



# Victorian Encounters and Environments

Victorian Popular Fiction  
Association  
12th Annual Conference

**15-17 July 2020**

Hosted online by School of  
Humanities & Social Sciences,  
University of Greenwich,  
London

## **Welcome**

Welcome to the 12th Victorian Popular Fiction Association annual conference! With the current unprecedented times we're finding ourselves in, we are really pleased to be holding the conference online this year via MS Teams, hosted by the University of Greenwich. Thank you to all of our global speakers, chairs, reading group and teaching round-table hosts, and keynote speaker, for coming together in order to keep the VPFA moving forward. We hope you enjoy listening to/reading people's presentations at your leisure over the weeks leading up to the conference, and we look forward to hearing all of your discussions over the course of the three day conference itself.

Many thanks, as always, go to Andrew King and the University of Greenwich (especially Karen Ward) for hosting us and all their support. Also, special thanks to Courtney Floyd, the VPFA Webmistress, for sorting and uploading all of the presentations for us to peruse.

We have deliberately built in regular breaks over the course of the conference days to try and minimise screen fatigue and allow people to get up, stretch and move around, so we hope that you all enjoy the conference, the papers and the fruitful and stimulating discussions from the comfort of your own homes.

The VPFA Conference Team (Janine Hatter, Helena Ifill, Erin Louttit)

# Programme

## Online Discussion Timetable for VPFA 2020 (all times are in BST)

### Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July

12:15 - 12:30 Log on & Welcome  
12:30 - 13:30 Teaching Roundtable  
13:30 - 14:00 Break  
14:00 - 14:30 Panel 1 Discussion: 'Travel'  
14:30 - 15:00 Panel 2 Discussion: 'Animals'  
15:00 - 15:30 Break  
15:30 - 16:00 Panel 3 Discussion: 'Afterlives and Adaptations'  
16:00 - 16:30 Panel 4 Discussion: 'Rudyard Kipling'  
16:30 - 17:00 Break  
17:00 - 17:30 Panel 5 Discussion: 'Physicality and Materiality'  
17:30 - 18:00 Panel 6 Discussion: 'Disaster!'  
18:00 - 19:00 *Key Popular Women Writers* launch and social (BYOB)

### Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July

11:30 - 11:45 Log on & Welcome  
11:45 - 12:15 Panel 7 Discussion: 'Education and Advice'  
12:15 - 12:45 Panel 8 Discussion: 'Consumption'  
12:45 - 13:15 Break  
13:15 - 13:45 Panel 9 Discussion: 'Feminist Past, Feminist Futures'  
13:45 - 14:15 Panel 10 Discussion: 'Neo/Adaptation'  
14:15 - 14:45 Break  
14:45 - 15:15 Panel 11 Discussion: 'Medical Encounters in British  
Period Television'  
15:15 - 15:45 Panel 12 Discussion: 'Town and Country'  
15:45 - 16:15 Break  
16:15 - 16:45 Panel 13 Discussion: 'Wild Women'  
16:45 - 17:00 Break  
17:00 - 18:00 Keynote  
18:00 - 19:00 Social (BYOB)

### Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July

12:15 - 12:30 Log on & Welcome  
12:30 - 13:30 Reading Group  
13:30 - 14:00 Break  
14:00 - 14:30 Panel 14 Discussion: 'Science and Supernatural'  
14:30 - 15:00 Panel 15 Discussion: 'Visual Cultures'  
15:00 - 15:30 Break  
15:30 - 16:00 Panel 16 Discussion: 'Politics and Society'  
16:00 - 16:30 Panel 17 Discussion: 'Senses and Sensibilities'  
16:30 - 17:00 Break  
17:00 - 17:30 Panel 18 Discussion: 'Vampires and the Occult'  
17:30 - 18:00 Panel 19 Discussion: 'The Arts'  
18:00 - 19:00 AGM & Social (BYOB)

## Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July

12:15 - 12:30	<b>Welcome</b> Hosts: Janine Hatter, Helena Ifill, Erin Louttit and Andrew King
12:30 - 13:30	<b>Teaching Roundtable</b> Host: Chris Louttit with guests: Anne-Marie Beller, Andrew King and Beth Palmer
13:30 - 14:00	Break
14:00 - 14:30	<b>Panel 1 Discussion: 'Travel'</b> Chair: Julia Kuehn  <b>Mariaconcetta Costantini</b> , 'Victorian Women in Albania: Across Cultures, Genders and Genres'  <b>Julia Kuehn</b> , 'Genre Encounters: The Poetic Place where George Eliot's Travel Writing meets her Novels'  <b>Beth Howell</b> , "'The Isles of Scilly beckoned like Syrens from their dangerous shores:" Re-reading a Lexis of Consumption in the Island-Based Writings of George Eliot and George Henry Lewes, and Exploring their Ventures into New Literary Ground'
14:30 - 15:00	<b>Panel 2 Discussion: 'Animals'</b> Chair: Christopher Pittard  <b>Joanne Knowles</b> , 'Unequal Encounters: Beasts of Burden in Victorian Fiction and Periodicals'  <b>Rachel Newman</b> , "'Bark[ing] Vaguely": Female Voices, Canines and Realism'  <b>Maria Parrino</b> , "'He took the wolf and locked him up in a cage": Otherness and Zoos in Bram Stoker's <i>Dracula</i> '
15:00 - 15:30	Break
15:30 - 16:00	<b>Panel 3 Discussion: 'Afterlives and Adaptations'</b> Chair: Joanne Knowles  <b>Jesse R. Erickson</b> , 'Across the Pond and Over the Color Line: Ouida in America's Black Press'  <b>Helena Gurfinkel</b> , 'The Soviet Afterlife of Dorian Gray'  <b>Saverio Tomaiuolo</b> , 'Screening Collins in (and out of) Italy: From <i>The Woman in White</i> to <i>La donna in bianco</i> '
16:00 - 16:30	<b>Panel 4 Discussion: 'Rudyard Kipling'</b> Chair: Erin Louttit  <b>Minna Vuohelainen</b> , 'Traveller's Tales: Gothic Encounters and Environments in Rudyard Kipling's Short Fiction'  <b>Philippa St George</b> , 'Kipling's Contemporaries'
16:30 - 17:00	Break
17:00 - 17:30	<b>Panel 5 Discussion: 'Physicality and Materiality'</b> Chair: Robin Barrow

	<p><b>Despoina Kotsi</b>, 'Both Architectural and Fashion Encounters as Educational Patterns in the Victorian Era'</p> <p><b>Emma Butler-Way</b>, 'Sartorial Encounters in Wilkie Collins's <i>The Woman in White</i>'</p> <p><b>Isobel Sigley</b>, 'Tactile Encounters with the Terra Incognita: Feeling for George Egerton's Feminism in <i>Keynotes</i> (1893)'</p>
17:30 - 18:00	<p><b>Panel 6 Discussion: 'Disaster!'</b> Chair: Minna Vuohelainen</p> <p><b>Matthew Crofts</b>, 'The Battle for London: Victorian Discourse on Sewage'</p> <p><b>Steve Asselin</b>, 'The City as Corpse: Urban Vulnerabilities in Late-Victorian Disaster Fiction'</p> <p><b>Ailise Bulfin</b>, 'Natural and Environmental Catastrophe in Late Victorian Popular Fiction: Environmental Ambivalence in Richard Jefferies <i>After London</i> (1885)'</p>
18:00 - 19:00	<p><i>Key Popular Women Writers</i> launch and social (BYOB)</p>

#### Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July

11:30 - 11:45	<p>Welcome (please use this time to log on, check your connections and say hello)</p>
11:45 - 12:15	<p><b>Panel 7 Discussion: 'Education and Advice'</b> Chair: Betty Hagglund</p> <p><b>Tamara S. Wagner</b>, 'How to Mismanage Your Home: Domestic Accidents and Mrs Henry Wood's Household Advice'</p> <p><b>Christopher Pittard</b>, 'Beacons of the Future! Sherlock Holmes and Pedagogical Environments'</p>
12:15 - 12:45	<p><b>Panel 8 Discussion: 'Consumption'</b> Chair: Helena Ifill</p> <p><b>Anna Gasperini</b>, 'When Beef Tea and Pasta Met: Nutrition Discourses in British and Italian Children's Periodicals'</p> <p><b>Pam Lock</b>, '"A steam-hammer of logic": Literary Defences of Moderate Drinking against the "Impertinent" Advances of the Temperance Movement on Middle-Class Drinking Habits in the Mid-Nineteenth Century'</p> <p><b>Abigail Dennis</b>, 'Strange Tastes: Encountering British Aestheticism in Elizabeth Robins Pennell's <i>Delights of Delicate Eating</i>'</p>
12:45 - 13:15	<p>Break</p>
13:15 - 13:45	<p><b>Panel 9 Discussion: 'Feminist Pasts, Feminist Futures'</b> Chair: Jessica Albrecht</p> <p><b>Jessica Albrecht</b>, 'Meeting a Feminist Friend: The Egyptian Priestess'</p> <p><b>Fatima Taha</b>, 'Conquering the Progressive Past?'</p> <p><b>Helena Esser</b>, 'Re-Claiming the Retrofuture? Feminist Victorians between Ouida and Steampunk - and Back'</p>

13:45 - 14:15	<p><b>Panel 10 Discussion: 'Neo/Adaptation'</b> Chair: Matthew Crofts</p> <p><b>Maria Luisa De Rinaldis</b>, 'Writing for the Victorian stage: Dickens and Shakespeare in <i>Nicholas Nickleby</i>'</p> <p><b>Mengxing Fu</b>, 'Encountering the Past, Foreshadowing the future: Vernon Lee's <i>Louis Norbert</i> (1914)'</p> <p><b>Charlotte Boyce</b>, '"Who in the World am I?": Encountering Lewis Carroll in Neo-Victorian Biofiction'</p>
14:15 - 14:45	Break
14:45 - 15:15	<p><b>Panel 11 Discussion: 'Medical Encounters in British Period Television'</b> Chair: Julie Anne Taddeo</p> <p><b>Julie Anne Taddeo</b>, '"Render me with the mind of an obliging child": Medicine and Gender in Showtime's <i>Penny Dreadful</i>'</p> <p><b>Claire O'Callaghan and Anne-Marie Beller</b>, '"Have you tried talking to him?": Encountering the Victorian "Mad Doctor" in BBC's <i>Quacks</i>'</p> <p><b>Katherine Byrne</b>, '"You do look rather... drained": Body Horror and Brexit in <i>Dracula</i> (BBC, 2020)'</p>
15:15 - 15:45	<p><b>Panel 12 Discussion: 'Town and Country'</b> Chair: Emma Liggins</p> <p><b>Helena Ifill</b>, 'Wilkie Collins's Suburbs'</p> <p><b>Silvia Granata</b>, 'Encountering Nature near London'</p> <p><b>Fiona Schroeder</b>, 'The Cities of Mars: Urban Planning and Alien Architecture in Late-Victorian Interplanetary Romances'</p>
15:45 - 16:15	Break
16:15 - 16:45	<p><b>Panel 13 Discussion: 'Wild Women'</b> Chair: Louise Benson James</p> <p><b>Rebecca Nesvet</b>, 'Lady Clara Cavendish: Reynolds and Rymer's Revolutionary Creature'</p> <p><b>Mollie Clarke</b>, 'Her Name was Lola: Scandalous Encounters in the Victorian Press and Beyond'</p> <p><b>Silvana Colella</b>, 'Gender Fraud in the City: Cross-Dressing and Stockbroking in Olive Malvery's <i>The Speculator</i> (1908)'</p>
16:45 - 17:00	Break
17:00 - 18:00	<p><b>Keynote: Alexis Easley</b>, 'The Rise of the Popular Woman Writer: Insights from the W. &amp; R. Chambers's Archive' <b>Chair: Andrew King</b></p>
18:00 - 19:00	Social (BYOB)

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July**

12:15 - 12:30	Welcome (please use this time to log on, check your connections and say hello)
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12:30 - 13:30	<b>Reading Group: 'The Third Sex'</b> Hosts: Mollie Clarke and Helena Esser
13:30 - 14:00	Break
14:00 - 14:30	<b>Panel 14 Discussion: 'Science and Supernatural'</b> Chair: Fatima Taha  <b>Beth Mills</b> , 'Encounters between Science and Fiction in Grant Allen's <i>Strange Stories</i> (1884)'  <b>David A. Ibitson</b> , 'Office Gothic'  <b>Louise Benson James</b> , 'Medical Encounters and Environments in the Fiction of Lucas Malet'
14:30 - 15:00	<b>Panel 15 Discussion: 'Visual Cultures'</b> Chair: Sara Lodge  <b>Marie Michlova</b> , 'John Gibson Lockhart's Artistic Dichotomy'  <b>Jonathan Potter</b> , 'Encounters with Pictures in Popular Fiction, 1840-1860'  <b>Betty Hagglund</b> , 'Thomas Wallace Knox and the Boy Travellers'
15:00 - 15:30	Break
15:30 - 16:00	<b>Panel 16 Discussion: 'Politics and Society'</b> Chair: Beatrice Ashton-Lelliott  <b>Helena Goodwyn</b> , 'Intellectual Encounters in Dinah Mulock Craik's <i>John Halifax, Gentleman</i> '  <b>John Morton</b> , 'Encountering Catholicism and Catholic Europe in Popular Fiction and Periodicals of 1850'
16:00 - 16:30	<b>Panel 17 Discussion: 'Senses and Sensibilities'</b> Chair: Mariaconcetta Costantini  <b>Graziella Stringos</b> , "'Here he comes, out of the rock-shadow into the light!": Romantic Encounters in Foreign Lands in Rhoda Broughton's <i>"Good-bye, Sweetheart!"</i> (1872) and <i>Belinda</i> (1883)'  <b>Victoria C. Roskams</b> , 'It's a Man's World: Creation, Re-Creation, and Women in Music in the Late Nineteenth Century'
16:30 - 17:00	Break
17:00 - 17:30	<b>Panel 18 Discussion: 'Vampires and the Occult'</b> Chair: Rachel Stewart  <b>Anne Delgado</b> , 'Encounters with the Other Side: Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, Emma Hardinge Britten, and the Fiction of the Occult'  <b>Tereza Bambuškova</b> , "'My knowledge gives me a safeguard": Science and Doubt in Three Late Victorian Vampire Stories'  <b>Shannon Scott</b> , 'Me Too @LucyVictim#1: Vampires in Neo-Victorian Feminist Horror'
17:30 - 18:00	<b>Panel 19 Discussion: 'The Arts'</b> Chair: Erin Louttit

	<b>Erica Haugtvedt</b> , 'The Curious Case of <i>Jack Sheppard</i> and Victorian Transmedia'  <b>Cherry Sandover</b> , 'Painter's Corner: Paying Respect to Departed Genius'
18:00 - 19:00	<b>AGM &amp; Social (BYOB)</b>
19:00	Close