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(Una modesta proposición para) El estudio comparado de la literatura inglesa del siglo XVIII

ABSTRACT: This paper suggests, after an ironic preamble which explains the presentation of the essay as “a modest proposal”, three possibilities for the teaching and also the research of 18th-Century English literature from the perspective and with the methods of comparative literature. In the first part, María Losada Friend explores how Augustan authors not only use but also abuse the classics in different kinds and forms of literature, and advocates a revision of the term and concept Augustan, which usually identifies the literature of the time. In the second part, Ricardo Navarrete Franco traces the permanence and transformations of the rules and norms we associate with the Neoclassical aesthetics dominating the 18th Century. In the third part, Pedro Javier Pardo García analyses the influence of two narrative models, the Quixotic and the picaresque, imported from Spain via France, on the rise of the 18th-Century English novel. The paper thus attempts to illustrate the benefits and advantages of a comparative approach in our understanding of English –and any– national literature.