This talk investigates the curious recurrence of the simian throughout the art and literature of the long eighteenth century to offer a reading of the simian’s intimate connection with plural genders and sexualities. Pairing a canonical artist with a canonical author—Jacob Huysmans and Eliza Haywood—as models of a larger eighteenth-century hermeneutic, I read the simian’s appearance alongside the entanglement and fraught intensity of polymorphous pleasures. “Simian Sexuality” patterns the simian inclusion so as to synthesize how the eighteenth-century monkey (1) signals non-heteronormative arrangements of genders, sexualities, and embodiments; (2) calls into question the fungible hierarchy positions of human and animal; and (3) illustrates how tactile interspecies relationships are mediated by erotic caresses and violations.