

**CFP: NVSA 2020**

# *Oppression & Uprisings*

**Johns Hopkins University  
March 27-29, 2020**

**Featuring**

**A keynote panel to include:**

*Jed Esty (U of Pennsylvania)*  
*Simon Gikandi (Princeton U) and  
more*

**And a plenary “Field Work” panel**

The Northeast Victorian Studies Association seeks proposals on the theme of “Oppression and Uprisings” for its annual conference at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. Twenty-first century conflicts motivate our call for papers addressing how the Victorians enacted, theorized, and made art about political strife.

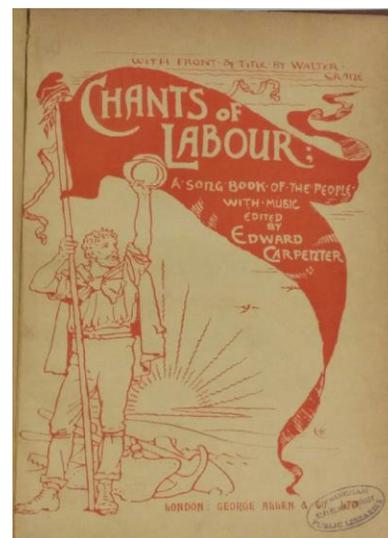
We welcome papers on specific uprisings and systematic oppressions, as well as work that considers how these categories intersect. How do mundane forms of injury suffered by many in the Victorian period relate to momentous political revolts? Does oppression inevitably catalyze uprising? How do the oppressions and uprisings of our present originate in or otherwise relate to those of the nineteenth century? How can nineteenth-century representations help us theorize 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.

Such questions urge us to consider the conference *in situ*: Baltimore has a long history of violent conflict between police forces and its African-American communities. One such example would be the Baltimore Uprising, which erupted in the wake of the death (in police custody) of Freddie Gray in 2015. Beyond addressing abstract and metaphorical conceptions of “Oppression and Uprising,” proposals might also address the concrete use of force in the Victorian period and its aftermath.



## Modern Uprisings with Victorian Origins

#MeToo  
Brexit  
Black Lives Matter  
Extinction Rebellion  
Occupy Wall Street  
Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions

“It is the old story—one law for the rich and another for the poor”

George Moore, *Esther Waters*

## Forms of Oppression

Gender  
Racial  
Juridical  
Familial  
Economic  
Psychoanalytic  
Pedagogical  
Religious  
Colonial/Imperial  
Industrial  
Biological

## Challenges of Intersectionality

Women and Slavery  
Irish Nationalism and Slavery  
Colonial anti-sodomy laws  
Analogies of women and colonial subjects  
Alliances between radicals

“How long, O cruel Nation,  
Will you stand, to move the world, on a  
child’s heart,—  
Stifle down with a mailed heel its palpitation,  
And tread onward to your throne amid  
the mart?”

EBB, “The Cry of the Children” (1843)

## Forms of Uprising

Luddites  
Chartism (Swing Riots, Spa Fields Riots, Derbyshire Rising, Peterloo Massacre, Cato Street Conspiracy)  
Second Reform Bill Riots, Newport Rising  
Oxford/Tractarian/High Church Movement  
Second Reform Act  
Suffrage  
Morant Bay  
Eureka Rebellion  
Fenian Rising/Terror  
Irish Land League/Land Wars  
Home Rule Movement  
Miners  
Matchstick girls  
First Indian War of Independence  
Indian Nationalist bombing campaign, 1900-10  
Red River Rebellion/Metis Uprising, 1869-70  
Anglo-Afghan Wars  
Anglo-Sikh Wars  
Risorgimento  
Monster Meetings  
The Ghost Dance  
New Zealand Wars, 1845-72  
Victorian engagements with the American Civil War  
Boxer Uprising/Rebellion, aka the Yihetuan Movement



"Aesthetic splendour is not just affirmative ideology; it is also the reflected glimmer of life free of oppression"

Theodore Adorno, *Aesthetic Theory*

## Archives/texts

*Manchester Guardian*  
*Felix Holt, The Radical*, George Eliot  
*North and South*, Elizabeth Gaskell  
*Mary Barton*, Elizabeth Gaskell  
*The Woman's Signal*  
*Dreams*, Olive Schreiner  
*Sartor Resartus*, Thomas Carlyle  
*The Secret Agent*, Joseph Conrad  
*The Landleaguers*, Anthony Trollope  
*A Drama in Muslin*, George Moore  
*Hurrish*, Emily Lawless  
*The Whiteboy*, Anna Maria Hall  
*The Dynamiter*, Robert Louis Stevenson  
*Barnaby Rudge*, Charles Dickens  
*A Tale of Two Cities*, Charles Dickens  
*Casa Guidi Windows*, EBB

## Theory

Sigmund Freud, *Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego*  
Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*  
Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition*  
Mikhail Bakunin, *Statism and Anarchy*  
Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks*  
Joshua Clover, *Riot. Strike. Riot.*  
Priyamavada Gopal, *Insurgent Empire*  
Amy E. Martin, *Alter-nations*  
John Plotz, *The Crowd*  
Shesalatha Reddy, *Revolted Bodies*

## Proposals:

(No more than 500 words) by **October 25, 2019** (email submissions only, in Word format), should be sent to Simon Reader, Program Committee Chair: [simon.reader@csi.cuny.edu](mailto:simon.reader@csi.cuny.edu). Include your name, institutional and email addresses, and proposal title in a cover letter.

## Please note:

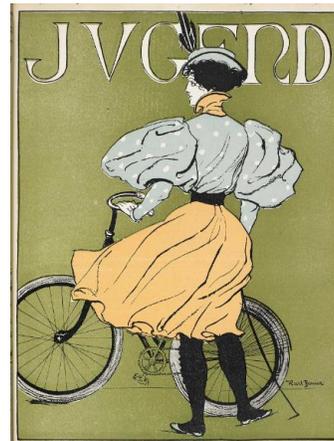
All submissions to NVSA are evaluated anonymously by the conference committee. Successful proposals will stay within the 500-word limit and make a compelling case for the talk and its relation to the conference topic.

Please do NOT send complete papers and do NOT include your name on the actual proposal.

Papers should take 15 minutes (20 minutes maximum) so as to provide ample time for discussion.

## Travel Grants

The **Coral Lansbury Travel Grant** (\$100) and **George Ford Travel Grant** (\$100), given in memory of key founding members of NVSA, are awarded annually to the graduate student, adjunct instructor, or independent scholar with the greatest need for funding assistance to give 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 travelling and whether you have other sources of funding.



### **Graduate Student Essay Prize**

The Northeast Victorian Studies Association (NVSA) is pleased to announce a second 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 neither contingent on publication nor the promise of future publication.

Submit essays to Carolyn Betensky by **February 15, 2020: [betensky@uri.edu](mailto:betensky@uri.edu)**

### **Diversity Mentorship Program**

The Northeast Victorian Studies Association offers a Diversity Mentorship Program for 2019-20 that seeks to enrich the field of Victorian studies by paving the way for a more inclusive professoriate that is representative of the populations we teach and serve. The program is especially geared towards graduate students of color, first-generation college students, students with disabilities, and trans/non-binary scholars whose work engages with critical race theory, postcolonial and transatlantic scholarship, disabilities studies, or related topics. Each cohort of mentors and mentees will provide a mutual support network while offering a platform to discuss professionalization issues and working towards equality in the field.

More information and application available at: <https://nvsa.org/mentorship/>

**To join NVSA or renew your membership for 2019-2020** visit our website: <https://nvsa.org/membership>

**NVSA relies upon donations** to support its Mentorship Program, Graduate Student Essay Prize, keynote panels, and other endeavors.

**Please Donate:**  
<https://nvsa.org/giving-to-nvsa/>

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