**The Grand Tour in Britain and Ireland**

**Centre for Eighteenth Century Studies**

**December 3, 2011**

9.30-5.00, King’s Manor.

Travel for pleasure or health in Britain and Ireland first became widely available to the affluent middling classes in the eighteenth century. For much of the period 1700-1830 Britain was at war with at least one of its continental neighbours; possibilities for European travel were severely restricted, and tourism within Britain and Ireland flourished. What did this newly accessible and eagerly grasped freedom to roam mean to the domestic tourist; how did the pictorial representation of journeys or sites shape their sense of themselves or of the country in the crucial period of its transition to becoming a modern and united kingdom?

The workshop will provide a forum for discussing a series of images relating to tourist travel in Britain and Ireland in the period. Each speaker will select an image, or perhaps a series of images, to consider, and offer a brief exploration of its possibilities before opening the floor to discussion.

**Programme**

*9.30 Registration and coffee*

10.00 Welcome

Mary Ann Constantine (University of Wales CAWC),

‘Curt, frittered fragments’: Thomas Pennant’s Tour in  Scotland (1772)

Alison O’Byrne (York)

Calton Hill, Edinburgh

*11.15-11.30 coffee*

Jim Watt (York)

Gothic Tourism: William Bellers, ‘South-East View of Netley Abbey, near Southampton’  (1774)

Sarah Monks (UEA),

Turner and Vagrancy

*1.00-2.00 Lunch*

John Bonehill (Glasgow), and Stephen Daniels (Nottingham),

'Where Nature & Art has had an equal share': Thomas Sandby and Nottingham

Donna Landry (Kent),

Patriotic Tourism in Kent, 1799, and Paul Sandby's Horses: Speculation and Marginalia

*3.00-3.15 Break*

Jonathan Finch (York),

The Farmer's Gaze: an alternative perspective on the Irish Grand Tour

Finola O’Kane (UCD),

Reluctant Tourists; Visiting absentee landlords and their shifting views of eighteenth-century Ireland

*4.15 Concluding discussion*