

**Announcements:  
CFPs, conference notices, & current & forthcoming projects and  
publications of interest to neo-Victorian scholars**

(compiled by the NVS Editorial Team)

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**CFPs: Journals, Special Issues & Collections**

(Entries that are only listed, without full details, were highlighted in a previous issue of *NVS*. Entries are listed in order of abstract/submission deadlines.)

**Ecologies of the Atlantic Archipelago**

***Nineteenth-Century Contexts***

Studies of the intertwined histories of Great Britain, Ireland, and their associated islands have given rise to the notion of ‘archipelagic studies’. As in John Kerrigan’s seminal work *Archipelagic English*, the cover of which shows the familiar image of Great Britain and Ireland on a map tilted, reaching out from mainland Europe and into the Atlantic, this involves a new perspective on geography, identity, and the relations between nations. Central to this field of criticism are concerns regarding land and the natural world. Nineteenth-century developments resulted in dramatic shifts within the archipelago, with attending drastically-altered human-environment relationships. There were numerous instances of famine, subsistence crises, demographic change, and altered pressures on land and systems of tenure. Connective technologies of the modern world spread to sparsely populated regions, complicating notions of centre and periphery as well as tradition and modernity. Unprecedented infrastructural developments via roads and railway networks connected rural and urban geographies, resulting in increased tourist traffic; the expansion of ports further enhanced trading networks with Europe and beyond; and the spread of the colonial project led to various productions of knowledge of the natural world.

This issue aims to bring into focus interconnection, idiosyncrasy, and the ways in which national boundaries were simultaneously made porous and more distinct by writers and artists who sought to engage with the new visions of nature which the nineteenth-century offered. How does ecological disaster prompt shifts in artistic production? How were ecological

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relationships linked with colonialism and its legacies within the archipelago? How does contested religious thought and identity affect relationships with the natural world? How are natural histories and national histories bound and interlinked? Literary considerations of the archipelagic environment, and archipelagic ecological relationships, are varied and multitudinous. To focus on nineteenth-century contexts of archipelagic ecologies enables the tracing of connections and the identification of shifts in perception that might not easily align with literary periodisation of Romantic, Victorian and early Modernist writing. New developments in ecocriticism, from new materialisms to notions of the Anthropocene, shed light on the innovations of nineteenth-century cultural responses to environmental shifts and scientific work. Articles might focus on (but are not limited to):

- Gendered environments
- Urban environments and their cultural productions
- Folk revival and 'local' literature
- Discoveries of archipelagic environment
- Human-animal relations
- Writing environmental catastrophe
- Nature, environment, and genre
- Literary geographies and environment
- Travel writing and environment
- Nature as a museum of the past
- Nature and its regenerative potentials
- Colonial networks within and outside the archipelago

We invite 600-800-word abstracts and commissioned articles (of no longer than 9,000 words, inclusive of footnotes). All article submissions will undergo peer review and may include illustrations with copyright to be secured by the author (colour for online publication and black and white for print). Abstracts should be submitted to both Seán Hewitt ([seanedwardhewitt@gmail.com](mailto:seanedwardhewitt@gmail.com)) and Anna Pilz ([a.pilz@outlook.com](mailto:a.pilz@outlook.com)).

**Abstracts due: 31 January 2020**

**Articles due: 31 August 2020**

**Full CFP: <https://bavs.ac.uk/news/call-for-contributors-nineteenth-century-contexts-special-issue-on-ecologies-of-the-atlantic-archipelago/>**

**Victorian and Edwardian Mysteries*****Victorians Institute Journal***

The long nineteenth century (1789-1914) produced a wealth of works, literary and non-literary, concerned with mysteries, secrets, enigmas, and the unknown. Sensing that they stood on a threshold, that the shadowy borders of new knowledge and understanding lay almost within reach, literary figures, philosophers, and scientists struggled with a variety of mysteries arising from their interests in crime and criminology, medicine and disease, science and pseudoscience, industry and technology, gender and sexuality, travel and empire, religious faith and doubt. Submissions are invited for a special issue on Victorian and Edwardian mysteries.

Papers should be 5000-8000 words in length and must follow the Chicago Manual of Style. Submissions (in Microsoft Word) and inquiries should be emailed to the editors (Don Richard Cox and Maria K. Bachman) at [vi@mtsu.edu](mailto:vi@mtsu.edu).

**Articles due: 1 February 2020**

**Full CFP:** <https://bavs.ac.uk/uncategorized/cfp-victorian-and-edwardian-mysteries-special-issue-victorians-institute-journal/>

[Note: Neo-Victorianists might consider submitting work on biofictional representations of Anne Brontë or adaptations of her work for the following CfP.]

**Anne Brontë*****Victorians Journal***

This 2020 special issue marks Anne Brontë's birth bicentenary. This is the third part of *Victorians'* trilogy marking the Brontë sisters' bicentenaries: Charlotte in 2016, Emily in 2018, and Anne in 2020.

Submissions should be new work not previously published or under consideration elsewhere; in the 7500-9500 word range (inclusive); and in MLA formatting. Please send questions and/or submissions to the Guest Editor, Deborah Denenholz Morse, at [deborah.logan@wku.edu](mailto:deborah.logan@wku.edu).

**Articles due: 1 March 2020**

**Full CFP:** <https://bavs.ac.uk/news/cfa-anne-bronte-special-2020-issue-of-victorians-journal/>

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**CFPs: Upcoming Symposia & Conferences**

(Entries that are only listed, without explanatory notes, were highlighted in the previous issue of *NVS*.)

[Note: Neo-Victorianists might consider submitting proposals on the cultural legacies of nineteenth-century reforms and their continued impact on present-day policy making for the following CfP.]

**15 January 2020**

**Romance, Revolution and Reform Conference****University of Southampton, England, UK**

From fraught restructures of the voting franchise and the education system, to vast infrastructural redevelopments and the overhaul of poor relief systems, an understanding of the reform movements of the long-nineteenth century and their various implications for politics, culture and society continue to play a central role in scholarly engagement with the epoque. In an era punctuated by the French Revolution, Slavery Abolition Acts, civil war in America, successive British Reform Acts, and the rise of women's suffrage movements across Europe, advocates for change and stasis alike constantly and often violently jostled for primacy. Arising from these vast and complex conflicts and debates, new political, literary, journalistic, musical, philosophical and artistic discourses – from Malthusian political economy to serial fiction – emerged as a means of supporting, challenging and interrogating the reforms being proposed and implemented.

This one-day, interdisciplinary conference will aim to address and explore the strong links between many of these rich discourses from fresh perspectives, welcoming proposals for 20-minute papers from disciplines across the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and from scholars at any stage in their academic careers. Potential topics could include:

- Reform legislation
- Domestic and foreign policy making
- Health and sanitation
- Infrastructure and urban improvements
- Education
- (Dis)Enfranchisement
- Politics, philosophy and economics
- Slavery and emancipation

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- Resistance to reform and Conservatism
- Literary and print cultural reform
- Fine arts, music and culture
- Gender and sexuality
- Religion and dissent

Abstracts of up to 250 words and bios of up to 75 words should be submitted to [rrr@soton.ac.uk](mailto:rrr@soton.ac.uk). Submissions should be formatted in a word file and attached to the email; please also include your full name, subject of study and any institutional affiliations in your submission.

**Abstracts due: 3 November 2019**

**Full CFP:** <https://bavs.ac.uk/news/call-for-papers-romance-revolution-and-reform-conference/>

**19-22 February 2020**

**Steampunk/Neo-Victorian Lit**

**41st Annual Conference of the Southwest Popular/American Culture Association (SWPACA, <http://www.southwestpca.org>)**

**Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA**

As popular genres, steampunk and neo-Victorian fiction reflect a complex set of changes in contemporary society. At the same time, they link with classic traditions in science fiction and Victorian history. Submissions are welcome that address steampunk and neo-Victorian fiction from a variety of potential perspectives, which might include:

- Research addressing or applying theoretical or structural topics to the genre
- Work focusing on any aspects of steampunk such as technology, fashion, history, popularity, etc.
- Work applying theoretical perspectives to representations of characters in any particular steampunk or neo-Victorian book, or novel series (e.g. in relation to racial, ethnic, gender, and sexual identities)
- Work on international writers of steampunk and/or neo-Victorian literature
- Analysis of television and film adaptations of the genre
- Analysis of the relevance of steampunk to disability studies

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Proposals of 200-250 words for 15-min. papers and a brief bio should be submitted through the conference's database at <http://register.southwestpca.org/southwestpca>. (See the Proposal Submission FAQs and Tips page at <http://southwestpca.org/conference/faqs-and-tips/>. This also includes details on how to submit a proposal for a roundtable or a multi-paper panel.) Please address any queries to the Area Chair, Matthew H. Kelley, at [mhkelley@ua.edu](mailto:mhkelley@ua.edu).

**Abstracts due: 31 October 2019**

**Full CFP:** <https://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/cfp/2018/11/08/swpaca-call-for-papers-2019>

**5-8 March 2020**

**From the New to the Neo-Woman: (Re)Envisioning a *Fin-de-Siècle* Icon  
NeMLA 51st Annual Convention**

**Boston, Massachusetts, USA**

Scholarship credits Sarah Grand with devising the term 'New Woman' in 1894, although occasional differing claims nod to others, Lady Mary Jeune, for instance, in 1889. The label, which characterised and categorised the independent, self-supporting woman, quickly became popular in late Victorian culture and has resurfaced in our fascination with the Neo-Victorian. In their variety and scope, representations of the New Woman were, as New Woman scholars like Lyn Pyckett have established, ambivalent. Continued contributions to New Woman studies broaden the scope, regularly adding names of women newly foregrounded or even discovered. This panel investigates the fluid and the vacillating, the ever-evolving realm of New Woman scholarship with questions not exclusive to the following: Who are the other neglected *fin-de-siècle* women writers, artists, and journalists we can add to the New Woman canon? How do these additions expand or change our definitions of a female figure who rebelled against the period's gender norms and social mores? How does opening geographic boundaries associated with the *ur*-New Woman enrich our understanding of British *fin-de-siècle* proto-feminism and globalise that reformist and creative energy? How does Neo-Victorian fiction and film complicate, corrupt, simplify or in some other way alter our understanding of the New Woman? The panel aims to investigate these and other questions on the New Woman and New Woman studies. Please submit 250-300-word

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via the NeMLA portal at <https://www.cfplist.com/nemla/Home/S/18001>;  
contact for queries: Joellen Masters.

**Abstracts due: 30 December 2019**

**Full CFP:** <https://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/cfp/2019/08/25/from-the-new-to-the-neo-woman-reenvisioning-a-fin-de-si%C3%A8cle-icon>

**26-29 March 2020**

**Dickens and Impact**

**University of Buckingham, England, UK**

This international Dickens conference commemorates the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dickens's death in 2020. The conference aims to use this moment to take stock of Dickens' impact upon the world. In recent times 'impact' has become a buzzword, equally welcome and unwelcome, in academic circles thanks to the Research Excellence Framework (REF) and its introduction of impact as a metric for the value of research. It is no longer sufficient simply to write good work, but it must be shown to have had a wider influence on others too. 150 years after Dickens's death we will subject him and his work to the same rigours, and ask "what has Dickens ever done for us?"

Appreciation of Dickens as a writer has long been enmeshed with our regard for him as a man of reform, whether that be encouraging political change in his savage criticism of institutions, or social change through campaigning for a remarkable range of causes. Equally, since his death, Dickens has become a figurehead for change, with societies and events continuing in his name. This conference invites delegates from all continents to consider the breadth and depth of Dickens' impact upon his own time and ours to better understand the nature of his legacy, and the idea of artistic impact. Proposals for papers of 20 minutes are welcomed on this subject. Topics could include, but are not limited to:

- Social policy and campaigning
- Politics and journalism
- Popular fiction and culture
- London
- Heritage and the environment
- Victorian studies
- Dickens in translation

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- Literary & critical theory
  - Dickens online

Submissions from graduate students and as yet unpublished scholars will be particularly welcome. Send proposals of up to 500 words for 20-minute papers to [DickensImpact@buckingham.ac.uk](mailto:DickensImpact@buckingham.ac.uk).

**Abstracts due: 30 December 2019**

**Full CFP:** <https://dickensimpact.art.blog/2019/08/12/call-for-papers/>

**27-29 March 2020**

**Oppressions and Uprisings**

**The Northeast Victorian Studies Association (NVSA)**

**John Hopkins University, Maryland, USA**

We welcome papers on specific uprisings and systematic oppressions, as well as work that considers how these categories intersect. How do mundane forms of injury suffered by many in the Victorian period relate to momentous political revolts? Does oppression inevitably catalyse uprising? How do the oppressions and uprisings of our present originate in or otherwise relate to those of the nineteenth century? How can nineteenth-century representations help us theorise oppression and uprising now? We are interested in analyses of Victorian oppression based on identity categories and explorations of creative strategies of resistance practiced by groups across Britain and the Victorian world. It would be hard to deny that we are still beholden to Victorian social hierarchies, but have we also inherited their models of resistance?

Submissions might also consider the topic of political action in a broad sense. What counts as political action for Victorians? What kinds of action do literature and other art forms effect? What actions does literary criticism produce? As some theorists of postcritique have suggested, we may overstate the political consequences generated by close readings and historicist analysis of literary objects. We welcome papers that contend with such arguments, and others that relocate the point at which criticism meets politics. Possible topics might include but are not limited to:

- Modern uprisings with Victorian origins
- Forms of oppression
- Challenges of intersectionality
- Forms of uprising

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- Archives/texts
- Theory

**Abstracts due: 25 October 2019**

**Full CFP:**

<https://northeastvictorianstudies.files.wordpress.com/2019/08/cfp-nvsa-2020-oppression-and-uprisings-1.pdf>

**24-25 April 2020**

**Truth, Investigation, & Mystery**

**Midwest Victorian Studies Association (MVSA)**

**Chicago, Illinois, USA**

In an age when the mystery novel was invented and popularised, Charles Darwin propounded the theory of evolution, and police investigations were covered extensively in the popular press, did Victorians develop a distinctive attitude towards revealing the truth? Were nineteenth-century Britons convinced that they possessed the means to find answers to long-standing questions both practical and theoretical? Did some Victorians feel that casting a light on mysteries both religious and secular risked exposing dangerous answers to the public view? The Program Committee for the 2020 MVSA conference invites proposals for papers and panels on the subject of Victorian inquiry broadly defined. Submissions are welcome from scholars working in art history, musicology, history, science, philosophy, theatre, theology, literature, and other fields of scholarly endeavour. We encourage proposals that will contribute to cross-disciplinary discussion, which is a special feature of MVSA conferences. Topics might include:

- Victorian methodologies of investigation, critique, and inquiry
- Detection, horror, the uncanny, and the supernatural in the public imagination
- Medical responses to perplexing cases, epidemics, or pathological debates
- The search for ‘truth’ in the public sphere (via journalism, parliamentary inquiries, or participation in voluntary societies) in regard to the most important issues of the day, such as imperialism, race, social justice, legal and governmental reforms, and the idea of progress

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- The cultural influence of pseudo-sciences such as physiognomy, mesmerism, and craniology upon racial relations and class prejudices
  - Debates regarding religious faith (and doubt) in an age of rising secularism
  - Exploration and discovery in any realm of Victorian life, including the sciences, world travel, music, psychology, sociology, archaeology, or aesthetics
  - Victorian literary, dramatic, or musical forms for narrating patterns of discovery and the mysterious
  - How the discovery of lost documents, the use of specific archives, or the development of new modes of research and pedagogy (example: digital mapping) allow scholars and students of Victorian Britain to offer insights into the nature of nineteenth-century British life that may have been invisible to the Victorians themselves, or that they may have wished to keep hidden from their contemporaries, from posterity, or both

For individual papers, panels, or lecture-demonstrations, send a 300-word abstract and 1-page vita (as word documents) to [conferencesubmissions@midwestvictorian.org](mailto:conferencesubmissions@midwestvictorian.org).

**Abstracts due: 30 September 2019**

**Full CFP:** <http://www.midwestvictorian.org/p/conference.html>

**9 May 2020**

**Religion and Victorian Popular Literature and Culture**

**Victorian Popular Fiction Association Study Day**

**University of Sheffield, England, UK**

The category of the popular has played a significant role in the ‘religious turn’ in Victorian studies over the last two decades. Historians of Victorian religion have turned to popular culture and folklore to challenge traditional paradigms of decline and secularisation. Amongst scholars of Victorian literature and visual culture, there has been an upsurge of interest in the influence of new religious movements on popular literary and visual forms. This study day aims to extend our understanding of the relationship between religion and popular culture in the Victorian period by bringing together scholars from a range of disciplinary backgrounds, including literature, history, art history and religious studies, to explore popular manifestations

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of religion and the expression and representation of religion in popular culture texts of all kinds.

The organisers seek proposals for 20-minute papers, or a themed panel of three papers, from scholars at all levels including undergraduate and postgraduate students, ECRs and independent researchers. Topics can include, but are by no means limited to:

- The popular religious novel
- Religion, magic and folk beliefs
- Religious typology in popular art and literature
- Spiritualism, esotericism and occultism
- Religion and the popular press
- Religion, horror and the Gothic
- Hymns, sermons and liturgies
- Religion and popular science writing
- Popular freethought and blasphemy
- Archaeology and the Bible
- Religious feeling
- Religious revivals and utopias
- Religion and children's literature and culture
- Missionary and travel writing
- Religion and popular imperialism
- Decolonising Victorian popular religion
- Religion in neo-Victorian fiction, film and television

Please submit a 300-word proposal and a 50-word biography in Word format to the organisers Naomi Hetherington and Clare Stainthorp at [vpfareligion@gmail.com](mailto:vpfareligion@gmail.com).

**Abstracts due: 11 October 2019**

**Full CFP:** <https://www.navsa.org/2019/08/16/cfp-religion-and-victorian-popular-literature-and-culture-10-11-2019-5-9-2020/>

**30 May - 5 June 2020**

**Eco-Victorians: Water, Land, and the World**

**Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences**

**Western University, Ontario, Canada**

This panel is jointly sponsored by the Victorian Studies Association of Ontario (VSAO) and the Association of Canadian College and University

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Teachers of English (ACCUTE). From Charles Dickens's eco-poetical rivers, to the wondrous route across the sea to *Treasure Island*, the Victorian era was resplendent with images of water, seafaring, and global travel. At the same time, as J.M.W. Turner's visceral abolitionist painting *Slave Ship* attests, society was literally kept afloat by the oceanic trade routes which forcibly moved both human (slaves) and inhuman cargo (colonised resources) throughout what Paul Gilroy has famously coined "the Black Atlantic". The word "ecology" was coined by Ernst Haeckel in 1866, ushering in the formal study of diverse ecosystems, terrain sites and watery worlds which were then being transformed by industrial capitalism and imperialism. Indeed, Victorians saw the power of 'the Anthropocene' unleashed during that grave epoch in which the human species became, and has remained, the dominant influence on our planet's climate and environment. This panel invites papers that examine the ways in which water, land, and the ecological world connecting them were constructed in this era. Possible themes might include but are not limited to:

- Representations of seas, landscapes, and ecosystems
- Eco-writing, eco-criticism, print culture, illustration
- Tourism, parks, maritime histories, leisure activities
- Decolonial representations, anthropocene studies, global Victorian literatures
- Histories of imperialism, colonisation, migration, diasporic communities and slavery
- Genre fiction and ecologies
- Spatial histories, environmental architecture in urban, rural, domestic and cultural spaces

Please send an email attachment of 300-500-word paper proposals, without personal identifying marks, and the 2020 Proposal Info Sheet available on the ACCUTE website to Emily Rothwell and Lin Young c/o ACCUTE's email: [info.accute@gmail.com](mailto:info.accute@gmail.com).

**Abstracts due: 15 November 2019**

**Full CFP:** <https://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/cfp/2019/08/28/vsao-sponsored-accute-joint-session-%E2%80%9Ceco-victorians-water-land-and-the-world%E2%80%9D-for-the>

**17-19 July 2020**

**Our Dickens: Dickens and His Publics**

**Bloomsbury, London, England, UK**

In 2020, the 150-year anniversary of Dickens's death, the annual Dickens Society Symposium will take place in Bloomsbury, Dickens's home for periods of time and where he produced some of his most memorable novels. Organised by Royal Holloway, University of London, in collaboration with the Charles Dickens Museum, the anniversary Symposium seeks to explore what Dickens means to so many people across the world and why he has meant so much to diverse publics over time. Topics may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Dickens and fame
- Dickens and celebrity
- Adaptation
- Neo-Victorian Dickens
- Intertextuality
- Postmodern Dickens
- Dickens as children's literature
- The use of Dickens in education
- The use of Dickens in conflict zones
- Dickens and literary tourism
- Dickens and the heritage industry
- Dickens and journalism
- The political uses of Dickens
- Dickens in translation
- Memorials and/or commemoration
- Nostalgia
- Dickens and the visual
- Animated Dickens
- Online communities

Proposals from scholars, independent researchers, and graduate students on the theme of 'Our Dickens: Dickens and his Publics' are invited; as is customary at Dickens Society symposia, proposals on other aspects of Dickens's life and work will also be considered. One page (250-300 word) abstracts for papers deliverable in 20 minutes, plus 150-word bios, may be submitted to [Dickens.Symposium.2020@gmail.com](mailto:Dickens.Symposium.2020@gmail.com). For more information,

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please visit <http://dickensociety.org/> or contact the Programme Committee Chair, Elizabeth Bridgham, at [bridgham@providence.edu](mailto:bridgham@providence.edu).

**Abstracts due: 1 November 2019**

**Full CFP:** [http://dickensociety.org/?page\\_id=734](http://dickensociety.org/?page_id=734)

**31 August - 4 September 2020**

**15th Conference of the European Society of the Study of English (ESSE)**

**Lyon, France**

- **Bodily (Re)Orientations in Neo-Victorianism**

This seminar addresses the relevance of the materiality of the body in neo-Victorian literature and culture. It considers how the material turn is deployed in neo-Victorianism, and the ways in which critical perspectives such as phenomenology, Thing theory, and object-relations ontology (re)position and (re)orientate the dichotomy between subject and object, materiality and immateriality in neo-Victorian literature and culture by means of (re)embodiment and sensorial apprehension. In addition, this seminar explores the neo-Victorian text as a dynamic inter-space of bodily re-inhabitation, an in-between space of flows and movements, where the contemporary present brings the Victorian past into close proximity, enacting contact through affective interactions with various text(s) and bodies.

Please send 200-250 word abstracts for 15-min. papers, plus brief bios, to the seminar co-convenors, Rosario Arias ([rarias@uma.es](mailto:rarias@uma.es)) and Ann Heilmann ([HeilmannA@Cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:HeilmannA@Cardiff.ac.uk)). In addition to your provisional title, please include your full name, area of study/specialisation, and institutional affiliation (if applicable). Potential seminar contributors will be advised of acceptance by 15 February 2020.

**Abstracts due: 15 January 2020**

**Full CFP:** <http://www.esse2020lyon.fr>

- **Reorientations: Reading Neo-Victorianism in Contemporary Culture**

This panel explores the affective and cognitive responses of readers/viewers of neo-Victorian texts. It considers how the

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polytemporal dynamics between writers, readers and critics of neo-Victorianism reorientate and/or disorientate textual reception eliciting or short-circuiting empathy. In addition, it examines the tension between ‘unknowing’ and ‘knowing’ readers who negotiate immersion versus critical distance, and the strategies of adaptation, interpretation and interpolation that such (re)positionings involve. Seminar participants are invited to reflect on the comparative effectiveness (or failure) of such (re)orientations in relation to temporal contexts of production and reception. How do such strategies impact engagements with the nineteenth-century past? What manner of cultural memory work is thus enabled?

Please send 200-250 word abstracts for 15-min. papers, plus brief bios, to the seminar co-convenors, Patricia Pulham ([p.pulham@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:p.pulham@surrey.ac.uk)) and Marie-Luise Kohlke ([m.l.kohlke@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:m.l.kohlke@swansea.ac.uk)). In addition to your provisional title, please include your full name, area of study/specialisation, and institutional affiliation (if applicable). Potential seminar contributors will be advised of acceptance by 15 February 2020.

**Abstracts due: 15 January 2020**

**Full CFP:** <http://www.esse2020lyon.fr>

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**NOTE:** Although the deadlines for abstracts for the following edited collections, special issues, symposia and/or conferences/conference sessions have already passed, they may be of interest to scholars working on the neo-Victorian in relation to the specified topics. (Entries that are only listed, without explanatory notes, were highlighted in a previous issue of NVS.)

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**4-5 October 2019**

**A Single Drop of Ink for a Mirror: Nineteenth-Century British Literature and the Visual Arts**

**Princeton University Art Museum, Princeton, New Jersey, USA**

The conference will afford an opportunity for scholars in different fields to come together to address new directions in interdisciplinary studies of literature and the visual arts. The conference is open to the public and will centre around the papers and presentations of twenty-one principal interlocutors. Our list of speakers includes scholars at various stages of their careers, from leaders in the field to advanced graduate students. The conference will be accompanied by a small exhibition at the Princeton Art Museum. Organisers Rosalind Parry and Ariel Kline have brought together pieces from the Art Museum, supplemented by loans from the Princeton University Library. Many of these directly speak to presentations being given at the conference. The exhibit is shaped around the culture of text and image in nineteenth-century Britain and reflects the stories, aspirations, and realities of the period. The prolific interaction of authors and visual artists during this time is demonstrated through a rich variety of objects, including bound and serialised editions of books by Charles Dickens, playing cards made in response to popular works such as J. M. Barrie's *Peter Pan*, and works on paper by such author-illustrators as William Blake and Clare Leighton. The exhibit also features pieces by Millais, Thackeray, Julia Margaret Cameron, and Elizabeth Siddal and includes prints, photographs, paintings, and sketches.

**Conference Website:** <https://princetonartlit2019.princeton.edu/>

**19-22 March 2020**

**Memory and Materiality in Postcolonial and Postsocialist Literatures  
American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)**

**Chicago, Illinois, USA**

From heirlooms and objects of daily use to monuments and private residence, materiality prompts and shapes memoryscapes. Material culture and the built environment are mobilised to reappropriate and reconfigure the past. The proliferation of digital platforms of curation have engendered new ways of remembering and commodified commemorating which do not involve institutions but are rather initiated and managed by private actors. This seminar invites papers that discuss the interplay between discourse,

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material culture, bodies, and the environment in literary cultures of the postcolonial and postsocialist world, where imperial debris (Stoler, 2013) persists and is activated in different ways. In light of the material turn in the humanities and social sciences, as well as the emergence of memory studies as a compelling field of research, papers in this seminar will examine how forms of representation include or exclude the material world, how objects and the built environment prompt and shape processes of remembering and forgetting, how these processes percolate into literature, and how comparative literary studies might generate new insights and frameworks that help understand how postcolonial and postsocialist societies (re-)create usable pasts. Possible topics may include but are certainly not limited to:

- Commemorative practices and literary cultures
- Conflict and contested heritage
- Monumentality and the everyday
- Landscape and memory
- Kitsch and nostalgia
- Digital media, literature, and objects of memory
- Comparative imperial nostalgias
- Urban culture, materiality and the literary
- Forgetting, overwriting, rebuilding
- Interpreting objects and sites of trauma

**Conference Website:** <https://www.acla.org/annual-meeting>

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**Recent, Current & Forthcoming Projects, Events & Exhibitions  
of Possible Interest to Neo-Victorianists**

**until 27 October 2019**

**Pencils of Nature by Thomas Butler**

**Laycock Abbey, England, UK**

The American artist Tom Butler responds to Fox Talbot's pioneering photographic work by using and modifying nineteenth-century cabinet cards collected from antique stores and flea markets. Through cutting into strips

and then sanding, shaping, laminating and burnishing the images with candle wax, Butler transforms and estranges these traces of past lives.

**Website:** <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events/5f745038-2a2b-481a-92f1-155f6c0c3344/pages/details>

**Artist Website:** <http://www.tombutlerstudio.com/cabinet-cards> (also see: <https://www.lensculture.com/articles/tom-butler-cabinet-cards>)

**20 July – 3 November 2019**

**Through the Looking Glass**

**Maggie Taylor exhibition**

**Laycock Abbey, England, UK**

Employing point and click camera, flatbed scanners and photoshop, the American artist Maggie Taylor digitally combined and modifies nineteenth-century photographic sources, such as daguerrotypes and tintypes, into weird and wonderful dreamscapes that look and ‘talk back’ to Lewis Carroll’s work.

**Website:** <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events/f4023fdf-4a6f-4d3d-aa09-0668c8ffcffc/pages/details> (also see:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lacock-abbey-fox-talbot-museum-and-village/features/through-the-looking-glass-and-what-alice-found-there-by-maggie-taylor>)

**Artist website:** <https://maggietaylor.com/> (also see:

<http://littlejohncontemporary.com/maggie-taylor-through-the-looking-glass/xvoqhp11d76cen0w3s7jde7appyf2s>)

**October – December 2019**

**Bicentenary Celebrations at Windsor Castle**

- **8 October 2019** (18:30-20:00)

**Recording Raphael: Prince Albert’s Visionary Project**

Join our curators as they explore how Prince Albert combined his love of Raphael with his interest in photography to create this extraordinary resource.

- **16 November 2019** (10:00-16:50; last entry 15:00)

**Victoria and Albert: A Love of Literature**

Some of the finest books from the Royal Library that held significant meaning for the couple will be displayed throughout the State Apartments and St George’s Chapel. The couple shared a

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love of literature throughout their marriage, formed friendships with famous authors and created books to record their moments together. Our experts will be positioned throughout the State Apartments and St George's Chapel, together with craftspeople from the Royal Bindery who will use Victorian bookbinding tools to demonstrate how these beautiful books were made.

- **19 November** (18:30-19:45)

**A. N. Wilson: Prince Albert at Windsor Castle**

A. N. Wilson looks afresh at the dynamic personality of Prince Albert and the specific impact he made on Windsor Castle. He modernised the building to make it a comfortable family home and raised our awareness and understanding of the treasures in the Royal Collection.

- **5 December 2019** (18:15-19:15)

**The Christmas Carol in Victorian England**

In the glorious setting of St George's Chapel, John Heighway shares some of the carols that emerged in Victorian England accompanied by four Choir singers. A festive start to the season!

**Website:** <https://www.rct.uk/whatson/windsor/page/1>

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**Recent and Forthcoming Critical Publications  
on Neo-Victorianism or of Neo-Victorian Interest**

**Amber Regis and Deborah Wynne (eds.) *Charlotte Brontë: Legacies and Afterlives, Interventions: Rethinking the Nineteenth Century* series (Manchester UP, 2019):** A collection of twelve essays covering the period from Brontë's first publication to the twenty-first century, reflecting on how her work has been adapted and appropriated in different forms as well as in neo-Victorian contexts.

**Christina Flotmann-Scholz and Anna Lienen (eds.), *Victorian Ideologies in Contemporary Cultures* (Universitätsverlag Winter, 2019):** A collection of nine essays ranging broadly across neo-Victorian cultural

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legacies from serialisation, detection, intermediality, and advertising, to biofiction writing.

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**Recent and Forthcoming Neo-Victorian Fiction, Poetry, Drama, etc.**

**Jennifer Ashley, *Death in Kew Gardens*** (Berkley, 2019): third novel in the Below the Stairs mystery series about the cook Kat Holloway. Set in 1881 London, this murder mystery is embedded in the Chinese tea trade and involves merchants and government officials.

**Paul Binding, *A Stranger from the Sea*** (Abrams Books, 2019): a novel of rivalry and secret romances inspired by Ibsen's *Lady from the Sea*. In a fictional coastal town in Kent in 1885, the London journalist Martin Bridges develops a close friendship with the shipwrecked Hans Lyngstrand. As the reporter interviews the Norwegian sailor, he learns about his adventures at sea and desire for revenge.

**Clare Carson, *The Canary Keeper*** (Head of Zeus, 2019): Gothic tale about Branna 'Birdie' Quinn who is falsely accused of a murder. To save herself from the gallows she must find the murderer – a journey that will take her from London to the Isles of Orkney.

**Alys Clare, *The Woman Who Spoke to Spirits*** (Severn House, 2019): second novel in the World's End Bureau mystery series. In Victorian London, Lily Raynor and her assistant Felix Wilbraham take on the case of a female psychic, who receives warnings and death threats from the dead.

**Vivian Conroy, *Death Comes to Dartmoor*** (Crooked Lane Books, 2019): further instalment in the Merriweather and Royston mystery series. Miss Merula Merriweather and Lord Raven Royston travel to Dartmoor to visit their friend Charles Oaks, whose zoological collection includes the remains of a Kraken. During their stay the locals accuse Oaks of the mysterious disappearance of his maid, and Merula and Lord Raven decide to help him find the girl.

**M. J. Downing, *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Undead Client*** (Burns and Lea, 2019): Holmes and Watson investigate the case of missing persons when they come across the victims of a mad scientist, who turns London slum dwellers into zombies.

**Cora Harrison, *The Season of Darkness*** (Severn House Publishers, 2019): Inspector Field finds the dead body of a girl in the Thames and asks his friend Charles Dickens for help. When the author recognises her as one of the girls in his Urania Cottage project, he is determined to find the murderer and turns to Wilkie Collins for help.

**Cora Harrison, *The Montgomery Murder*** (Sapere Books, 2019): This first instalment of a new YA crime thriller series, the Victorian London Murder Mysteries, is set in 1858 and centres on Alfie, the leader of a group of young street urchins. When Alfie turns detective to solve a murder mystery, his investigations soon threaten to put the group's lives at risk.

**Carolyn Kirby, *The Conviction of Cora Burns*** (Dzanc Books, 2019): Born in jail and raised in a workhouse in late Victorian Birmingham, Cora Burns knows hardly anything about her family other than their strong inclination to violence that she herself struggles with. On her release, she starts work as a maid, only to grow suspicious that she has become entangled in a psychological experiment, along with another inhabitant of the household. Her subsequent investigations into her new environment as well as her past plunge her into unforeseen danger.

**Elizabeth Macneal, *The Doll Factory*** (Picador, 2019): In mid-Victorian London, young Iris dreams of becoming an artist and gives up her job painting porcelain dolls to begin modelling for the Pre-Raphaelites. As her secret admirer, the reclusive taxidermist Silas, becomes increasingly obsessed with the object of his affections, Iris's quest for self-realisation takes a Gothic turn.

**Helen Maskew, *Innocents to the Slaughter*** (Unbound, 2018): The Hudson & Lawes Trilogy's second instalment is set in 1839. Undercover journalist Ambrose Hudson sets out to investigate cases of child-labour and baby

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farming in Yorkshire together with his aristocratic adlatus Edgar Lawes. Soon, the investigation turns into a fast-paced thriller.

**Tim Mason, *The Darwin Affair*** (Algonquin Books 2019): This debut novel by playwright Tim Mason is a historical mystery unravelling a conspiracy behind several assassination attempts at the lives of the royal couple. While a culprit is quickly found, Chief Detective Inspector Field – frequently called by the name of the literary character he inspired, Inspector Bucket – suspects that there is more to these attempts than meets the eye, namely violently conflicting worldviews centred on Darwin’s evolutionary theory.

**Mimi Matthews, *A Modest Independence*** (Perfectly Proper Press, 2019): Set in 1860, this novel in the Parish Orphans of Devon series combines romance with a travel account. Having a modest independence at her disposal, Jenny Holloway embarks on a journey to India in order to find the Earl of Castleton, who was allegedly killed during the Indian Rebellion. Jenny’s solicitor Tom Finchley accompanies her on her journey and while they explore India together, she needs to make up her mind whether she is prepared to give up her independence for marriage.

**A. M. Morgen, *The Inventors and the Lost Island*** (Brown Books 2019): This second instalment of a children’s steampunk adventure series features Ada Lovelace as a detective, alongside a colourful bunch of characters and animals.

**Amy Myers, *Tom Wasp and the Seven Deadly Sins*** (Endeavour Quill, 2019): A chimney sweep in London’s East End, Tom Wasp turns detective for the third time in the series in order to solve a murder that soon develops into a literary mystery. He needs to untangle the strands from a lost play by Elizabethan clown Richard Tarlton and the poem *Jubilate Agno* by eighteenth-century poet Christopher Smart to make progress in the case.

**Chris Nickson, *The Leaden Heart*** (Severn House Publishers, 2019): The seventh in the Tom Harper Mystery series, this crime novel is set in Leeds in 1899. The police Superintendent investigates a series of burglaries that seem to be related to a former colleague, suggesting corruption in the police force as well as the city government.

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**Joseph O'Connor, *Shadowplay* (Vintage, 2019):** This novel reimagines Bram Stoker's writing process of *Dracula* together with his relationship to the actors Henry Irving and Ellen Terry. Managing Irving's *Lyceum*, Stoker's life seems to be the title-giving shadow-play. Overshadowed by the two celebrities, the writer is plunged into the midst of a triangulation of conflicting desires.

**Varley O'Connor, *The Welsh Fasting Girl* (Bellevue, 2019):** In this biofiction about Sarah Jacob, a famous fasting girl, her life and premature death are documented by an American journalist, who becomes the young girl's friend and confidante.

**Veronique Olmi; transl. Adriana Hunter, *Bakhita: A Novel of the Saint of Sudan* (Other Press, 2019):** This biofiction focuses on Africa's first canonised Catholic saint, abducted as a young girl by slavers in 1876, retelling Bakhita's gruelling experience of slavery, her conversion to Catholicism, and her ensuing life in an Italian convent.

**Patricia O'Reilly, *The First Rose of Tralee* (Poolbeg Press, 2019):** Against the backdrop of mid-nineteenth-century Irish politics, this novel reimagines the composition of the ballad 'The Rose of Tralee' via the tragic love story of the poet William Pembroke Mulchinock and the servant-girl Mary O'Connor.

**Margaret Pemberton, *The Summer Queen* (Pan, 2019):** Set in Osborne house from 1879 through 1918, bringing together Victoria's extended European family, the novel is told mainly from the points of view of 'May' Mary of Teck and her cousins 'Alicky' Alexandra of Hesse and 'Will' William of Prussia via the letters they exchange.

**Christine Purkis, *Jane Evans* (Y Lolfa, 2019):** In this biofiction based on the life of Jane Evans, a Welsh orphan escapes from an arranged marriage and ends up serving as an assistant nurse under Florence Nightingale in a Crimean hospital.

**Deanna Raybourn, *A Dangerous Collaboration* (Berkley, 2019):** In the fourth instalment in the Veronica Speedwell Mystery series, Veronica poses

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as the fiancée of Lord Templeton-Vane (her partner Stoker's brother) at a Cornish house party, where guests have to solve the mystery of the disappearance of the host's bride three years ago.

**Mabli Roberts, *God's Children*** (Honno Welsh Women's Press, 2019): This biofiction based on the life and adventures of the British nurse and explorer Kate Mardsen (1859-1931), who openly admitted her love for women, follows Kate on her quest to find a cure for leprosy and her journey to Siberia to visit ostracised victims of the disease.

**Hallie Rubenhold, *The Five: The Untold Lives of the Women Killed by Jack the Ripper*** (Doubleday, 2019): This exploration of the lives of Jack the Ripper's five murder victims focused on what life was like for these women in Victorian London before they went down in history reduced to common prostitutes.

**Linda Stratmann, *The Ghost of Hollow House*** (Sapere, 2019): The fourth book in the Mina Scarletti Mystery series about a Victorian female detective in 1870s Brighton finds the heroine investigating a case in a haunted house in Sussex.

**Maryla Szymiczko, *Mrs Mohr Goes Missing*** (Point Blank, 2019): In Cracow at the turn of the century, the bourgeois Zofia starts doing charity work at a residential home in the city to stifle the boredom she suffers when her husband, Professor Turbotynska, spends his days at the medical faculty. When one of the residents disappears mysteriously, she unexpectedly discovers her talent for detection.

**E. S. Thomson, *Surgeon's Hall*** (Constable, 2019): In the fourth novel in the Jem Flockhart series, the cross-dressing apothecary and her partner Will Quatermain discover a dissected hand among the anatomical wax models at the Great Exhibition. They trace the hand to a body kept in a private anatomy school in Edinburgh. Although the corpse has been mutilated beyond recognition, Flockhart and Quatermain are determined to disclose the identity of the mysterious cadaver.



**M. J. Tjia, *A Necessary Murder*** (Legend Times, 2019): In the second mystery novel featuring Heloise Chancey, the protagonist is faced with a murdered child, a dead man found on her doorsteps, and the disappearance of her Asian dagger. Heloise must solve the case before she becomes a suspect herself. At the same time, her mother investigates a seemingly separate mystery, but soon their paths converge.

**Daniel D. Victor, *Sherlock Holmes and the London Particular*** (MX Publishing, 2019): In the fifth novel in the American Literati series, Richard Harding Davies, an American war journalist and novelist, is visiting London, when he gets drawn into a double murder and theft of Russian diamonds.

**Kris Waldherr, *The Lost History of Dreams*** (Atria Books, 2019): Will the burial of the Byronic poet Hugh de Bonne finally reveal the secret behind his marriage to his muse? This is a Victorian mystery about love, art, and dark secrets, bringing together a dead poet, a mourning niece, and a post-mortem photographer.

**Mollie Walton, *The Lost Daughters of Ironbridge*** (Zaffre, 2019): Set in 1830s Shropshire in the context of the construction of the first iron bridge, this narrative focuses on female friendship across class boundaries.

**Kaite Welsh, *The Unquiet Heart*** (Pegasus, 2019): This Victorian whodunit set in late-nineteenth-century Scotland features the aspiring medical student and amateur detective Sarah Gilchrist. Sarah must endure the hardships of being a female university student while she races against the clock to save her husband-to-be, employing her forensic knowledge to help prove her fiancé's innocence when he is implicated in his father's murder.

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**Recent and Forthcoming Neo-Victorian Film, TV, Games, etc.**

*A Christmas Carol* (BBC One, forthcoming December 2019): a fantasy version of Dickens's classic Christmas tale, written by Stephen Knight, directed by Nick Murphy, and starring Guy Pearce as Scrooge.

*Dickinson* (Apple TV, forthcoming November 2019): sexed-up biofictional comedy series with a modern twist that tells the coming-of-age story of Emily Dickinson, featuring Hailee Steinfeld as the rebellious burgeoning poet struggling against societal conventions; created by Alena Smith and directed by David Gordon Green (see <https://youtu.be/iBMeB6xG4rE>).

*Escaping the Madhouse: The Nellie Bly Story* (Lifetime Television, 2019): this biofictional TV movie, directed by Karen Moncrieff and written by Helen Childress, stars Christina Ricci in the role of the titular nineteenth-century protagonist, an American journalist who arranges for herself to be committed to an asylum to expose institutional medical abuse.

*Gentleman Jack* (BBC One, 2019): biofiction series of the unconventional, early nineteenth-century lesbian diarist Anne Lister, played by Suranne Jones, and her quest for a wife; created by Sally Wainwright and directed by Wainwright, Sarah Harding, and Jennifer Perrott.

*Kardec* (Sony Pictures and Netflix, 2019): Portuguese-language Brazilian biopic about the French educator Hippolyte Léon Denizard Rivail, who assumes the pseudonym of Allan Kardec to pursue his obsession with spiritualism and publishing his codification of the Spiritism doctrine; directed by Wagner de Assis and written by I. G. Bayão and de Assis.

*The Nightingale* (forthcoming UK and online release by Vertigo, November 2019): in this cinematic period drama, set in 1820s Tasmania, the young convict Clare conspires with Billy, an Aboriginal tracker, to take revenge on her British soldier rapists, who also murdered her husband and infant child; directed and written by Jennifer Kent.

*Peasants' Rebellion* (Netflix, 2019): Arabic-language TV series, set in nineteenth-century Lebanon, about the Nisr family's struggles to maintain

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power in the face of a peasants' uprising against feudal oppression; directed by Philip Asmar and written by Claudia Marshalian.

***The Personal History of David Copperfield*** (Lionsgate, UK, 2019; Walt Disney Studio, USA, forthcoming January 2020): comedy-drama movie adaptation of Dickens' much-loved novel, with Dev Patel in the lead role; directed by Armadno Iannucci and written by Simon Blackwell and Iannucci.

***The Professor and the Madman*** (Fast Net Films et al., 2019): biofictional biopic about Prof James Murray, played by Mel Gibson, and his compilation of the Oxford English Dictionary in 1857 with the help of Dr William Minor, played by Sean Penn, incarcerated in an asylum; directed by Farhad Safinia (as P. B. Sherman) and written by John Boorman, Todd Komarnicki, and Safinia, adapted from Simon Winchester's novel, *The Surgeon of Crowthorne* (1998).

***Sanditon*** (ITV, 2019): mini-series adaptation of Austen's last unfinished novel, starring Rose Williams as Charlotte Haywood; directed by Olly Blackburn, Lisa Clarke and Charles Sturridge.

***Vienna Blood*** (Endor Productions et al., 2019): in 1900s Vienna Max Liebermann, a student of Sigmund Freud, assists in the police investigation of a series of murders in the cafes and opera houses of the Austrian capital; created by Steve Thompson and directed by Willi Frost.

***Year of the Rabbit*** (Channel 4, 2019): *Ripper Street* meets *Alice in Wonderland* in this spoof police drama, as seasoned Detective Inspector Eli Rabbit, accompanied by Wilbur Strauss, his greenhorn partner, and the feisty Mabel Wisbech, his Chief Inspector's adopted coloured daughter and wannabe first British female police officer, hunt down criminals in Victorian London. Created by Kevin Cecil and Andy Riley, and directed by Ben Taylor, the series also features Keeley Hawes (of *Tipping the Velvet* fame) in the role of the female master-villain.