Literary studies is changing shape—both deepening, into searchable and growing databases of historical and current materials, and extending, across the globe and into and through new technologies. To plot a future, we need a way of framing the many different kinds of things we do—we need a rubric adequate to our past and to this changing present. The NYU English Department has become an important site for our discipline’s efforts to reimagine itself—and the concept of “mediation” has surfaced in work by our faculty and students across the historical periods. Many of them will join us for sessions of our “Re:Enlightenment Lab.” The “Re:” links past to present, asking us to consider what forms our Enlightenment inheritance—universities and schools, libraries and museums, periodicals and procedures—might take now. When English Departments, for example, first formed in Britain in the early nineteenth century, they played a key role in mediating the relationship between a changing society and its changing technologies. Should we and can we play that role today? How might our work work in the world? To conduct our inquiries as a “lab” is to invite doing as well as thinking—and doing so collaboratively as well as individually. Our readings will not be restricted to Enlightenment genres and texts, but will range back to Early Modern broadside ballads and forward to contemporary science fiction. And, as our group takes shape next fall, your particular interests will be added to our agenda.