The event will probe the ways in which the Romantic period, and our own treatments of it, broach, revive or invent notions of time and futurity to deal with the cultural, social and political challenges of the period—a moment when the past flashed up in a moment of danger, as Benjamin said, and the present was meant to be blasted out of the continuum of history. If history was a record of progress, as Enlightened thinkers argued, that was also a document of barbarity, how did this apprehension stoke the period’s writings and forms of collective action and identity?