The Northeast Victorian Studies Association invites papers for its annual conference.

**Featuring keynote panelists**

Sukanya Banerjee (U Wisconsin-Milwaukee)  
Ankhi Mukherjee (Wadham College, Oxford U)  
Tim Watson (University of Miami)

The topic for this year’s conference is “Latitudes,” which we hope will help to expand the field of Victorian studies and the scope of NVSA in particular. We welcome papers that challenge the limits of what has been typically considered “Victorian”—geographically, demographically, temporally, and methodologically. Latitudes is a term that imagines a global nineteenth century and invites critical approaches to imperialism, colonialism, travel, emigration, translation, technologies, and international exchanges. At the same time, it embodies an attitude of openness that encourages borrowing laterally from, and thinking with, other disciplines, time periods, and places, thus stretching the capacity of NVSA as a scholarly community.

What are the latitudes and longitudes for our scope of study as Victorianists? And how might we wish to reposition this orientation onto a global scale in our future scholarship? The theme allows for a strong historical focus that considers nineteenth-century exploration around the world, shifting the locus of Victorian studies from the British Isles to Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Australia. How would the use of other languages inject new life, through comparative approaches, into our traditionally Anglocentric field? Can we escape or upend the models of center and periphery in empire studies? We especially encourage papers that consider how the framing of our field has inscribed lines of separation, sectioning off Victorian scholars from larger conversations in postcolonial and global nineteenth-century studies. A pointed challenge here is to approach island studies that are neither insular nor exoticizing. The early ethnographic projects of missionaries, explorers, pioneers, and naturalists often led to juxtapositions that resulted in discourses of racism or primitivism. What do we do with this?

Formally, nineteenth-century authors and philosophers no doubt experimented with generic delineations and expectations. What texts push the limits of genre to their breaking point? We want to consider hybrid genres that seem to cross or blur lines of distinction: fantasy and science fiction; the verse novel; innovative dramatic productions; travel narratives, memoirs, and tourism; anthropological, journalistic, scientific and medical writing. We invite explorations of new formalisms and alternative modes of measurement.

But “Latitudes” does not only embody a celebratory spirit of expanse, of liberty from slavery, religious conventions, or a host of supposedly strict Victorian mores. Negative associations of latitude suggest an indecorous overstepping of bounds. What are the aesthetic failures of authors who take too much latitude? How much latitude is too much, in terms of laxity, looseness, and leeway from convention or law? Longitudes, conceived temporally, pushes us beyond 1830-1901 to consider neo-Victorianism, a long durée, presentism, and a nineteenth century that is at once long, deep, and wide.

We welcome papers that exemplify creative ways of confronting the limits, coordinates, and the latitude and longitude of our discipline, suggesting freedom from our traditional national, temporal, or disciplinary borders, and exploring stylistic and formal liberties as well.
Potential topics might include, but are in no way limited to, the following:

**Geographical Latitudes and Longitudes**
Archipelagoes, Oceans, Hemispheres
Orientation, Cartography, Measurement, Maps, Navigation, Compasses, Stratigraphy
Temperate, tropical, polar, northern, southern latitudes or “zones”: Sir Richard Francis Burton’s “Sotadic Zone”
Africa, Asia (China, West Asia, India, Russia, Japan), Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific, the Americas, the Caribbean, Continental Europe, the Arctic & Antarctic

East and West vs. the Global South
Southern Hemispheric studies
The value of frameworks like hemispheric, oceanic, transimperial, and transatlantic
Charles Dickens, *American Notes, Pictures from Italy*
Robert Louis Stevenson, *Treasure Island, In the South Seas*
Joseph Conrad; Mary Carpenter
Wilkie Collins (and Dickens), *The Frozen Deep*

"And of the influence of climate and temperature in forming the nature of man, (a conception perhaps pressed too far in modern days when the ‘rice-theory’ is supposed to be a sufficient explanation of the Hindoo, and the latitude and longitude of a country the best guide to its morals.) Aristotle is completely aware. [Cousin errs a good deal in this respect: to say like he did ‘give me the lat. long. of a country, its rivers and its mountains and I will deduce the race’ is surely a glaring exaggeration.]"

—Oscar Wilde, “Historical Criticism"

**Methodological Latitudes**
New Formalisms and new modes of measurement
Digital mapping; *Graphs, Maps & Trees*; distant reading
New Orientalisms
Fantasy genres
Global & World Literatures; rethinking center and periphery
Presentism
Transhistorical & transdisciplinary work
Latitude as form(alism): lines, maps, zones
Translation, transliteration, transculturation
Methodological stretches, Victorian and contemporary
“Long,” “wide,” and “deep” nineteenth century
“Exposure latitude” in photography

**Linguistic & National Borders**
English translations and uses of texts from other “latitudes”: *The Thousand and One Nights, The Rubaiyat, The Tao te Ching*, etc.
Comparative literatures
Exiles and expatriates
Settler colonialism
Migration, Immigration, Diaspora
Permissions, permits
Canon-busting: establishing new canons
Black and Brown Victorians
Global and World Literatures
Anglocentrism and globalism
Aamir Mufti, *Against English*
Emily Apter, *Against World Literatures*
Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o on Thomas Babington Macaulay
C. L. R. James, *Beyond a Boundary*

“I was surprised to observe how great a change of climate a difference of only three degrees of latitude between this place and Buenos Ayres had caused. This was evident from the dress and complexion of the men—from the increased size of the ombu-trees—the number of new cacti and other plants—and especially from the birds. In the course of an hour I remarked half-a-dozen birds, which I had never seen at Buenos Ayres. Considering that there is no natural boundary between the two places, and that the character of the country is nearly similar, the difference was much greater than I should have expected.”

—Charles Darwin, *Voyage of the Beagle*
Explorers, Pioneers, Naturalists, Missionaries & Journalists:

Early ethnography and anthropology
Victorian racism and theories of barbarism
Demographics
Time travel; polar explorations; science fiction
Geology, Botany, Natural history
Travel (for holidays, health, education) and its genres
(travelogue, tourism, travel guides, etc.)
Objects: souvenirs, luggage, trains, ships, cameras (latitude is also a photography term)

“Thing Theory” (silk, opium, feathers, tobacco, ivory)
Marianne Postans, *Western India in 1838*
Mary Kingsley, *Travels in West Africa*
Mary Seacole, *Wonderful Adventures of Mrs. Seacole in Many Lands*
Isabella Bird, *Unbeaten Tracks in Japan, Yangtze Valley and Beyond*
Gertrude Bell, *Poems from the Divan of Hafiz*
Charles Darwin, *Voyage of the Beagle*
Alfred Russel Wallace, *Malay Archipelago*
Olive Schreiner, *Story of an African Farm*
George Eliot, *The Spanish Gypsy*
Henry Morton Stanley, Thomas Cook, Florence Nightingale, W.H. Hudson, Maria Graham, David Livingston

Latitude as leeway, looseness, or freedom

Laxity of behavior, morals, rules, conduct manuals
Range of movement; freedom for action or thought
Decadence
Deviations from norms
Victorian conceptions of disability and impairment
Nonsense and theories of meaning
Adaptations, prequels, and sequels
Generic play; hybridity in classifications of genre or form (verse novels, children’s literature)

Henry James; Lewis Carroll
Frances Trollope, *Domestic Manners of the Americans*
Charlotte Brontë & Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*

Exile or escape; exceeding limits

Slavery and imperialism
Discourses of liberty and emancipation
Abuses of power & scopes of liberty
Recursive forms
Technologies: railways; telegraph, hot air balloons
Slave trade, indentured labor, abolitionism
George Orwell
Elizabeth Barrett Browning, “The Runaway Slave at Pilgrim’s Point”

Temporal Latitudes

Science fiction
Afrofuturism
Neo-Victorian arises and steampunk culture

Religious Latitudes

Latitudinarianism (Broad Church) vs. religious formalism
Spiritualism and mediums
Missionary and conversion narratives

Formal Latitudes

Formal aberrations
Escape from repetitive or cyclic forms
Verse novel
Fantastic literature
Thomas Hardy, *Two on a Tower*

And their opposites

Rigidity, narrow-mindedness, fixity
Seemingly fixed poetic forms and genres, such as the sonnet or the parable
Didactic writing such as the pamphlet and educational texts
“How could he have so misunderstood her? She had been so intimate with him, had allowed him such latitude in what he had chosen to say to her; had complied with his ideas, cherished his views, fostered his precepts, cared for his comforts, made much of him in every way in which a pretty woman can make much of an unmarried man without committing herself or her feelings! She had been doing this, and while she had been doing it he had regarded her as the affianced wife of another man.”

—Anthony Trollope, *Barchester Towers*

**Proposals** (no more than 500 words) by Oct. 15, 2018 (email submissions only, in Word format), submitted to: Olivia Loksing Moy, Chair, NVSA Program Committee: olivia.moy@lehman.cuny.edu.

**Please note:** all submissions to NVSA are evaluated anonymously. Successful proposals will stay within the 500-word limit and make a compelling case for the talk and its relation to the conference topic. Please do not send complete papers, and do not include your name on the proposal.

**Please include your name, institution, email address, and proposal title in a cover letter.** Papers should take 15 minutes (20 minutes maximum) so as to provide ample time for discussion – a priority at NVSA events.

**The Coral Lansbury Travel Grant** ($100.00) and **George Ford Travel Grant** ($100.00), given in memory of key founding members of NVSA, are awarded annually to a graduate student, adjunct instructor, or independent scholar in need of travel support to deliver a paper at our conference. *Apply by indicating in your cover letter that you wish to be considered.* Please indicate from where you will be traveling, your projected expenses, and the extent of your funding from other sources.

**Graduate Student Essay Prize**

The Northeast Victorian Studies Association (NVSA) is pleased to announce a new annual prize for essays that expand the geographic, ethnic, racial, and methodological diversity of scholarship in the field. The award will recognize work that foregrounds nineteenth-century texts, contexts, perspectives, and insights by or about British colonial subjects residing outside the metropole or by or about immigrants and their descendants residing within it. We also welcome submissions that speak more broadly to the centrality of race, ethnicity, and imperialism in the shaping of global Victorian literature and culture. Essays should be 20-30 pages long and authors must be graduate students at the time of submission.

Winners will receive registration to the annual NVSA conference and a $250 check, and the prize committee will offer help, if wanted, in placing the essay with a journal. The prize is contingent on neither publication nor the promise of future publication. Submit essays to Carolyn Betensky at betensky@uri.edu by Feb. 1, 2019.

**To join NVSA, or to renew your membership for 2018-2019**, please visit our website at [nvsa.org](http://nvsa.org) and click on “Membership.”

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Aeronautics entry from an 1818 technical manual