



THE UNIVERSITY *of York*

Newsletter Summer 2011

Just a taste of what has been happening this year, and a glimpse of things to come in the Autumn term at the Centre for Eighteenth Century Studies.



I look forward to welcoming you to the Centre next term. We have an exciting series of events and a great range of modules lined up for the coming year, to complement the wide range of research interests of staff and students at CECS. We believe you'll find studying here an enjoyable and richly rewarding experience.

Harriet Guest
CECS Director

What's it like studying at CECS?

What I like most about being affiliated with the Centre is that from day one you're fully integrated into the postgraduate lifestyle. You're invited to attend conferences and to see academics present their latest research before their peers. You can take part in the day-to-day work of world-leading scholars from around the world, and your opinion is always considered, rather than 'indulged' by the people you work with. There's a great sense of equality between the MAs, PhDs and staff here.

The facilities at King's Manor are very good – particularly useful is the private workroom, reserved specifically for CECS postgrads – although you may need to fight the pigeons if you want to take a break out on the roof. The university library houses most of the books you'll need, and a few special collections you can't get anywhere else, which gives your research a bit of a boost.

The world-class scholarly environment, the big names and the great facilities are what drew me to the Centre, but what I ended up liking most about it were the friends I made here.

Ryan Hanley,
MA in Eighteenth Century Studies,
on the Global Eighteenth Century Pathway.

Events this Autumn...

CECS Autumn Workshop: The Grand Tour in Britain and Ireland



Our Autumn Term CECS day workshop will take place on 3rd December on the topic of the Grand Tour in Britain and Ireland. Participants include John Barrell, John Bonehill, Mary-Ann Constantine, Markman Ellis, Jon Finch, Harriet Guest, Emma Major, Alison O'Byrne, Jim Watt.

The Annual Stephen Copley Lecture

This year's Annual Stephen Copley Lecture will be given on 18th October by **Nigel Leask**, Regius Professor of English at the University of Glasgow. Professor Leask's publications include *The Politics of Imagination in Coleridge's Critical Thought* (1988), *British Romantic Writers and The East: Anxieties of Empire* (1992), and *Curiosity and the Aesthetics of Travel Writing, 1770-1840: 'From an Antique Land'* (2002). His current research examines Anglo-Scottish literary relations in the late eighteenth century.

Autumn Term Research Seminars

Dr Alison O'Byrne is co-ordinating our Research Seminars for the coming year. In Autumn Term the speakers are **Helen Cowie**, York (see next page) **Heather Glen**, Cambridge (*Charlotte Bronte: the Imagination in History*, 2002), **Matthew Grenby**, Newcastle (*The Anti-Jacobin Novel: British Conservatism and the French Revolution*, 2002), **Katrina Navickas**, Hertfordshire (*Loyalism and Radicalism in Lancashire, 1798-1815*, 2009) and **Julie Carlson**, California (*England's First Family of Writers: Mary Wollstonecraft, William Godwin, Mary Shelley*, 2007). In the Spring speakers include **Penny Fielding**, Edinburgh (*Scotland and the Fictions of Geography: North Britain 1760-1830*, 2008), **Christina Lupton**, Michigan, (*Knowing Books: The Consciousness of Mediation in Eighteenth-Century Britain*, 2011), and **Sharon Ruston**, Salford (*Shelley and Vitality*, 2005).



What happens at the CECS Postgraduate Forum ?



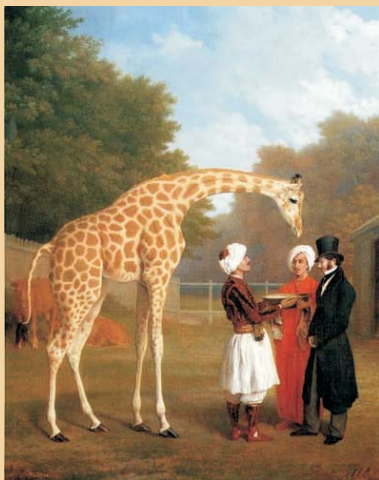
The CECS Postgraduate Forum is a student-lead interdisciplinary research group that meets on Tuesdays, 4-6pm, four times a term, to listen to and discuss papers from fellow York postgrads, students from other universities, and visiting professors, in a relaxed and friendly environment. In our first meeting, on Tuesday of week 1, we hope to welcome a new generation of CECS Forum members with an array of light refreshments, and give them a flavour of the exciting and diverse research community they have joined with some very brief, informal presentations from some of our regular contributors. There will then be a move to a nearby pub! We hope to see you there.

Adam Perchard and Ruth Scobie

The postgraduate forum brings together Masters and PhD students from all the CECS-related departments. It's an ideal place for CECS students to practice giving papers for conferences or to get feedback on an essay or chapter from a receptive audience.

Jenny Basford, PG Forum organiser, 2010-11

New Arrival: Dr Helen Cowie



We are very pleased to welcome another historian specialising in the eighteenth century to the University of York and to CECS. Dr Helen Cowie's research interests lie in the collections and study of natural history in the Spanish Empire, 1750-1850, and zoos and menageries in the Atlantic World.

She will be offering a new MA module this year for CECS students: *Exotic Animals in Europe, 1650-1850: Exhibition, Education and Entertainment*. It will explore the multiple roles of exotic animals in the period 1650-1850, considering how and why they were collected, where and to whom they were exhibited and what reactions they generated.

Activities at CECS 2010-11

It's been a lively year here at CECS. An enthusiastic and gregarious group of 19 MA students joined our hard-working PhD postgraduates and staff to ensure the success of our research activities.

Alison O'Byrne organised a wonderful programme of Tuesday research seminars through the year, with topics including the Eighteenth-century Plant Trade, Picturesque Tourism in Ireland, Eighteenth-century Trade Cards, Gibbon, Smith and the American War, and Byron's Freedom of Speech.

In December we held a conference **London Scenes**, one of the only university events not cancelled by the heavy snow. Speakers included Jon Mee, John Barrell, John Bonehill, Markham Ellis, Alison O'Byrne and Stephen Daniels.

First thing in January 2011, we held a CECS colloquium, **Writing Marginal Lives, or A Medley of Characters**. Our Australian visiting scholars, Iain McCalman and Kate Fullager both gave papers, along with Colin Jones, Mark Philp, John Barrell and Emma Major.

Finally, two of our postgraduate students, Hannah Lyons (MA in 18th Century Studies), and Jordan Vibert (doctoral student) organised an extremely successful conference in June, **Placing Faces: Portraiture and the Country House**. The speakers were Gill Perry, Marcia Pointon, Kate Retford, Desmond Shawe-Taylor, Leslie Johnson and Jordan Vibert. A full review of the conference written by Sam Smith, a CECS MA student, is on the CECS website, but here are his concluding remarks:

As filled as it was with fascinating arguments, brilliant interpretations, and nice light-hearted jokes, **Placing Faces** did offer more than this. In a relaxed and well-organized setting the presenting scholars gave papers with ease and questions and doubts could be raised and explored with friendliness, as well as intellectual vigour. In the end then the day must be given over to the two organizers, Hannah Lyons and Jordan Vibert, both postgraduates at York, who brought together a stellar line-up and ensured the day flowed smoothly and logically from beginning to end.



Another highlight of the year was the introduction of the CECS film club, organised by John Barrell, where brave souls watched such masterpieces as **The Bad Lord Byron**, directed by David McDonald, 1949 (which had the film byline: *A visit with England's greatest sinner*), **Beau Brummell**, directed by Curtis Bernhardt, 1954, and **The Young Mr Pitt**, directed by Carol Reed in 1942. The screenings were followed by an in-depth analysis of the films at The Lamb and Lion hostelry.