*, 2005). She edited Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* for Penguin Classics (1995). In recent years her research interest has turned to the interaction of the Georgian (eighteenth-century) theatre and the novel and her book *Fictions of Presence in the eighteenth-century Theatre and Novel* was published by Boydell Press in August 2020. Her current project extends her thinking about 'presence' in art through an investigation into our search to make past worlds tangible again in contemporary narrative forms, particularly those designed to provide immersive, long-serial experiences to the consumer. She is exploring contemporary intermedial treatments of the eighteenth century on the stage, page and screen with the working hypothesis that the 'long' eighteenth century (from the latter half of the seventeenth century to the mid-nineteenth) is increasingly shaped in contemporary print, screen and stage as a form of speculative fiction: a world beyond our known one, a place of world-making and shape-shifting between media and social forms.

