

**Announcements:  
CFPs, conference notices, & forthcoming projects and  
publications of interest to neo-Victorian scholars**

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**CFPs: Journals, Special Issues & Collections**

***Steampunk, Science, and (Neo)Victorian Technologies (Special Issue)***

*Neo-Victorian Studies* will be publishing a 2009 special issue on neo-Victorianism's engagement with science and new/old technologies, especially as articulated through the genre of Steampunk, whether as lifestyle, aesthetic, or literary movement. Topics include Steampunk's environmental politics, modding practices, redefining the human, as well as how Steampunk blurs boundaries between centuries, technologies, and "those" Victorians and "us" neo-Victorians. Articles between 6,000–8,000 words (including footnotes, but excluding bibliography), together with brief biographical details to the guest editors, Rachel A. Bowser ([rachel.bowser@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.bowser@gmail.com)) and Brian Croxall ([b.croxall@gmail.com](mailto:b.croxall@gmail.com)), with a further copy to the General Editor, Marie-Luise Kohlke ([neovictorianstudies@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:neovictorianstudies@swansea.ac.uk)).

Full CFP: <http://www.neovictorianstudies.com>

**Submissions due:** 1 June 2009 (planned publication: Winter 2009)

***Journal of Adaptation in Film and Performance (General CFP)***

This recently launched, peer-reviewed journal explores the central place that adaptation, and related areas of translation and intertextuality, occupy in world culture, with profound resonances across different periods and civilizations. It aims to provide a forum for exploring the centuries-old conversion of oral, historical or fictional narratives into stage drama, and the more recent cross-generic transformations in the film and other media industries, including opera, gaming, and graphic narratives. The journal invites contributions on Adaptation Studies and performance(s) in varying media, especially ones which challenge widespread views of national cultural histories and global constructions of performance culture. It also welcomes practice-based articles for its Practitioners' Perspectives section, interviews, and/or short Notes and Comments (up to 1,000 words) that facilitate debate and exchange.

**Website:** <http://www.intellectbooks.co.uk/journals.php?issn=17536421>

***Sexual Fetishes and/in Literature and Film (Collection)***

The following may provide scope for neo-Victorian researchers working on re-imaginings of nineteenth century gender, prostitution, queerness, and other sex-related tropes in neo-Victorian fiction and/or adaptations for TV and cinema. The US Albertina Foundation for Academic Excellence ([www.albertina-foundation.org](http://www.albertina-foundation.org)) and Europäische Stiftung-Albertina für Akademische Exzellenz ([www.stiftung-albertina.org](http://www.stiftung-albertina.org)) invite contributions for twelve additional essays pertaining to the study of sexuality and/in literature and film. The editors are particularly seeking papers relating literary and sexuality studies, which take polemical positions concerning the relationship between narrative forms and content and cultural/philosophic implications. The publication with Rodopi will be accompanied by a colloquium in Paris, France, 1-3 May 2009. All authors selected for inclusion in the collection will be invited to attend the event, with expenses financed by the organisers. Articles between 4,000 – 12,000 words (including footnotes, but excluding bibliography) in MLA style, together with a brief CV to Dr. Philipp Koteas at [cfp-fetish@albertina-foundation.org](mailto:cfp-fetish@albertina-foundation.org).

Full CFP: <http://cfp.english.upenn.edu/archive/Collections/3384.html>

**Submissions due:** 13 October 2008 (planned publication: July 2009)

***New Perspectives on Novels, Short Stories and Other Narratives: Literary Studies beyond the Cultural Turn (Collection)***

The following may provide an opportunity for scholars to highlight the significance of neo-Victorian fiction within modern literary practice, criticism, and theory, e.g. as regards historiographic metafiction, queer theory, and/or trauma discourse. The US Albertina Foundation for Academic Excellence ([www.albertina-foundation.org](http://www.albertina-foundation.org)) and Europäische Stiftung-Albertina für Akademische Exzellenz ([www.stiftung-albertina.org](http://www.stiftung-albertina.org)) invite contributions for two volumes of peer-reviewed scholarly articles concerned with the study of narrative in novel, short story and/or other genres, from the perspective of literary and/or cultural studies and aesthetic philosophy. Papers taking polemical positions concerning the relationship between narrative forms and content and cultural/philosophic implications are especially sought. The publication with a major US publishing house will be accompanied by an international conference in Vienna, Austria, 2-4 October 2009. All authors selected for inclusion in the collection will be

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invited to attend the event, with expenses financed by the organisers. The project is supported by DFG, DAAD, Cusanus Werk, Schweizerische Studienstiftung Fonds, Tel Aviv Foundation, Bank of America, and Toyota Bank. Articles between 6,000 – 18,000 words (including footnotes, but excluding bibliography) in MLA style, together with a brief CV to Dr. Philipp Koteas at [cfp-narratives@albertina-foundation.org](mailto:cfp-narratives@albertina-foundation.org). Full CFP: <http://cfp.english.upenn.edu/archive/Collections/3374.html>  
**Submissions due:** 14 November 2008 (planned publication: October 2009)

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**CFPs: Upcoming Symposia & Conferences**

**Friday, 9 January, 2009**

*Mum's the Word: The Maternal in Contemporary Literature*

**De Montfort University, Leicester, UK**

Hosted by MaMSIE (Mapping Maternal Subjectivities, Identities and Ethics), this symposium will appeal to scholars working on the neo-Victorian sexual/textual politics of motherhood, which occupy a prominent place in the neo-Victorian novel. The workshop aims to provide an interdisciplinary space to map, debate and discuss configurations of the maternal in contemporary literature at the intersection between scientific possibilities, psychosocial practices and cultural representations. Possible topics include intersections with auto/biography and life writing as feminist research strategies; shifting representations of 'bad mothers' in literature from the 1970's to the present; assisted reproductive technologies in relation to feminist utopias; and literatures of pregnancy, birth and/or 'failed' maternity. Expressions of interest to participate in the discussion (rather than present a formal paper) are invited, which should describe prospective participants' work and their interest in the themes of the workshop.

**Expressions of interest due:** 1 December 2008 (up to 250 words)

**Send to:** Prof Imelda Whelehan at [mamsiedmu@googlemail.com](mailto:mamsiedmu@googlemail.com).

**25-28 March 2009*****Between the 'Urge to Know' and the 'Need to Deny': Ethics and Trauma in Contemporary Narrative in English*****Universidad de Zaragoza, Jaca (Huesca), Spain**

This conference may be of interest to researchers working on the representation of private and public trauma in neo-Victorian literature, including atrocities of colonialism and the clash of civilisations, and on the implications of historical fiction for narrative ethics. Trauma has become a central trope in the cultural imagination of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries and critics across ideological spectrums seem to agree that we are now living in an 'age of trauma.' Trauma Studies emerged as a critical trend in the 1990s, as an important sub-strand of the so-called 'Ethical Criticism,' while more recently, the terrorist attacks by religious fundamentalists on the populations of New York, Madrid, and London have introduced the vocabulary of trauma into more general cultural usage. Contributions are sought that will explore the theoretical, heuristic and hermeneutic articulations of trauma in contemporary narrative in English and the arts, investigate formal innovations in representation, and/or identify connections between (historical) fiction and testimony.

Full CFP: <http://cfp.english.upenn.edu/archive/International/1200.html>

**Abstracts & completed papers due:** 12 January 2009 (max. 150 and 2,500 words respectively)

**27-28 March 2009*****Tennyson's Futures*****University of Oxford, England, UK**

Exploring Tennyson's central preoccupation with time, this conference coincides with the bicentenary of Tennyson's birth in 2009. Topics of interest to neo-Victorian scholars include how later writers and artists have responded to Tennyson's work, Tennyson's own and others' re-imaginings of his poems, and his cultural status and posthumous reputation.

Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/tennysonsfutures/>

**Proposals due:** 17 October 2008 (up to 250 words)

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**16-18 April 2009*****Instruction, Amusement and Spectacle: Popular Shows and Exhibitions 1800-1914*****University of Exeter, England, UK**

Scholars working on neo-Victorian re-imaginings of Victorian popular entertainments, such as the music hall, circus, and world exhibitions, may find this conference of interest. Topics include exhibitions of 'Otherness' (e.g. freak shows, ethnographic shows, minstrels), vaudeville and variety shows, and staging spiritualism.

Full CFP: <http://cfp.english.upenn.edu/archive/Victorian/0612.html>

**Proposals due:** 31 October 2008 (up to 300 words)

**8-9 May 2009*****(Victorian) Phobia: Constructing the Phenomenology of Chronic Fear, 1789 to the Present*****The ATRiuM Campus, Cardiff, Wales, UK**

An international interdisciplinary conference hosted by the Glamorgan Research Centre for Literature, Arts and Science. The conference's exploration of the history and conceptualisation of phobias, as intimately connected to the phenomenology of modernity, will appeal to neo-Victorian researchers working on modern-day reworkings of fin de siècle socio-cultural fears and their relation to twentieth/twenty-first century concerns such as natural and ecological disasters, disease epidemics, and global terrorism.

Full CFP: <http://cfp.english.upenn.edu/archive/Victorian/0596.html>

**Proposals due:** 1 December 2008 (up to 300 words, plus short CV)

**4-5 June 2009*****John Ruskin's Posterity: Ruskinian Legacy through Literature and Art Writings*****University of Lille, France**

This conference explores the nature of the Ruskinian heritage within literary texts, art criticism, and aesthetics. Topics include the development of particular sensibilities in artistic reception; the creative process as informed by religious or social impulses; the possible education of the aesthetic gaze; politics of conservation vs. opposition to practices of restoration; and conceptions of the heritage of medieval architecture; as well as how later

writers and critics continue to re-evaluate and redeploy Ruskin's ideas and for what reasons.

Full CFP: <http://www.inha.fr/spip.php?article1985>

**Proposals due:** 15 December 2008 (up to 500 words, plus biographical note)

**3-4 July 2009**

***Identity and Form in Twentieth- and Twenty-First Century Literature***  
**Sheffield Hallam University, England, UK**

This conference explores the rise of alternative literary canons and the desirability/undesirability of establishing (new) boundaries between cultural studies and literary studies, topic which have evident relevance to Neo-Victorian Studies also. Paper are invited that reassess the relationship between identity and narrative form; explore how contemporary writers address questions of identity in relation to gender, ethnicity, disability, nationality, race or sexuality; interrelations between individual and collective politics within individual works and their critical evaluation; and how identity-studies impact on the production, reception and marketing of twentieth- and twenty-first century literature.

Full CFP: <http://cfp.english.upenn.edu/archive/International/1241.html>

**Proposals due:** 15 January 2009

**4-6 June 2009**

***2009 Narrative Conference***

**University of Birmingham, England, UK**

International Society for the Study of Narrative Annual Conference, jointly sponsored by the International Society for the Study of Narrative. This interdisciplinary conference should offer scope to present research on typical neo-Victorian narrative techniques and innovations and their contribution to contemporary literature. The conference aims to provide a forum for addressing all dimensions of narrative and representation, in any genre, period, medium and nationality. Participants must be members of the International Society for the Study of Narrative.

Website: <http://narrativesociety.bham.ac.uk>

**Proposals due:** 31 October 2008 (up to 300, plus brief CV)

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**13-18 July 2009*****Minding Animals: 'Companion' Species in Victorian Literature*****University of Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia**

This panel at the Minding Animals - 2009 International Academic and Community Conference on Animals and Society may be of interest to scholars working on the representation of animal welfare, animal rights, and environmentalist politics and concerns in neo-Victorian literature. The trans-disciplinary conference will investigate recent radical shifts in understandings about the representation of the non-human, as animals come to bear different meanings in Western culture. This panel is interested in papers that seek to interrogate nineteenth-century animal-human encounters from a theoretically informed perspective.

Website: [www.mindinganimals.com](http://www.mindinganimals.com)

**Proposals due:** 1 November 2008 (up to 500 words, plus biographical note)

**21-24 July 2009*****Monstrous Media/ Spectral Subjects*****Lancaster University, England, UK**

Ninth Biannual Conference of the International Gothic Association. Researchers working on neo-Victorian Gothic and/or themes of spectrality, spiritualism, and the occult in neo-Victorian literature may find this conference useful. Topics include how Gothic modes, in adopting and adapting new media, engage with excitements and anxieties attendant on cultural and technological change. Examining conjunctions of literary, visual, spatial and digital texts in relation to spectral and visceral effects and affects, the conference will explore the cultural production and consumption of monsters and ghosts from the eighteenth century to the present.

Website: <http://www.monstrous-media.com/>

**Proposals due:** 5 January 2009 (250 words)

**2-3 October 2009*****British Aestheticisms: Sources, Genres, Definitions, Evolutions*****University of Montpellier, France**

Organised by the Center for Victorian and Edwardian Studies (CERVEC), this conference may offer scope to present neo-Victorian research in the areas of sexuality, queer theory, gender studies, or re-imagined figures of the aesthetic movement, such as Oscar Wilde. The transdisciplinary event

will explore how aestheticism, as a social phenomenon, artistic movement, and literary trend, played a central role in the advent of modernity. Topics include aestheticism's links with contemporary or subsequent movements (European Decadence, Modernism, etc.), reader reception/response, and the relationship between aesthetics and ethics.

Website: <http://www.esthetismes.org>

**Proposals due:** 1 December 2008 (between 300-500 words).

**NOTE:** Although the deadlines for proposals for the following conferences have already passed, neo-Victorian researchers may find the following of interest.

**13-16 November 2008**

**SLSA panel: *Steampunk***

**Charlotte, North Carolina, USA**

The panel explores Steampunk as a lifestyle and a literary movement, and considers why particular technologies are revisited at particular historical moments, within practices as divergent as modding a laptop or imagining what London might have looked like had Charles Babbage's analytical engine been realised. Topics include the role of Steampunk in a post-9/11 world, its relations with empire, cyberpunk connections, the reworking of Victorian aesthetics, the problematisation of gender constructions past and present, and cosplay, among others.

Website: <http://www.english.uncc.edu/arauch/SLSA08/index.htm>

**26 February - 1 March 2009**

**NEMLA panel: *Fins-de-siècles: Narrative Form in the Victorian and Postmodern Serial***

**Boston, Massachusetts, USA**

The panel explores how popular TV serials, such as *The Wire* and *The Sopranos*, sometimes called "the new Dickens", might be considered in parallel with the Victorian serial and its status as a commodity. How is the behavior of Victorian and postmodern serial readers similar? Why have these famously "addictive" narratives taken hold of the popular imagination at these particular historical moments? This panel will consider seriality through a transatlantic and transhistorical lens. Psychoanalytic, cultural studies, and feminist perspectives are encouraged, as are papers that

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consider other contemporary or Victorian serialized media (comics/graphic novels, theater, film, etc.).

Full CFP: <http://cfp.english.upenn.edu/archive/Victorian/0585.html>

**26 February - 1 March 2009**

**NEMLA panel: *Transatlantic Decadence***

**Boston, Massachusetts, USA**

The panel will focus on transatlantic literature and visual culture of the *fin de siècle*, the period associated with ‘decadence’, and/or the 19th-century work that set the stage for it. Ideally, discussions will explore transatlantic conversations, exchanges, or intellectual and cultural networks that helped to produce and disseminate ‘decadence’ as an aesthetic and literary category. Papers might, for instance, focus on literary exchanges between Poe and the Pre-Raphaelites, Kate Chopin and Maupassant, Edith Wharton and Oscar Wilde. Also relevant are the ways in which fin-de-siècle anxieties remain with us as we advance into the new millennium. We will consider how the literature and culture of the 19th century, which arguably marks the beginnings of modernism, shaped that of the 20th as well as the 21st, and we might even consider what Oscar Wilde and Bram Stoker can tell us about Paris Hilton and Britney Spears.

Full CFP: <http://cfp.english.upenn.edu/archive/Victorian/0586.html>

**26 February - 1 March 2009**

**NEMLA panel: *The Victorians in the New Millennium***

**Boston, Massachusetts, USA**

The 1990s may have been the apotheosis of the British obsession with ‘Victoriana’, in Cora Kaplan’s terminology, but interesting examples continue to emerge – from Sarah Waters’ intensely successful lesbian ‘Vic lit’ to coffee table books on creating a Victorian garden in your own backyard. This panel will investigate the state of the neo-Victorian and its continuing fascination for British and American publics nearly twenty years after Byatt’s *Possession* won the Booker Prize and Gertrude Himmelfarb theorised the appeal of Margaret Thatcher’s ‘Victorian values’. Is neo-Victorian fiction still a mixture of “politics, pastiche and pleasure,” as Kaplan has claimed? Does any one of those terms have more of a valence than any others? Are we to assume that the Victorian Era’s cultural resonance has remained the same, or that its relevance to the post-millennial

world has changed? These issues will be traced through neo-Victorian fiction are welcome, as are papers treating and other contemporary manifestation of the Victorian, be it in architecture, upholstery or film.

Full CFP: <http://cfp.english.upenn.edu/archive/20th/3600.html>

**26 February - 1 March 2009**

**NEMLA panel: *We Love the '80s: Nostalgia and Empire in Contemporary British Culture***

**Boston, Massachusetts, USA**

Using a cultural studies lens, this panel is interested in exploring the dialectical role literature and popular culture played in (re)establishing Britain's imperialist identity in a post-imperial climate. Rather than face the consequences of Margaret Thatcher's Conservative policies, the British culture industry chose to look back to periods of colonial domination, power, and prestige. This panel will examine this convergence of nostalgia, empire, and media to analyse how the contemporary British culture industry sought to (re)articulate British identity through the period's literature and popular culture.

Full CFP: <http://cfp.english.upenn.edu/archive/20th/3604.html>

**26 February - 1 March 2009**

**NEMLA panel: *Where Do We Go from Here? Brontë Studies in the Twenty-First Century***

**Boston, Massachusetts, USA**

"How little know we what we are/How less what we may be!" Reflecting on the nature of potential, Anne Brontë had little chance in this 1841 diary paper of predicting the Brontës' literary impact. But is there more potential? This panel seeks papers that find 'newness' in traditional ideas or traditional ideas in new places in both better and lesser known Brontë writings. How does one re-envision the Brontës' works, their inspirations or their legacies? What new theoretical interpretations broaden or restructure our understanding of their literary connections?

Full CFP: <http://cfp.english.upenn.edu/archive/Victorian/0589.html>

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**26-28 March 2009*****The Green Nineteenth Century*****Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA**

30th Annual Conference of the Nineteenth Century Studies Association. The conference topics on any aspect of 'green' studies in the long nineteenth century, including 'ecocriticism', nature writing, the history of ecological science, environmental ethics and activism, animal welfare, ecofeminist philosophy, ecotourism, and sustainability, may interest scholars working on neo-Victorian representations and/or debates concerning nineteenth century environmental trauma and its present-day legacies.

Full CFP: <http://cfp.english.upenn.edu/archive/Victorian/0561.html>

**23-25 April 2009*****Matters of State: Bildung and Literary-Intellectual Discourse in the Nineteenth Century*****University of Leuven, Belgium**

The conference may interest neo-Victorian scholars working on imaginary and rhetorical constructions of the State in neo-Victorian literature and arts, as well as retrospective revisions of the tropes of empire from present-day perspectives. The conference aims to confront nineteenth-century discourses on statehood with contemporary developments in literary studies, political science, and cultural history. Topics include the influence of revolutionary ruptures on later upheavals, such as the American Civil War; geopoliticisation; forms of collectivity/community vs. social differentiation and specialization; constructions of responsible citizenship and the State's Others; scientific vs. (crypto-)religious approaches to statehood; and interconnections between nineteenth-century conceptualisations of the State and present-day discourses on governmentality, biopower, and sovereignty.

Website: [http://www.arts.kuleuven.be/matters\\_of\\_state/](http://www.arts.kuleuven.be/matters_of_state/).

**26-28 June 2009*****Echoes of the Past: Women, History and Memory in Fiction and Film*****Newcastle University, England, UK**

This event will interest researchers focusing on women's neo-Victorian fiction and women writers' contribution to memory work, literary adaptation and performance studies. The conference aims to consider the intricacy and instability of historical narrative and women's role in its

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writing, examining both the creation by and the representation of women in historical fictions through asking how historical fictions shape our relationship to the past. Topics are likely to range from historical romance and/or fantasy; through history's relationship with popular culture; national and regional identities; and motherhood; to queer subjectivities.

Website: <http://conferences.ncl.ac.uk/echoes>

**13-15 July 2009**

*Past versus Present*

**Churchill College, University of Cambridge, England, UK**

Joint Conference of the British Association for Victorian Studies (BAVS) and the North American Victorian Studies Association (NAVSA), in conjunction with the Cambridge Victorian Studies Group. The conference includes a literary panel with neo-Victorian novelists A.S. Byatt and Matthew Kneale and topics related to neo-Victorian concerns, such as the proliferation of myths of origin (cosmic, geological, biological, historical), new technologies and tools for investigating the past (e.g. photography or museology), and the heritage that the Victorians invented for us.

Website: <http://www.victorians.group.cam.ac.uk/Past-vs-Present.html>

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### **Forthcoming Projects and Publications**

**Pulham, Patricia; and Rosario Arias (eds.). *Haunting and Spectrality in Neo-Victorian Fiction: Possessing the Past*. Palgrave Macmillan, forthcoming 2009.**

This volume aims to explore the tropes of haunting and spectrality in the growing field of Neo-Victorian Studies. The contributors to this collection focus on the spectral presence of the Victorian past in recent fiction and demonstrate the increasing relevance of spectrality and “hauntology”, as coined by Jacques Derrida in *Specters of Marx: The State of the Debt, the Work of Mourning, & the New International* (1994), as valuable analytical tools in contemporary criticism. The essays will discuss neo-Victorian novels by A.S. Byatt, Salley Vickers, Michèle Roberts, Margaret Atwood, Iain Sinclair, Peter Ackroyd, A.N. Wilson, Sarah Waters, Matthew Kneale, Clare Clark, and Michel Faber, among others.

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**The Neo-Victorian Bibliography On-Line**

The Neo-Victorian Bibliography, a web-based, open access resource on Neo-Victorian literature (<http://www.neovictorianbibliography.com/>), hosted by Swansea University, Wales, UK, will finally launch end November/early December 2008. The initial launch date planned for last year was regrettably delayed due to the need to resolve a number of technical issues. Conceived as a dedicated research and teaching support tool, the bibliography aims to build up a comprehensive overview of historical novels published since 1900 that re-imagine the nineteenth century from latter-day perspectives. Initially, the database will go live in a basic version, consisting of a list of neo-Victorian novels and a section on general neo-Victorian literary criticism. Text-specific criticism will be added stage-wise, as will additional search facilities. Eventually visitors to the site will be able to search the database via publication dates, authors, subgenres, intertexts, settings, and keywords. More long-term, it is hoped to expand the bibliography to short stories, poetry, drama, and film. Enquiries to the project leader, Marie-Luise Kohlke, at [m.l.kohlke@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:m.l.kohlke@swansea.ac.uk).