In The Spectator, Joseph Addison famously claimed: “I shall be ambitious to have it said of me, that I have brought Philosophy out of Closets and Libraries, Schools and Colleges, to dwell in Clubs and Assemblies, at Tea-tables, and in Coffee houses” (March 12, 1711). From those clubs and coffee houses, arguably not only philosophy but also a British culture of sociability spread throughout Europe via travel and treatises, consumption and commerce, debate and dissent.

Throughout Europe, the acceleration not only of the speed of travelling but also of the exchange of ideas and narratives, letters and books propelled cultural contacts and advanced sociability. While the polite society of salons and debating rooms has received quite some consideration by now, other places and other forms or styles of sociability are still in the process of being investigated. “Sociable encounters” is thus a topic meant to address a broader range of private and public, urban or provincial, professional, political or plebeian, formal and also informal meetings that led to a meaningful exchange of opinions and practices of sociability in Europe and ultimately ushered in modernity. Yet how much, where, and in which ways, did British sociability actually influence sociable practices in the rest of Europe? How did it affect cultural practices throughout Europe, sociable rituals or even local customs? How did sociable meetings between individual travelers or groups of travelers with their sociable hosts actually proceed, and which encounters proved to be meaningful or influential in the long run?

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Thursday, 31st May 2018
9:15 am – 9:45 am
Registration

10:00 am – 11:00 am

**Keynote Talk:**
Cultural Consumption and Sociability in Eighteenth-Century Germany
Michael North (Greifswald)

11:00 am – 11:30 am
Tea and Coffee

**Session I: Tourism and Sociability**
Chair: Alain Kerhervé
11:30 am – 13:00 pm
Touring Empty Graves: Sensibility and Sociability in Literary Gardens
Helen Williams (Newcastle)
Coleridge in Germany: Festive Socializing & Bacchanalian Sympathy
Kimberley Page-Jones (Brest)
Medicinal Sociability? British Bluestocking Sociability and the Continental Spa
Mascha Hansen (Greifswald)

13:00 pm – 14:00 pm
Lunch Break

**Session II: Literary Sociability**
Chair: Mascha Hansen
14:00 pm – 15:30 PM
Private Theatricals and Networks: Elisabeth Craven, Margravine of Anspach, and Horace Walpole
Susanne Schmid (Berlin)
A Temple to Love and Friendship: Enlightened Sociability as Virtuous Ideal and Cultural Practice in Frances Brooke’s “The History of Lady Julia Mandeville” (1763)
Katrin Berndt (Halle-Wittenberg)

15:30 pm – 16:00 pm
Tea and Coffee

**Session III: Digitens: New Ideas in Sociability Studies**
Chair: Annick Cossic
16:00 pm – 16:45 pm
Grisol and Digitens – panel discussion
Input by Valérie Capdeville (Paris)

17:30 pm – 19:00 pm
Optional: Tour by the Caspar David Friedrich Centre

Friday, 1st June 2018

**Session I: Professional and Practical Sociability**
Chair: Allan Ingram
9:30 am – 10:45 am
Charles Macklin and the sociability of the ‘British Inquisition’
Markman Ellis (London)
Philip Thicknesse’s Sociable Encounters in Europe: Portrait of an Early Europhile
Annick Cossic (Brest)

10:45 am – 11:15 am
Tea and Coffee

**Session II: Travel and Sociability**
Chair: Helen Williams
11:15 am – 12:45 pm
The Cham on the Seine: Dr. Johnson in Paris (and Mrs Thrale)
Allan Ingram (Newcastle)

12:45 pm – 13:45 pm
Lunch Break

**Session III: Commerce, Sports and Sociability**
Chair: Valérie Capdeville
13:45 pm – 15:15 pm
Sociability and Robinson Crusoe
Jakub Lipski (Bydgoszcz)
Sociable Encounters in Model Commercial Letters
Alain Kerhervé (Brest)
Philip Astley’s Riding School in Paris in the late 1780’s
Laurent Turcot via Skype (Québec)

15:15 pm – 15:45 pm
Tea and Coffee

**Session IV: Sociability and Philosophy**
Chair: Mascha Hansen
15:45 pm – 16:45 pm
“Tis the height of Wisdom, no doubt, to be rightly selfish”: Religion, Party Freuds, and the True Meaning and Scope of Sociability in Shaftesbury
Patrick Müller (Dresden)
Hume and de Maistre: Sociable Fundamentalism
Michael Szczekalla (Greifswald)

19:30 pm
Conference Dinner at the Goldmarie