The Northeast Victorian Studies Association presents

VARIANTS

Barnard College
March 31 – April 2, 2023
**NVSA Officers**
President: Simon Reader (CUNY-Staten Island)
Vice-President: Olivia Loksing Moy (CUNY-Lehman)
Treasurer: Joan Dagle (Rhode Island College)
Historian: Anne Humpherys (CUNY)

**NVSA Advisory Board**
Eileen Gillooly, Anne Humpherys, George Levine,
Tricia Lootens, Lisa Rodensky, Tyson Stolte, and
Martha Vicinus

**Conference Site Organizer**
Jayne Hildebrand (Barnard College)

**Conference Committee**
Committee Chair: Jacob Romanow
James Eli Adams, Jacqueline Barrios, Tina Young Choi,
Jonathan Farina, Dustin Friedman, Debra Gettelman,
Erik Gray, Jayne Hildebrand, Sean Hughes, Naomi
Levine, Jonathan Loesberg, Olivia Loksing Moy, Mary
Mullen, Simon Reader, Jessie Reeder, Jesse Rosenthal,
Zach Samalin, Jonah Siegel, Mimi Winick, Alisha
Walters, Daniel Wright

**Mentorship Program Director**
Mary Mullen (Villanova University)

**Fellows**
Mosunmola Adeojo (University of Florida), Sourav
Chatterjee (Columbia), Jonathan Dick (University of
Pennsylvania), Emma Mincks (University of New
Mexico), Meghna Sapui (University of Florida), Haley
Suh (UC Irvine), Olivia Xu (Northwestern)
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: Suvendu 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
Special thanks for the support and co-sponsorship of:

Barnard College
English Department
Office of the Provost

Columbia University
Department of English and Comparative Literature

New York University
Department of English

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)


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 Henchman, 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”

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)
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
2013  Jennifer Esmail, *Reading Victorian Deafness: Signs and Sounds in Victorian Literature and Culture* (Ohio University) and
    Honorable Mention: Kathleen Frederickson, *The Ploy of Instinct: Victorian Sciences of Nature and Sexuality in Liberal Governance* (Fordham)
    Honorable Mention: Jordan Bear, *Disillusioned: Victorian Photography and the Discerning Subject* (Pennsylvania State)
    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)
2021  To be announced at the Banquet!

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 “Past 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 (Rampone 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)