

### **2017 PCCBS Article Prize Winner**

**Steve Hindle, “Representing Rural Society: Labor, Leisure and the Landscape in an Eighteenth-Century Conversation Piece,” *Critical Inquiry* 41, no. 3 (Spring 2015): 615-54.**

The PCCBS Article Prize Committee for 2017 is delighted to make its biannual award to Steve Hindle (Huntington Library) for his elegant and intellectually capacious article “Representing Rural Society: Labor, Leisure and the Landscape in an Eighteenth-Century Conversation Piece,” published in the *Journal Critical Inquiry*.

From its richly evocative opening, “Representing Rural Society” takes the reader on a compelling intellectual journey which spans the micro details of a single image and the macro trends of eighteenth-century English labor history, rural transformation, political philosophy and gender. Hindle's central “conversaton piece” is Edward Haytley's painting, *Extensive view from the Terraces of Sandleford Priory*. This painting was commissioned in 1743 by the Montagu family, the owners of the estate, who are themselves portrayed in the image's foreground. Various workers on the estate appear in the background. Hindle deftly explores this image and the worlds of its painter, patrons, and plebeian subjects by drawing upon art historical scholarship, detailed biographical study, the technicalities of agricultural history and extensive archival research. The article is beautifully written and bold in ambition, yet it is also sensitive to the ambiguities of its subject matter and the limitations of what can be reconstructed about 'leisure' and the experience of 'labor' in the eighteenth century. All in all, this is a superb paper which artfully demonstrates many of the possibilities of the scholarly article.

### **Honorable Mention**

**Pryia Satia, “Byron, Gandhi and the Thompsons: The Making of British Social History and the Unmaking of Indian History,” *History Workshop Journal* 81 (Spring 2016): 135-170.**

The committee commends Pryia Satia for her article that brilliantly constructs a compelling case for the importance of India in the making of “E.P. Thompson, historian” and simultaneously deconstructs the cultural assumptions which under-gird modern histories of India. Polemical and explicitly personal in nature, this superb paper raises large questions about the very nature of Western secular 'history.' Although very different in form and tone from Hindle's masterful essay, Satia's paper is no less an intellectual tour de force.