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## John Brewer (Boston, USA)

Travel Writing in the Romantic Era.

Truth, Transport and Affective Realism

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This paper on Anglophone travel writing in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries emphasizes the neglected topic of its reception. It argues that much historical and literary commentary on such writing fails to understand how the genre was shaped and understood, not least in the literary marketplace. According to Romantic readers and critics, the most successful writing employed “affective realism”, a combination of philosophical analysis, empirical observation and literary techniques designed to engage the feelings of the (general) reader. The importance ascribed to this mixture complicates the present-day scholarly preoccupations with “otherness” and authorial identity, enables us to ascribe historical specificity to travel writing of the period, and to evaluate the effectiveness of its different forms.

**John Brewer** is Professor Emeritus of History and Literature who taught as the Eli and Edythe Broad Professor at the California Institute of Technology from 2003 to 2016. He has previously held faculty positions at the University of Chicago, European University Institute in Florence, UCLA, Harvard University, Yale University, and Cambridge University. Brewer was also a visiting professor at Washington University in St. Louis and a research fellow at Cambridge University. In 2011, he was a visiting professor at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris. Further research stays were at the Herzog August Bibliothek Wolfenbüttel, University of Munich, University of Oxford and as a Moore Distinguished Visitor at Caltech. Brewer's research interests have focused on two areas: issues of value in the visual-art world and questions of travel, tourism, identity, and place. He has had a long-standing interest in the fraught relationship between culture and money, on which he has written extensively during his career. Of particular importance is his publication: *Sinews of Power. War, Money and the English State, 1688-1783*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1989.