

The Northeast Victorian Studies Association presents

# LABOR



College of the Holy Cross  
Worcester, Massachusetts  
April 5 – April 7, 2024

## **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**

Debra Gettelman (College of the Holy Cross)

## **Conference Committee**

Committee Chair: Mark Taylor  
James Eli Adams, Tina Young Choi, Imogen Forbes-Macphail, Dustin Friedman, Debra Gettelman, Anna Henschman, Jayne Hildebrand, Sean Hughes, Naomi Levine, Tricia Lootens, Tara Menon, Andrew Miller, Olivia Loksing Moy, Mary Mullen, Simon Reader, Jessie Reeder, Jacob Romanow, Jason Rudy, Zach Samalin, Oishani Sengupta, Jonah Siegel

## **Mentorship Program Director**

Mary Mullen (Villanova University)

## **Mentees**

Mosunmola Adejo (University of Florida), Sourav Chatterjee (Columbia), Jonathan Dick (University of Pennsylvania), Rebecca Hamilton (University of Aberdeen), Jack Tingcong Lin (University of Hong Kong), Gyuri Moon (Sogang University), Haley Suh (UC Irvine), Elizabeth Winter (Northwestern U)

Front Image: Female Collier from Rose Bridge Pits, Wigan, 1869

## **Mentors**

Aviva Briefel, Elizabeth Chang, Tricia Lootens, Andrew Miller, Nasser Mufti, Jessie Reeder, Kyoko Takanashi, Greg Vargo

## **Expanding the Field Essay Prize Winners**

**2024:** Michelle Radnia & Sebastian Egholm Lund;  
Honorable mention: Cherrie Kwok

**2023:** Olivia Lingyi Xu; Honorable Mention: Chandrica Barua

**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), Annmarie Drury, Mimi Winick, Adrian S. Wisnicki

## **Sonya Rudikoff Award Committee**

Justin Sider (Chair), Annmarie Drury, Haejoo Kim, Cornelia Pearsall, Simon Reader



Thomas Benjamin Kennington, *The Pinch of Poverty* (1891)

**Special thanks for the support and co-sponsorship of:**

**College of the Holy Cross**

English Department

Office of the Provost

McFarland Center for Religion, Ethics, and Culture

The Daniels Fund

and Elisa Saad for invaluable administrative help

**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, April 5**

All panels will take place in the **Rehm Library in Smith Hall**, College of the Holy Cross

**12:15pm – 1:15pm** Pre-conference Tour of the **American Antiquarian Society**, 185 Salisbury Street, Worcester. Meet in the lobby if you signed up!

**1:15pm** (and following) **Registration, Smith Hall**

**2:00pm** **Welcome**

**2:15 – 4:00pm Panel 1: Exchange**

Tara Menon, Chair

Olivia Lingyi Xu, “The Labor of Translation: Lin Shu’s Reinvention of *David Copperfield*”

Riley McGuire, “A Voice for Print: Vocal Disability as a Catalyst for Authorial Labor in Victorian Life Writing”

Abigail Droge, “College Students, Industry, and Literature: Nineteenth and Twenty-First Century Perspectives”

**4:00—4:15pm** **Coffee**

**4:15—5:45pm Panel 2: Special Panel on Academic Labor**

Olivia Loksing Moy, Chair

Dennis Hogan, Haverford College

Paula Krebs, Modern Language Association

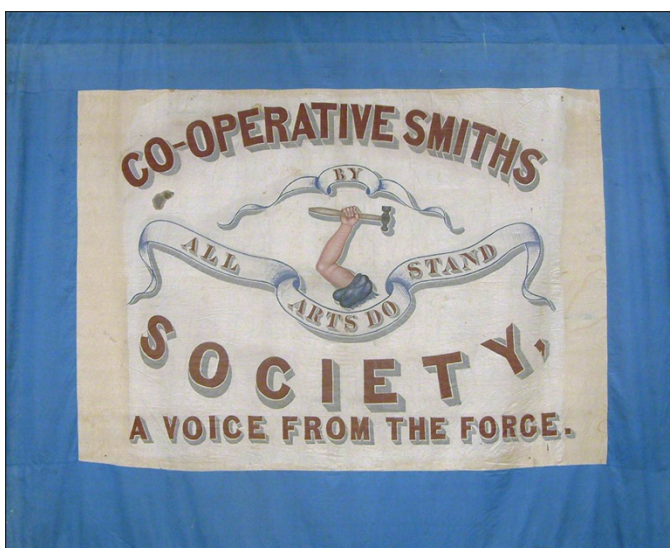
Ruth McAdams, Skidmore College

**5:45-6:55 pm** **Drink Reception**

Hogan Center, Suite A, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor



Sign-up here. Dinners are at 7:30pm  
(Cost not included in registration)



Co-operative Smiths Banner, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, c. 1870

## **Saturday, April 6**

**9:15am – 10:00am Breakfast, Moran Lounge (Smith Hall)**

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

Simon Reader, Chair

Amanpal Garcha, The Ohio State University

Anna Kornbluh, University of Illinois Chicago

Carolyn Lesjak, Simon Fraser University

**12:00pm— 1:45pm Lunch(box) Meeting**

Levis Browsing Room, Dinand Library

**2:00— 3:45pm Panel 3: Data and Technology**

Esther Hu, Chair

Sierra Eckert, “Marx’s Monstrous Statistics”

Kevin King, “Carlyle, Marx, and the Nineteenth-Century Writer as Weaver”

Milan Terlunen “Working Our Way Through Long Novels: Scholarly Quotation as Collective Information Labor”

3:45 – 4:15pm Coffee

4:15 – 6:00pm Panel 4: Pleasure

Chair: Jonah Siegel

Cheryl Wilson, “Art and Effort on the Victorian Stage: The Labor of English Ballet Girls”

Joe McLaughlin, “In the Thrall of Capital: *Dracula* and the Erotics of Employment”

Corey Risinger, “‘Work[ing]’ with Victorian Maidservant Hannah Cullwick On Her Own Terms”

7:00 – 10:00pm Banquet and Awards

Volturmo Privado  
72 Shrewsbury Street

General Register of *Indian* Immigrants introduced into the Colony by the

Ship's Number	No.	NAME	Father's Name	Sex	Age	Height		Complexion	Bodily Marks	Name of Native Place	Date of Indenture	Plantation to which allotted
						Fe.	In.					
352	447372	Aular	Bangadin	Male	27	5	1	Swari	Scar on back of left <sup>shoulder</sup> Breast	22.6.1877	Broken	
128	447373	Banujh	Basant	"	23	5	3	Swari	Scar on forehead Breast	"	"	"
451	447374	Bharraj	Bhala	"	24	5	3	Swari	Scar on left of back Forehead	"	"	"
343	447375	Bala	Bhikin	"	20	5	5	Swari	Scar on back Forehead	"	"	"
449	447376	Bhuniyau Kirin	Bhacion	"	22	5	4	Bhumar	Scar back of left Breast	"	"	"
447	447377	Bhagwardin	Bankathi	"	20	5	4	Baderia	Scar on left chest Breast	"	"	"
240	447378	Bhagwanth	Tageswar	"	27	5	3	Baderia	Scar on left Breast Forehead	"	"	"
497	447379	Bangan	Boghi	"	19	5	2	Baderia	Scar on left Breast Forehead	"	"	"
7	447380	Bular	Bhoman	"	26	5	2.5	Basi	Scar on left shin Face Breast	"	"	"
1	447381	Bomai	Bulgar	"	22	5	1	Swand	Scar on back of left Forehead	"	"	"
390	447382	Bowra	Bonia	"	21	5	3	Basi	Scar on side of back Breast	"	"	"
491	447383	Banbishun	Banta	"	23	5	4	Swari	Scar on left shin Forehead	"	"	"
278	447384	Bhuse	Bhkhari	"	24	5	2	Bhallah	Scar on side of back Breast	"	"	"
353	447385	Bangadi	Bhghawan	"	20	4	11	Swari	Scar on right knee Breast	"	"	"
126	447386	Bahpalia	Banjaj	"	24	4	10	Swari	Scar on right knee Breast	"	"	"
57	447387	Baharaji	Bahar	"	26	4	10	Swari	Scar on right knee Breast	"	"	"
276	447388	Bahadia	Bharaj	"	26	5	2	Bhallah	Scar on right knee Breast	"	"	"
8	447389	Bahghara	Bachan	"	20	5	-	Basi	Scar on forehead Face Breast	"	"	"
354	447390	Bharaji	Bari	"	35	4	11	Swari	Scar on right knee Breast	"	"	"
129	447391	Bahrania	Bajathar	"	23	5	3	Swari	Scar on right knee Breast	"	"	"
2	447392	Bakla	Bhgo	"	21	4	11	Swand	Scar on right knee Breast	"	"	"

“Register showing the immigrants who came on the *Ganges*, the last ship to bring indentured labourers in 1917.” National Archives of Trinidad and Tobago. The first ship was the *Futtle Rozack* in 1847.

## **Sunday, April 7**

**9:00am – 10am: Breakfast, Moran Lounge (Smith Hall)**

**10:00am – 11:30 Panel 5: Dream Jobs**

Oishani Sengupta, Chair

Will Glovinsky, “Victorian Degrowth Now: From Mill’s

‘Stationary State’ to *The Right to be Lazy*”

Ryan Carroll, “Toiling for the Highest: Transcendental  
Information Work in Thomas Carlyle’s *Sartor Resartus*”

Jonathan Dick, “The Ruskin Colony”

**11:30 – 12:00 Conference Wrap-Up**

Jacob Romanow



Servant Bells at Dunham Massey, Cheshire



## 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** Sadiya 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)  
Honorable Mention: Nasser Mufti, *Civilizing War: Imperial Politics and the Poetics of National Rupture* (Northwestern University)
- 2019** Alicia Mireles Christoff, *Novel Relations: Victorian Fiction and British Psychoanalysis* (Princeton)
- 2020** Jessie Reeder, *The Forms of Informal Empire: Britain, Latin America, and Nineteenth-Century Literature* (Johns Hopkins University)  
Honorable mention: Shawna Ross, *Charlotte Bronte at the Anthropocene* (SUNY)
- 2021** Zachary Samalin, *The Masses are Revolting: Victorian Culture and the Political Aesthetics of Disgust* (Cornell)  
Honorable mention: Simon Reader, *Notework: Victorian Literature and Nonlinear Style* (Stanford)
- 2022** 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. Starting 2018, NVSA spearheaded a new graduate mentorship program and

initiated the Expanding the Field Essay Prize to promote inclusivity in the field of Victorian studies

The organization has alternated conference sites between the northern and southern reaches of the “northeast,” as well as proximate Canadian locations. 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 40<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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)



*Northeast  
Victorian  
Studies  
Association*

## **Shuttle Schedule**

### **Friday, April 5**

1:15pm Depart American Antiquarian Society  
1:20pm Depart Courtyard Marriott & Hilton Garden  
1:45pm Arrive at Hogan Campus Center

7:00pm Depart Hogan Campus Center  
7:15-30 Arrive at Restaurants

### **Saturday, April 6**

9:15am Depart Hilton Garden  
9:30am Arrive at Hogan Campus Center

5:45pm Depart Hogan Campus Center  
6:00pm Arrive at Hilton Garden

6:50pm Depart Hilton Garden  
7:00pm Arrive at Volturno Privado  
9:30pm Depart Volturno Privado  
9:45pm Arrive at Hilton Garden and Courtyard  
Marriott

### **Sunday, April 7**

9:15am Depart Hilton Garden  
9:30am Arrive at Hogan Campus Center



USEFUL WORK  
*VERSUS*  
USELESS TOIL

BY  
WILLIAM MORRIS

THE  
KELMSCO.



SOCIETY  
MMERSMITH

NVSA 2024  
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