Lecture summary:
This lecture looks at the meteoric rise of Jeanne-Antoinette le Normant d'Étioles, née Poisson and subsequently the marquise de Pompadour, who became Louis XV's mistress in 1745 and remained his loyal confident until her death in 1764. During the course of her nineteen year relationship with the king, Pompadour amassed an impressive collection of fine and decorative objects and played an active role as a patron and protector of the arts. Accordingly, this lecture will look at her rise to power and how her elevation was expressed through the choices she made as a patron. This lecture will also consider a number of portraits commissioned by the marquise, particularly those produced after 1750, when she was no longer the titular mistress of the king. These portraits disseminate a signature iconography, which not only conveys the changed relationship between Pompadour and the king, but also her attempt to redefine herself through a series of works created in her image.

Slide list:
1. François Boucher, Portrait of Mme de Pompadour at her Toilette, 1758. Oil on canvas. Cambridge, Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University Art Museums.
10. Jean-Marc Nattier, Portrait of Mme de Pompadour as Diana, 1748, Versailles, Musée National de Château.
12. Lucca Penni, Diane de Poitiers as Diana, c. 1550, Oil on Canvas, Paris, Musée du Louvre.
18. Etienne Maurice Falconet, Friendship (Figure of Madame de Pompadour), 1755. Biscuit Porcelain. Durham, Bowes Museum.
25. François Boucher, Portrait of Mme de Pompadour, c. 1750. Oil on paper. Paris, Musée du Louvre.
27. François Boucher, Portrait of Mme de Pompadour, c. 1758. Oil on canvas. London, The Victoria and Albert Museum.
* 29. François Boucher, Portrait of Mme de Pompadour, 1756. Oil on canvas. Munich, Alte Pinakothek.

Reference:

Jessica Priebe is an independent scholar and lecturer who specialises in seventeenth-and eighteenth-century French art. She received her PhD from the University of Sydney, authoring a thesis on the collection of François Boucher. Jessica is the winner of the 2008 Dora Wiebenson prize. She recently published two essays on the subject of illustration and ornament and their role in the visual and material culture of eighteenth-century France. Jessica lectures in art history and theory at the University of Sydney and at the College of Fine Arts (COFA).
François Boucher, *Portrait of Mme de Pompadour*, 1756. Oil on canvas. Munich, Alte Pinakothek