Genealogies of Genius

Scholars from several disciplines and nations will discuss the idea of genius in modern societies, beginning with the concept's emergence in the eighteenth century and paying particular attention to the complex role of the genius figure in democratic culture.

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2012

9:00 Registration & Coffee

9:30 Session 3 Ars et Ingenium

Moderator: John Brewer (California Institute of Technology)

David Bates (University of California, Berkeley)
“The Secret Nature of Insight”

Lennard Davis (University of Illinois, Chicago)
“Genius and Obsession: Do You Have to be Mad to be Smart?”

Janet Browne (Harvard University)
“Inspiration or Perseveration: Francis Galton’s Hereditary Genius in Victorian Context”

12:30 Lunch

1:30 Session 4 Genius and the Avant-Garde

Moderator: Kevin Gilmartin (California Institute of Technology)

Irina Sirotkina (Institute for the History of Science and Technology, Moscow)
“Cultivating Genius in a Bolshevik Country”

Lucy Delap (Cambridge University)
“‘Genius must do the scullery work of the world’: New Women, Feminists, and Genius, c. 1880–1920”

3:30 Roundtable

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William Blake, 
All religions are one, 
c. 1788.