

Victorian Interdisciplinary Studies Association of the Western United States  
2023 Conference

# Victorian Elements

October 19-21, 2023  
Seattle Public Library



**VISAWUS**  
2023 Annual Conference  
“Victorian Elements”  
October 19-21  
Seattle Public Library

**Thursday, October 19th**

8-9: Registration; Coffee and pastries

9-9:30: Welcome (Room One)

10:11:30: Concurrent Sessions

**Session 1: The Marriage Plot (Room One)**

Moderator: Lisa Surridge, University of Victoria

Eileen Cleere, Southwestern University, "Grooming Habits: Revisiting Victorian (Child) Marriage in the Age of #MeToo"

Maryssa Grayer, University of Victoria, "Elements of Marriageability in Charlotte Yonge's *The Heir of Redclyffe* and George Eliot's *The Mill on the Floss*"

Emily Datskou, Loyola University, Chicago, "'If you trust a man, let him be a bachelor': The Victorian Novel's Reliance on the Queer Bachelor"

Kathleen Eck Thorman, Saint Louis University, "Marital Laws and Women's Rights in Wilkie Collins's *The Woman in White*"

**Session 2: Elements of Science (Room Five)**

Moderator: Nancy Marshall, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Nancy Marshall, University of Wisconsin, Madison, "'A Shadow Believed to be a Substance': An Alchemical Romance in Victorian Britain"

Rebecca Sheppard, University of British Columbia, "Poisonous and Hereditary Elements in the Blood in Wilkie Collins's *The Legacy of Cain*"

Susan Johnston, University of Regina, "The Balham Priory Affair and the Fathers of the Bride"

**Session 3: Natural History (Room Six)**

Moderator: Mark Frost, University of Portsmouth

Mark Frost, University of Portsmouth, "Poisoned Waters and the Pastoral in Early-Victorian Fiction"

Hannah LeClair, University of Pennsylvania, "Weathering the Elements: Realist Provocations in Hardy's Early Novels"

Adrian Salgado, The Ohio State University, "Seaweed Serendipity: Investigating the Environmental and Cultural Significance of Nineteenth-Century Seaweed Collecting Through the Eyes of Margaret Gatty"

Savanah Warners, Saint Louis University, "Pervasive Flora: Human/Botanical Permeability in 'The Willows' and 'The Giant Wisteria'"

11:30-1: Lunch on your own

1:00-2:30: Concurrent Sessions

**Session 4: Supernatural Elements (Room Five)**

Moderator: Molly Youngkin, Loyola Marymount University

Alycia Gilbert, University of Washington, "'The Past and the Present Can Echo Each Other': Jamesian Elements Across Time in *The Haunting of Bly Manor*"

Katherine Schneider, University of North Texas, "Ghostly Elements: Embodiment and Elemental Material, Temporal, and Sexual Classification in the Victorian Ghost Story"

**Session 5: Ecology and the Victorian Novel (Room Six)**

Moderator: Irena Yamboliev, Stanford University

Francesca Colonnese, University of Washington, "Hybrid Forms Leading to Hybrid Time in George Meredith's *Modern Love*"

Nicolas DeFerbrache Warner, Old Dominion University, "Narrating the Present: Elements of the Anthropocene in George Eliot's *Silas Marner*"

Irena Yamboliev, Stanford University, "'My theme is carbon': The Multigenerational Novel's Ecological Position"

2:30-3: Coffee

3:00-4:30: Concurrent Pedagogy Workshops:

**Session 6: "Medical Humanities in the Victorian Literature Classroom," (Room Five)**

facilitated by Anne Stiles and Katie Eck Thorman

**Session 7: "Bringing the Climate Crisis into the Classroom," (Room Six)**

facilitated by Amy Woodson-Boulton and Jesse Oak Taylor

4:30-5:30: Board meeting (**Room One**)

6: Board dinner (Bar Solea)

**Friday, October 20th**

8-9: Registration; Coffee and pastries

9-10:30: Concurrent Sessions

**Session 8: Realism, Qualified (Room Five)**

Moderator: Solveig Robinson, Pacific Lutheran University

Neil Hultgren, CSU, Long Beach, "H.G. Wells, the Short Story Form, and 'Realism'"

Tabitha Sparks, McGill University, "Embodying Realism in Geraldine Jewsbury's *The Half-Sisters*"

Molly Youngkin, Loyola Marymount University, "Isn't realism an empty term?": Teaching Literary Mode in the Victorian Classroom"

**Session 9: Elements of Display (Room Six)**

Moderator: Diana Maltz, Southern Oregon University

Manuela Mourao, Old Dominion University, "Reoriented Perception: Verbal vs Visual Elements in Isabella Hurst de França's Honeymoon Trip to Madeira"

Anne Sullivan, UC, Riverside, "The Crystal Palace: a Victorian Fire and a Modern Disaster"

Amy Woodson-Boulton, Loyola Marymount University, "Elements of Style, Forms of Power: The "Trophy" Aesthetic and Logic of Display in the Age of Industrial Empire"

10:30-11: Coffee

11-12:30: Concurrent Sessions

**Session 10: Elements of Art (Room Five)**

Moderator: Cameron Dodworth, Methodist University

Thomas Prasch, Washburn University, "'Primitive Colours' and the 'Grammar of Ornament': The Elements of Ornament in the Work of Owen Jones"

Priti Joshi, University of Puget Sound, "Elementary Forms: From Portraiture to Periodical Illustrations"

Julie Codell, Arizona State University, "Elements of the Britishness of British Art"

**Session 11: Re-thinking Victorian Pedagogy (Room Six)**

Moderator: Anne Stiles, Saint Louis University

Julia Chavez and Darrell Born, Saint Martin's University, "*Lady Audley's Secret* and the Elements of Victorian Theater"

Charles LaPorte, University of Washington, "The Victorian Elements of Academic Literary Studies"

Ashley Nadeau, Utah Valley University, "Rethinking the Elements of Literary Analysis: Audiobooks in the Victorian Literature Classroom"

12:30 -1:30 Business Lunch (Room One)

2-3:30: Concurrent Sessions

**Session 12: Victorian Reforms (Room Five)**

Moderator: Amy Woodson-Boulton, Loyola Marymount University

Taten Shirley, Faulkner University, "A Call for Educational Reform: The Elemental Issue of Male Education according to Anne Brontë"

Kellie Holzer, Virginia Wesleyan University, "What is Elemental in Colonial Indian Feminism: Reformist Fictions"

**Session 13: Medicine and the Body (Room Six)**

Moderator: Jeffrey Jackson, Monmouth University

Sarah Ghasedi, University of Washington, "Anonymous Elements: Sophia Jex-Blake's Self-Citation in *Medical Women: A Thesis and a History* (1886)"  
Emily Vincent, Durham University, "'[I]n articulo mortis': Physicians of the Psychical in Nineteenth-Century Supernatural Narratives"  
Erika Wright, University of Southern California, "Elemental Encounters: Confidentiality, Doctor-Patient Relationships, and the Victorian Novel"

4-5: Reception (**Room One**)

5-6: **Keynote Lecture (Room One)**

Jesse Oak Taylor, University of Washington, "George Eliot on the Elliott Bay Seawall."

## **Saturday, October 21st**

8-9: Registration

9-10:30: Concurrent Sessions

### **Session 14: Race and the Environment (Room One)**

Moderator: Priti Joshi, University of Puget Sound

Anna Feuerstein, University of Hawai'i-Mānoa, "The Animal Elements of Obeah; or, Animal Products and The Assemblage of Race after Abolition"

Menglu Gao, University of Denver, "Ecological Elements in Victorian Plantation Capitalism"

Gyuri Moon, Sogang University, "'The Metaphor of the Black Ox: Ecological and Racial Nonviolence in *The Story of an African Farm* (1883)'"

Aren Roukema, University of British Columbia, "Elemental Evolution: Race, Anthro-Futurism and Genre in *Limanora: The Island of Progress*"

### **Session 15: Poetic Elements (Room Five)**

Moderator: Christopher Keirstead, Auburn University

Christopher Keirstead, Auburn University, "Ta'en away from that glad nest': Intersections of Ecological and Anti-Slavery Discourse in EBB's 'The Sea-Mew' and 'My Doves.'"

Denae Dyck, Texas State University, "Athena Unbound: Elemental Wisdom and Ecological Poetics in John Ruskin's *The Queen of the Air*"

Jeffrey Jackson, Monmouth University, "'Winter and Labor and Necessity': The Idea of the Elemental in Edward Bulwer-Lytton's *King Arthur: A Poem* (1848)"

### **Session 16: Elements of Domesticity (Room Six)**

Moderator: Kellie Holzer, Virginia Wesleyan University

Sarah Odens, Auburn University, "Sweet to Eye: From Nineteenth-century Angel in the House to Contemporary New Domestic Influencer"

Lisa SurrIDGE and Mary Elizabeth Leighton, University of Victoria, "Elemental Experiences: Pregnancy and Realism in Ellen Wood's Johnny Ludlow's Papers"

Cameron Dodworth, Methodist University, "An Evolution in Christmas Pudding and Scrooge's Palate: The Elementary and the Alimentary in *A Christmas Carol*"

10:30-11: Break

11-12:30: Concurrent Sessions

**Session 17: Rethinking Forms (Room One)**

Moderator: Alex McCauley, University of Washington

Alex McCauley, University of Washington, "Land Reform and Inheritance Plots: Wallace, Trollope, Ireland"

Stephanie Johnson, The College of St. Scholastica, "Resounding Paradox: Christina Rossetti's Echoes of the Modern"

Jessica Durgan, Bemidji State University, "Elemental Color: Soul, Passion, and the Romantic Imagination in the Victorian Novel"

**Session 18: Socialism and Speculation (Room Five)**

Moderator: Neil Hultgren, CSU, Long Beach

Daniel Geddes, University of British Columbia, "A Medievalist's Fancy: 'Incompatible' Posthumanism in Morris's *News from Nowhere*"

Heather Marcovitch, Red Deer Polytechnic, "Elements of Reform: Oscar Wilde's Socialist Fairy Tales"

**Session 19: Elements of Utopia (Room Six)**

Moderator: Denae Dyck, Texas State University

Lana L. Dalley, CSU, Fullerton, "Capitalist Anti-Utopianism in Harriet Martineau and Millicent Garrett Fawcett's Didactic Writing"

Tara MacDonald, University of Idaho, "Feminist Utopian Visions in Wilkie Collins's *The Fallen Leaves* (1879)"

Diana Maltz, Southern Oregon University, "Atrophy of the 'Larger Social Self': An Ethical-Socialist Critique of William Morris's *News from Nowhere* at the Fin de Siècle"