

**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 2009/2010 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 2009/2010)

***Going Wild: Female Violence in Contemporary American Literature*  
(Edited Collection)**

This collection's interests intersect with frequent depiction of dangerous women in American historical fiction set in the nineteenth-century, especially within crime fiction (e.g. Caleb Carr's *The Angel of Darkness*). Among other themes, the volume will explore the increasing depiction of violent aggression and the extent to which this may or may not reflect societal tendencies/dynamics outside the texts; the attractions, even 'sexiness', of female violence; powerful women as supernatural; and the transformation of Coventry Patmore's nineteenth-century 'Angel in the House' into violent contemporary 'Angels' of empowerment. Papers are invited on American fiction, drama, television, or film, 1970s to the present.

**Full CFP:** <http://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/node/719>

**Preliminary abstracts due:** Although the 30 March 2009 deadline coincides with the publication of this NVS special issue, the editors may be

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open to late proposals. (750 words to Dr. Althea E. Rhodes, [arhodes@uafortsmith.edu](mailto:arhodes@uafortsmith.edu), and Ms. Leisa Belleau, [lbellea@usi.edu](mailto:lbellea@usi.edu))

**Final essays due:** 15 January 2010 (4,000-6,000 words)

***Gender, Sexuality and Law (Special Issue of Sexualities)***

This special issue, and the inter-disciplinary *Sexualities* journal more generally, may be of interest to neo-Victorian scholars specialising in modern-day representations of nineteenth-century cultural and legal constructions of sexualities, and their continuing influence in/on present-day contexts. The special issue invites contributions on the broad theme of gender, sexuality and law.

**Journal Website:**

<http://www.sagepub.com/journalsProdDesc.nav?prodId=Journal200950>

**Abstracts due:** 24 April 2009 (300 words max. to the guest editor, Chris Ashford, at [chris.ashford@sunderland.ac.uk](mailto:chris.ashford@sunderland.ac.uk).

**Final essays due:** January 2010.

***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 civilisations. 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 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>

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**CFPs: Upcoming Symposia & Conferences****6-8 May 2009*****Re-Imagining Identity: New Directions in Postcolonial Studies*****Waterford Institute of Technology, Republic of Ireland**

This inaugural conference of the Postcolonial Studies Association aims to explore shifts in understandings between received and newly emergent forms of identity in a multicultural, globalised and conflicted world. The planned sessions on 'Identity and Time' and 'Identity, Religion and Spirituality' might be of special interest to neo-Victorian scholars investigating how re-imagined nineteenth-century identities in crisis impact on postmodern constructions of selfhood and nationhood.

**PSA website:** <http://www.postcolonialstudiesassociation.co.uk/index.html>

**Abstracts due:** not specified (Contact Dr Christine ODowd-Smyth at [codowdsmyth@wit.ie](mailto:codowdsmyth@wit.ie) to submit a paper or panel proposal, or email [psa@postcolonialstudiesassociation.co.uk](mailto:psa@postcolonialstudiesassociation.co.uk).)

**30-31 May 2009*****M(o)ther Trouble*****Birkbeck, University of London, England, UK**

This event may interest neo-Victorian scholars working on the socio-historical legacy and influence of nineteenth-century idealised/vilified constructions of good/bad mothers on present-day understandings of motherhood, reproductive politics, and social/legal policy. This international conference on the maternal, psychoanalysis and feminism will explore the significance of the maternal from its affective and embodied experience, through its role in social, political and scientific practice, to its ethical and theoretical implications for subjectivities, identities, and human relations, thinking these 'beyond' models based on indivisible individualism. Planned topics include reproduction and the genetic imaginary, matricide, matrixial ethics, and the maternal in film. The conference is linked to an exhibition of artworks by Bracha Ettinger at the Freud Museum.

**Abstracts due:** 24 April 2009 (250 words max. to [mamsie@bbk.ac.uk](mailto:mamsie@bbk.ac.uk).)

**Full CFP:**

<http://mamsie.wikispaces.com/Forthcoming+Event+M%28o%29ther+Trouble+May+2009>

**26-27 June 2009*****The Mother War – Current Trends and Critical Discourses*****University of Surrey, England, UK**

This workshop may be relevant to scholars working on representations of motherhood and mothering in neo-Victorian narrative and/or film and how these mirror/amplify current cultural anxieties (e.g. via neo-Victorian themes of baby farming, criminal mothers, and infanticide). The conference will focus on the contradictions inherent in social constructions of the mother role and its impact on the fabric of society, exploring the issue of working mothers; the influence of ethnicity, class, sexuality, and age on core assumptions/prejudices; reproductive technologies and the role of law; and gender politics in social practice and policy.

**Full CFP:** <http://psawomenpolitics.wordpress.com/2009/03/03/call-for-papers-the-mother-war-current-trends-and-critical-discourses/>

**Abstracts due:** 6 April 2009 (200 words to Dr. Roberta Guerrina, [r.guerrina@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:r.guerrina@surrey.ac.uk))

**22-25 July 2009*****Televising History 2009*****University of Lincoln, England, UK**

This interdisciplinary conference may be of particular interest to neo-Victorian scholars of adaptation. It will explore the broad themes of representing the past on TV and in other fora. The conference forms part of the Televising History 1995-2010 AHRC-funded research project (<http://tvhistory.lincoln.ac.uk>).

**Abstracts due:** Although the 1 April 2009 deadline coincides with the publication of this NVS special issue, the organisers may be open to late proposals. (150 words max. to [conferences@lincoln.ac.uk](mailto:conferences@lincoln.ac.uk); queries to Erin Bell or Ann Gray: [ebell@lincoln.ac.uk](mailto:ebell@lincoln.ac.uk) and [agray@lincoln.ac.uk](mailto:agray@lincoln.ac.uk))

**Full CFP and Conference Website:**

[http://www.lincoln.ac.uk/home/conferences/televising\\_history/index.htm](http://www.lincoln.ac.uk/home/conferences/televising_history/index.htm)

**10-12 September 2009*****Victorian Popular Novelists 1860-1900*****Institute for English Studies, University of London, England, UK**

Neo-Victorian scholars working on the present-day re-imagining of nineteenth-century authors (e.g. in fictional biographies), and how such

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revisions impact upon popular and critical perceptions of the writers and their work, may find this event of interest. Together with the literary afterlife of famous novelists, the conference will explore how once lauded but later neglected writers are re-establishing themselves within the canon, and how recent developments, such as digitisation, have impacted on teaching, research, and reading practices. Possible other topics include sensation fiction, journalism, travel and adventure writing, science and spiritualism, and theatrical and cinematic adaptations.

**Abstracts due:** 2 April 2009 (200 words max. to either Jane Jordan or Greta Depledge: [j.jordan@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:j.jordan@kingston.ac.uk) and [depledgeg@aol.com](mailto:depledgeg@aol.com))

**Full CFP:**

<http://ies.sas.ac.uk/events/conferences/2009/Victorianpopular/index.htm>

**24 October 2009**

*'Lost in Translation': Mediation, Adaptation and Translation*

**University of Leicester, England, UK**

This one-day interdisciplinary postgraduate conference will reflect on the broadest meanings of 'translation' across the Arts and Humanities, exploring the ways in which literary meanings and value are affected by translation over time or into other genres, cultures, and media. The event's aim to investigate the possibilities and limits of mediating historical ideologies and representations into the present have clear intersections with neo-Victorian concerns. Possible topics include cross-cultural representations; adaptations and performance; and re-imagining literary works and genres.

**Abstracts due:** 27 April 2009 (250 words max. to [Translation@le.ac.uk](mailto:Translation@le.ac.uk))

**Full CFP:** <http://www.le.ac.uk/ee/news/translation.html>

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**NOTE:** Although the deadlines for abstracts for the following conferences/conference sessions have already passed, they may be of interest to scholars working on the neo-Victorian in relation to the specified topics. (Entries that are only listed, without explanatory notes, were highlighted in the inaugural issue of NVS.):

**16-18 April 2009**

*Instruction, Amusement and Spectacle: Popular Shows and Exhibitions 1800-1914*

University of Exeter, England, UK

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

**22 April 2009**

*Feminism and Adaptations Study Day*

Centre for Adaptations, De Montfort University, England, UK

This event may be of interest to neo-Victorian researchers working on adaptation in fiction, theatre, and film. Relevant topics include the 2008 BBC adaptation of *Little Dorritt*, Austen adaptations, the problematics of 'faithful' adaptation, nostalgia, and appropriation.

Programme: <http://www.literatureonscreen.com/index.php?q=feminism-and-adaptations.html>.

**23-25 April 2009**

*Matters of State: Bildung and Literary-Intellectual Discourse in the Nineteenth Century*

University of Leuven, Belgium

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

**8-9 May 2009**

*(Victorian) Phobia: Constructing the Phenomenology of Chronic Fear, 1789 to the Present*

Glamorgan Research Centre for Literature, Arts and Science, The ATRium Campus, Cardiff, Wales, UK

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

**4-5 June 2009**

*John Ruskin's Posterity: Ruskinian Legacy through Literature and Art Writings*

University of Lille, France

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

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**20 June 2009**

*The Other Nineteenth Century*

**University of Chester, England, UK**

This conference explores the notion of the 'Other' in Victorian culture as produced by medical, scientific, and imperialist discourse. Proposed themes of doubling, lost histories, and spiritualism have clear intersections with neo-Victorian interests.

**Full CFP:**

<http://www.bars.ac.uk/events/documents/OtherNineteenthCenturyPoster.pdf>

**3-4 July 2009**

*Identity and Form in Twentieth- and Twenty-First Century Literature*

**Sheffield Hallam University, England, UK**

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

**4-6 June 2009**

*2009 Narrative Conference*

**University of Birmingham, England, UK**

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

**21-24 July 2009**

*Monstrous Media/ Spectral Subjects*

**Lancaster University, England, UK**

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

**26-28 June 2009**

*Echoes of the Past: Women, History and Memory in Fiction and Film*

**Newcastle University, England, UK**

**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.

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

**13-18 July 2009*****Minding Animals: 'Companion' Species in Victorian Literature*****University of Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia****Website: [www.mindinganimals.com](http://www.mindinganimals.com)****11-12 September 2009*****Writing Bodies/Reading Bodies in Contemporary Women's Writing*****The Second Biennial Conference of the Postgraduate Contemporary Women's Writing Network (PG CWWN)****University of Oxford, England, UK**

This conference focuses on the body as a representative space enabling new literary engagements with gender and materiality in contemporary women's writing. Researchers on neo-Victorian representations of the body and its ambiguous staging/performance in re-imagined nineteenth-century social, political and cultural contexts (such as spiritualism, music halls, prostitution, and crime fiction) may be interested in this event.

**Website: [www.pgcwwn.org](http://www.pgcwwn.org)****2-3 October 2009*****British Aestheticisms: Sources, Genres, Definitions, Evolutions*****University of Montpellier, France****Website: <http://www.esthetismes.org>**

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**Projects and Critical Publications*****LIT: Literature Interpretation Theory, 20:1-2 (2009)***

The current issue of *LIT*, guest edited by Rebecca Munford and Paul Young, is a special issue arising from the 2007 conference on 'Neo-Victorianism: The Politics and Aesthetics of Appropriation' in Exeter, UK. It contains ten essays dedicated to neo-Victorian influences in fiction and film, photography, feminism, ethics, social policy, and gender politics.

**'Victorians Live', *Victorian Literature and Culture*, 37:1 (March 2009)**

The 'Review Essay' section of the current issue of *Victorian Literature and Culture* incorporates a collection of pieces under the heading of 'Victorians

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Live', edited by Herbert Sussman, which "examines the afterlife of the Victorians, the ways that Victorian literature and culture remain alive, continue to live in our own day." The section includes mini-essays on Millais, photography, and Jamaican Art, and – very appropriately for this special issue of NVS – 'Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd* on Stage and Screen' by Sharon Aronofsky Weltman. Presumably 'Victorians Live' will become a permanent feature of the journal.

#### **Neo-Victorian section on the Victorian Web**

George P. Landow's Victorian Web now incorporates a useful section on 'Neo-Victorianism; or Rewriting the Long Nineteenth Century', which includes material on Byatt, Swift, Carey, and Rhys, among other writers. See <http://www.victorianweb.org/neovictorian/>.

#### **Neo-Victorian Visual Art**

George Landow recently wrote a feature for the NYC art magazine *Modern Painters* on the artists Brian Detmar, who creates sculpture from copies of John Ruskin's works. See 'Hors Livre [Brian Detmer Destroys The Book]', *Modern Painters* (November 2008), 70-77; pdf available at <http://i1.exhibite.com/ktfgallery/491b4a53.pdf>.

#### **'Endless Forms: Charles Darwin, Natural Science and the Visual Arts' Exhibition**

Natural history and evolutionary theory play a significant role in neo-Victorian fiction and criticism. Hence, in the year of Darwin's bicentennial and the 150th anniversary of the publication of *On the Origin of Species*, scholars of the neo-Victorian may be interested in this exhibition, currently at the Yale Centre for British Art and due to travel to the Fitzwilliam Museum at the University of Cambridge in June. See the exhibition website at <http://www.darwinendlessforms.org/home.html>; or see Edward Rothstein's review 'Darwin's Wake Splashed Artists, Too', *The New York Times* (on-line), 2 March 2009, <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/03/arts/design/03muse.html?pagewanted=1&r=2&th&emc=th>.

**The Victorian Peeper:****Nineteenth-Century Britain through the Looking Glass**

The US-based historian Kristan Tetans' excellent blog – <http://victorianpeeper.blogspot.com/> – provides useful information about all manner of projects, and developments of interest to neo-Victorian scholars, including a planned film by Emma Thompson and Greg Wise about John Ruskin's unconsummated marriage to Euphemia 'Effie' Gray.

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**Recent and Forthcoming Novels**

The following historical novels set in the nineteenth century have either just been published or are due out within the next few months:

**Boris Akunin, *The Coronation*** (seventh Erast Fandorin novel, requiring further sleuthing by the 'Russian Sherlock Holmes')

**Shalom Aleicham, *Wandering Stars*** (following the theatrical careers of star-crossed lovers from a nineteenth-century Russian *shtetl* to the Big Apple)

**James Conan, *The Coburg Conspiracy*** (murderous desecration of the Royal Mausoleum at Windsor presages imminent revolution and fin-de-siècle anarchist threats to Europe's royal houses)

**M.F.W. Curran, *The Hoard of Mhorrer*** (Gothic fantasy replete with demons and one 'Count Draak' in 1820s Egypt)

**Gordon Dahlquist, *The Dark Volume*** (sequel to *The Glass Books of the Dream Eaters*, with heroes and villains pursuing the arcane secrets of the blue glass book)

**Saul David, *Zulu Hart*** (African adventure, as hero seeks to prove his manhood and win his rightful inheritance by fighting in the Zulu Wars)

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**Charlotte Hardy, *The Road Home*** (gothic romance of an illegitimate boy's search for identity, amidst growing tensions between villagers and English landlords in late nineteenth-century Ireland)

**C.S. Harris, *Where Serpents Sleep*** (a further St Cyr mystery, set in the Regency period, involving prostitution, Magdalene houses, and murder)

**J. Sydney Jones, *The Empty Mirror*** (serial killings in 1898 Vienna, involving one of Gustav Klimt's models)

**Mary Pat Kelly, *Galway Bay*** (epic tale of the Irish Potato Famine and emigration to America with gothic overtones)

**Jasper Kent, *Twelve*** (dark vampiric fantasy set during Napoleon's retreat from Russia)

**Gerald Kolpan, *Etta*** (fictional biography of Etta Place, lover-in-crime of the Sundance Kid)

**Joyce Lebra, *The Scent of Sake*** (gender politics and sake brewing in nineteenth-century Japan)

**Robert Masello, *Blood and Ice*** (supernatural thriller about a nineteenth-century cavalry officer from the Crimean War and his lover found locked in the Antarctic ice)

**Caro Peacock, *A Dangerous Affair*** (murder mystery with the female 'private intelligencer' Liberty Lane, replete with cameos of Victorian greats)

**Dan Simmons, *Drood*** (Wilkie Collins manuscript reveals Charles Dickens' darkest secrets)

**John Wilcox, *The Siege of Khartoum*** (a Simon Fonthill imperial adventure)