

The Victorian Popular Fiction Association's 9th Annual Conference: 'Travel, Translation and Communication'



19th-21st July 2017, Institute of English Studies, Senate House, London

Keynote Speakers:
Anne-Marie Beller (Loughborough)
Mary Hammond (Southampton)
Catherine Wynne (Hull)

Exhibition – 'Picturing The Mass Market: Popular Late Victorian Periodicals' Curated by John Spiers

Reading Group – 'Travels of the Mind and Body' Hosted by Chloé Holland and Anne-Louise Russell

Call for Papers

The Victorian Popular Fiction Association is dedicated to fostering interest in understudied popular writers, literary genres and other cultural forms, and to facilitating the production of publishable research and academic collaborations amongst scholars of the popular. Our annual conference is integral to this aim and brings together academics with interests in Victorian popular writing, culture and contexts. The conference has a reputation for offering a friendly and invigorating opportunity for academics at all levels of their careers, including postgraduate students, to meet, connect, and share their current research.

The organisers invite a broad, imaginative and interdisciplinary interpretation of the topic and its relation to any aspect of Victorian popular literature and culture which might address literal or metaphorical representations of the theme.

We welcome proposals for 20 minute papers, or for panels of three papers, on topics which can include, but are not limited to:

Textual travel: syndication (national and international), railway bookstalls, Mudie's boxes, international/colonial editions (Tauchnitz), international copyright, piracy, serial publication / triple decker / single volume

Genre crossings: Realism, melodrama, sensation, detective, adventure, science and speculative fiction, fiction/non-fiction, high to low brow

Forms of communication: verbal, technological (telegraphs), written, epistemological, spiritualism, telepathy, mesmerism

Translation: languages, adaptation, cultural adaptation, Neo-Victorianism, intertextuality, metatextuality

Migration: transportation, immigration, expatriotism, diaspora, empire, race and colonialism, slave narratives, agency, freedom, dislocation

Tourism: Grand Tours, leisure cruise ships (P&O), watering holes, accommodation, sanatoriums, travel writing, holiday reading, the seaside, cosmopolitanism

Trade and commerce: money, speculation, business, postal service

Crossing boundaries: North and South, border controls, diplomatic exchanges, Europe, America, globally

Transport: trains, trams, buses, ships, bicycles, carriages, on foot (flâneur, voyeur)

Travel plans: maps, cartography, Bradshaw's Guides, packing, travel diaries

Religious movements: pilgrimage, religious processions

Communication between the classes: class mobility, exploring other classes (Dickens, Mayhew, etc), reform literature

Communication between genders: Romance literature, secrets and lies, miscommunication

Education and transmission of knowledge: lectures, Working Men's Clubs, conduct literature, temperance movement, pedagogical approaches, journalism, exposés

Movement and performance: travelling fairs, the circus, touring theatrical companies, cross dressing

Travels in time, space and place: histories, time travel, reincarnation, transmigration, space travel, journeys to the centre of the earth

Life stages: birth, ageing, death, crossroads, mobility and immobility

Digital humanities: travel and space intersections, network analysis, flow modelling, GIS-based research

Special topic panels: Following our successful formula, we are continuing the special panels which will be hosted by guest experts; therefore we especially welcome papers about the following topics:

Topic 1: Transport, hosted by Charlotte Mathieson

Topic 2: The Sea and the Seaside, hosted by Joanne Knowles

Topic 3: Travel and Archives, hosted by Nickianne Moody

Papers in previous years have also discussed authors and publishers such as:

Harrison Ainsworth	Marie Corelli	Eliza Lynn Linton	William Makepeace
Grant Allen	Dinah Craik	Florence Marryat	Thackeray
J. M. Barrie	Catherine Crowe	Richard Marsh	Margaret Todd
Isabella Beeton	Charles Dickens	Edith Nesbit	Anthony Trollope
Mary Elizabeth Braddon	George Du Maurier	Margaret Oliphant	Mary Augusta Ward
Rhoda Broughton	Pierce Egan	Charles Reade	H. G. Wells
Hall Caine	William Gilbert	G. W. M. Reynolds	Oscar Wilde
Lewis Carroll	George Gissing	Charlotte Riddell	Ellen Wood
Mary Cholmondeley	Bracebridge Hemyng	Olive Schreiner	Charlotte Yonge
Wilkie Collins	Joseph Hocking	Ouida	
Arthur Conan Doyle	Jerome K. Jerome	Robert Louis Stevenson	
Hugh Conway	Rudyard Kipling	Bram Stoker	

Please send proposals of no more than 300 words and a 50 word biography in Word format to Drs Janine Hatter, Helena Ifill and Jane Jordan at: vpfamembership@gmail.com

Deadline for proposals: Saturday 15th April

WEBSITE: <http://victorianpopularfiction.org>