

The Northeast Victorian Studies Association presents

VARIANTS



Barnard College
March 31 – April 2, 2023

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Mentors

Elizabeth Chang, Dustin Friedman, Amy King, David Kurnick, Tricia Lootens, Nasser Mufti, Jason Rudy, Greg Vargo

Expanding the Field Essay Prize Winners

2023: Olivia Lingyi Xu (Northwestern U), “Haggard in China: Translating Race in A Global History of the Novel”; Honorable Mention: Chandrica Barua (U of Michigan), “‘Poor little princess’: Queen Victoria’s Court as a Site of Imperial Conquest”

2022: Suwendu Ghatak; Honorable Mention: Imogen Forbes-Macphail

2021: Diana Rose Newby; Honorable Mentions: Corbin Hiday and Meghna Sapui

2020: Lindsay Wells; Honorable Mention: Gavi Levy Haskell

2019: Erica Kanesaka Kalnay; Honorable Mentions: Erin Akerman and Patrick Mahoney

Expanding the Field Essay Prize Committee

Sophia Hsu (Chair), Priyanka Jacob, Diana Rose Newby, Lindsay Wells

Sonya Rudikoff Award Committee

Olivia Loksing Moy (Chair), Jonah Siegel, Michael Tondre, Haejoo Kim, Justin Sider



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Special thanks for the support and co-sponsorship of:

Barnard College
English Department
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Department of English and Comparative Literature

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Friends of NVSA ...

We all thank a group of extraordinarily generous friends of NVSA, including several longtime members, who donate consistently and substantially throughout the year.

Friday, March 31

All panels will take place in **Held Lecture Hall**, in **304 Barnard Hall**. **3009 Broadway, New York, 10027**

1:45pm (and following) **Registration**

2:00pm Welcome

2:15—4:15pm Panel 1: Variation as Technique

Olivia Loksing Moy, Chair

Jason Rudy, “No Little England: Variants in the Early Australian Colony”

Efterpi Mitsi, “Greek Matrons, Maidens and Heroines in Victorian Periodicals”

Mark Taylor, “The Voices of the Isle: Stevenson’s South Seas Variations”

4:15—4:30pm Coffee

4:30—6:00pm Panel 2: Textual Variants

Jonathan Dick, Chair

Oishani Sengupta, “Kipling’s Cities of Dreadful Night: Empire as Textual Variance”

Alexander Bubb, “Variants on a Sanskrit Epic: Eight Victorian *Ramayanas*”

Evan Rosenblum, “‘A Nosegay of Culled Flowers’: Women’s Writing and the Culture of Reprinting in the Chartist Press”

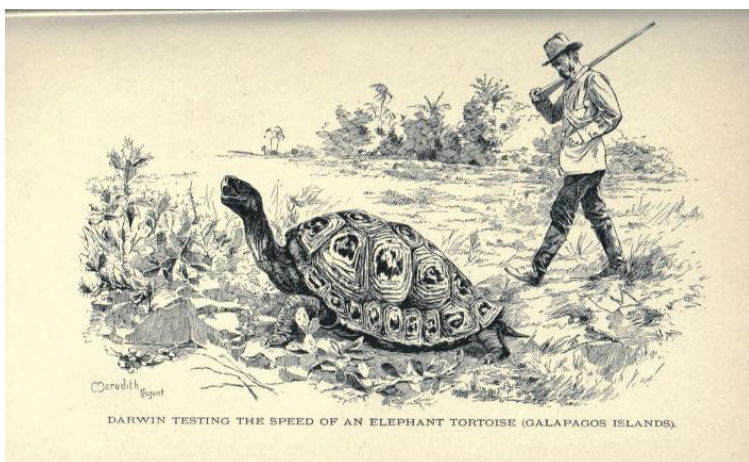
6:00-7:00 pm Drink Reception

Sulzberger Parlor, Barnard Hall



7:30 pm Dinners in Groups or on your Own

Sign up for group dinners at various restaurants using the QR code above (cost not included in registration)



from *Charles Darwin: His Life and Work* (1891)
illustration by Meredith Nugent

Saturday, April 1

10:00am—12:00pm Keynote Panel in Honor of Carole Silver

Simon Reader, Chair

Aviva Briefel (Bowdoin): “Versions of Authenticity: Spirit Cloth, Native Ghosts”

Ian Duncan (Berkeley): “Endless Forms: Aesthetic Evolution and Imperial History in *The Descent of Man*”

Lesley Higgins (York): Hopkins and Pater: “Contending With ‘the Variety, the Complexity, the Surprises’ of Textual Indeterminacy”

12:00pm—1:45pm Lunch(box) Meeting

Altschul Atrium (vote on next year’s theme)

2:00—4:00pm Panel 3: Varying Methods

Naomi Levine, Chair

Imogen Forbes-Macphail, “Invariant Theory”

Abigail Droge, “Mutual Education in the Victorian Studies Classroom”

Athanassia Williamson, “John Dewey’s Victorians”

Sarah Bilston, “‘Old Species, New Variety’?: Redefining ‘The Lost Orchid’”

4:00—4:30pm Coffee

4:30—6:00pm Panel 4: Erotic Variants

Anna Henschman, Chair

Shannon Draucker, “Victorian Musical Science and Varieties of Erotic Experience”

Abigail Joseph, “‘The Love of Variety’: Variation, Inversion, and Revolution from Aesthetics to Sexuality”

Lotte Crawford, “‘Glances which flash’ in the Darkness: Cave Ecologies and Eroticism in the Sapphic Modern

7:00pm Dinner Banquet & Awards

Pisticci 125 La Salle St, New York, NY 10027



Sunday, April 2

9:00am: Bagels and Coffee

9:15am—10:15am Unionization and Labor

Paula Krebs (Executive Director, Modern Language Association), Chair

Rithika Ramamurthy (Brown University & Nonprofit Quarterly)

Emily Steinlight (University of Pennsylvania & AAUP)

10:15—10:30am Coffee

10:30—12:15pm Panel 5: Radical Variants

Olivia Lingyi Xu (Northwestern U), Chair

Monica Cohen, “Variations on a Raft and the Anglicizing of Radical Content”

Ryan Carroll, “Abolitionist Particularities in the Autobiography of Juan Francisco Manzano”

Greg Vargo, “Ira Aldridge and Abolition’s Contested Legacy”

Elizabeth Greeniaus, “A Race for Rome: Black Antiquity in Victorian Histories”

12:15—1:00pm Conference Wrap-Up

Kyle McAuley and Michael Tondre



“The New Woman and her bicycle – there will be several varieties of her.”
F. Opper, from *Puck* Magazine 1895

Winners of the NVSA Sonya Rudikoff Prize

The Sonya Rudikoff prize for the best first book in Victorian Studies was established by the Robert Gutman family in honor of Mr. Gutman's late wife. Sonya Rudikoff was an active member of the Northeast Victorian Studies Association and a recognized scholar. Her book, *Ancestral Houses: Virginia Woolf and the Aristocracy*, was published posthumously.

1999 Yopie Prins, *Victorian Sappho* (Princeton)

2000 Alison Winter, *Mesmerized: Powers of Mind in Victorian Britain* (Chicago)

2001 Jonah Siegel, *Desire and Excess: the Nineteenth-Century Culture of Art* (Princeton)

Honorable Mention: Rick Rylance, *Victorian Psychology and British Culture 1850-1880* (Oxford)

2002 Nicholas Dames, *Amnesiac Selves: Nostalgia, Forgetting, and British Fiction, 1810-1870* (Oxford)

2003 Priya Joshi, *In Another Country: Colonialism, Culture, and the English Novel in India* (Columbia)

2004 Seth Koven, *Slumming: Sexual and Social Politics in Victorian London* (Princeton) and

Alex Woloch, *The One vs. The Many: Minor Characters and the Space of the Protagonist in the Novel* (Princeton)

Honorable Mention: Andrew Warwick, *Masters of Theory: Cambridge and the Rise of Mathematical Physics* (Chicago)

2005 Suzy Anger, *Victorian Interpretation* (Cornell)

2006 Patrick O'Malley, *Catholicism, Sexual Deviance, and Victorian Gothic Culture* (Cambridge)

2007 Amanda Claybaugh, *The Novel of Purpose: Literature and Social Reform in the Anglo-American World* (Cornell)

2008 Chris Otter, *The Victorian Eye: A Political History of Light and Vision in Britain, 1800-1910* (Chicago) and

Cornelia Pearsall, *Tennyson's Rapture: Transformation in the Victorian Dramatic Monologue* (Oxford)

2009 Rachel Teukolsky, *The Literate Eye: Victorian Art Writing and Modernist Aesthetics* (Oxford)

2010 Sukanya Banerjee, *Becoming Imperial Citizens: Indians in the Late-Victorian Empire* (Duke)

2011 Sadiah Qureshi, *Peoples on Parade: Exhibitions, Empire, and Anthropology in Nineteenth-Century Britain* (Chicago) and

- Charles LaPorte, *Victorian Poets and the Changing Bible* (Virginia)
- 2012** David Kurnick, *Empty Houses: Theatrical Failure and the Novel* (Princeton) and
Meredith Martin, *The Rise and Fall of Meter: Poetry and English National Culture, 1860-1930* (Princeton)
- 2013** Jennifer Esmail, *Reading Victorian Deafness: Signs and Sounds in Victorian Literature and Culture* (Ohio University) and
Ross Forman, *China and the Victorian Imagination: Empires Entwined* (Cambridge)
- 2014** Allen MacDuffie, *Victorian Literature, Energy, and the Ecological Imagination* (Cambridge)
Honorable Mention: Kathleen Frederickson, *The Ploy of Instinct: Victorian Sciences of Nature and Sexuality in Liberal Governance* (Fordham)
- 2015** Annmarie Drury, *Translation as Transformation in Victorian Poetry* (Cambridge)
Honorable Mention: Jordan Bear, *Disillusioned: Victorian Photography and the Discerning Subject* (Pennsylvania State)
- 2016** Jesse Oak Taylor, *The Sky of Our Manufacture: The London Fog in British Fiction from Dickens to Woolf* (Virginia)
Honorable Mention: Elisha Cohn, *Still Life: Suspended Development in the Victorian Novel* (Oxford)
- 2017** Benjamin Morgan, *The Outward Mind: Materialist Aesthetics in Victorian Science and Literature* (Chicago)
Honorable Mention: Jonathan Farina, *Everyday Words and the Character of Prose in Nineteenth-Century Britain* (Cambridge)
- 2018** Emily Steinlight, *Populating the Novel: Literary Form and the Politics of Surplus Life* (Cornell University Press)
Honorable Mention: Nasser Mufti, *Civilizing War: Imperial Politics and the Poetics of National Rupture* (Northwestern University Press)
- 2019** Alicia Mireles Christoff, *Novel Relations: Victorian Fiction and British Psychoanalysis* (Princeton University Press)
- 2020** Jessie Reeder, *The Forms of Informal Empire: Britain, Latin America, and Nineteenth-Century Literature* (Johns Hopkins University Press)
Honorable mention: Shawna Ross, *Charlotte Bronte at the Anthropocene* (SUNY Press)
- 2021** To be announced at the Banquet!

NVSA: Our History

The Northeast Victorian Studies Association grew out of an interdisciplinary Five-College Victorian Studies Seminar (comprised of scholars from Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, Smith, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst) initiated by Michael Wolff in 1970. In 1971, Wolff and Maurianne Adams hosted a conference on “England in the 1870s: A Decade of Conflict.” Other meetings, one on poverty, another on William Morris, followed.

At a 1975 conference on “The Victorian Family” hosted by Assumption College in Worcester, the organization of NVSA—with its primary task the sponsorship of annual conferences—was proposed. The next year, at the Ramapo College meeting on “Pasts and Futures,” the NVSA constitution was approved: Maurianne Adams became the first president and Robert Keane, the secretary-treasurer.

Highlights from succeeding conferences include a reconsideration of Walter E. Houghton’s landmark study, *The Victorian Frame of Mind* (1984), a spiritualist demonstration by a member of the London Psychical Research Society (1985), a descent into an actual coalmine at the “Victorian Others” conference at Scranton College (1988), a professional production of *Princess Toto* by W.S. Gilbert and Frederic Clay (1992), and a magic lantern show (2008). In 1991, at the University of Rochester meeting, we honored George Ford, a longtime supporter of NVSA, for a lifetime of contributions to Victorian studies.

1989 saw the establishment of the Coral Lansbury Award, honoring the memory of our third president, to help support the travel of a graduate student presenting a paper; in 1993 another such award, in memory of George Ford, was created. In 1999, the Rudikoff family established a prize for the year’s best first book on Victorian subject as a memorial to Sonya, a longtime member. Meanwhile, in 1995 Glenn Everett designed the organization’s first website.

The organization has alternated conference sites between the northern and southern reaches of the “northeast,” including Canadian venues. There is a reception on Friday evening and a Saturday night banquet. The Saturday business lunch is an important occasion, featuring a lively debate and vote on the choice of the next year’s conference topic. There have been innovations and evolutions in the conference format as well: in 1996, the Sunday afternoon tour became a Friday afternoon visit to a library collection, a museum, or some other local site. In 1999, the keynote talk evolved into a Saturday morning keynote panel, featuring several speakers and addressing such topics as “Future Directions for Victorian Studies” (1999), “Interdisciplinarity at the Breaking Point” (2000), “Periodization and the Nineteenth Century” (2001), and “Knowing the Past” (2002). Recent panels have included “Victorian Cosmopolitanism” with Antoinette Burton, James Buzard, and Bruce Robbins (2007); “Systems and Archives” with Paul Saint-Amour, Nicholas Daly, Bernard Lightman, and Catherine Robson (2011); and “Victorian Senses” with Janice Carlisle, William Cohen, and Jules Law (2014). Our 2015 conference at the University of Rhode Island included a 40th anniversary retrospective panel featuring long-term NVSA members.

NVSA Conferences

- 1975 The Victorian Family (Assumption College)
- 1976 Pasts and Futures (Ramapo College)
- 1977 Crime and Punishment (Boston College)
- 1978 Victorians and the World Abroad (Hofstra University)
- 1979 Victorian Mythologies (Rhode Island College)
- 1980 Victorian War and Violence (University of Pennsylvania)
- 1981 Britain in the 1880s (University of Hartford)
- 1982 Victorians and Money (Drew University)
- 1983 Loss and Failure in the Victorian World (Boston College)
- 1984 Framing the Victorians (Hofstra University)
- 1985 The Victorians and the Supernatural (Rhode Island College and Brown University)
- 1986 Victorian Work and Workers (Yale Center for British Art)
- 1987 Victorian Food, Fun, and Games (Wheaton College)
- 1988 Victorian Others (Scranton College)
- 1989 Evolution and Revolution (Rhode Island College)
- 1990 Disguises, Dreams and Deceptions (Princeton University)
- 1991 Victorian Endings (University of Rochester)
- 1992 Victorian Space and Place (Rutgers University)
- 1993 Victorian Waters (Rhode Island College)
- 1994 Victorian Interiors (New York University)
- 1995 Victorian Beasts and Beauties (MIT)
- 1996 Victorian Spectacles (Villanova University)
- 1997 Victorian Anxieties (University of Hartford)
- 1998 Victorian Worlds: Anthropologies, Ethnicities, Geographies (Smith College)
- 1999 Victorian Memory (Yale Center for British Art)
- 2000 Victorian Breakdowns (The Graduate Center, CUNY)
- 2001 Victorian Nocturnes (Brown University)
- 2002 Victorian Origins and Excavations (Queen's University, Canada)
- 2003 Technologies and Media in the 19th Century (MIT)
- 2004 The Sacred and the Profane (Cornell University)
- 2005 Victorian Collaboration (American University)

- 2006 Victorian Fatigue (Drew University)
2007 Victorian Cosmopolitanism (Harvard University)
2008 Victorian Underworlds (University of Toronto)
2009 The Victorian Everyday (Wellesley College)
2010 Fighting Victorians (Princeton University)
2011 Victorian Systems and Archives (University of Maryland)
2012 Victorian Clichés and Orthodoxies (Columbia University)
2013 1874 (Boston University)
2014 Victorian Senses (Stony Brook University)
2015 Victorian Accidents (University of Rhode Island)
2016 Victorian Outliers (Rutgers University)
2017 The Question of Victorian Literature (Georgetown University)
2018 Unfinished Victorians (University of Pennsylvania)
2019 Latitudes (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)
2020/21 Oppression and Uprisings (Remote, due to pandemic)
2022 Recovery (Johns Hopkins University)
2023 Variants (Barnard College)



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