

*Victorian Interdisciplinary Studies Association  
of the Western United States  
13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference*



*The Public and Private Politics of Victorian England  
University of Washington, Seattle  
October 2-4, 2008*

*For the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual  
VISAWUS Conference  
special thanks to:*

- *Karen Kurt Teal, Local Arrangements Coordinator*
- *Julie Codell, Program Coordinator*
- *Kathleen Peck, Advisor*
- *the University of Washington, Seattle, especially  
Gary Handwerk for the English Department and  
Kathleen Woodward for the Walter Chapin Simpson  
Center for the Humanities*

## *VISAWUS*

*This non-profit organization was founded in 1995 by Kathleen Peck with the help of a committee of Victorianists who wanted to develop a new regional organization for interdisciplinary studies related to the Victorian era (1837-1901). It held its first conference in 1996. It is designed to bring together those with an interest in literature, history, music, and other topics. Membership is open to all who share an interest in its scholarship and goals. Conference participants come from the United States, Canada, Great Britain, and other countries around the world.*

*VISAWUS website: [www.visawus.org](http://www.visawus.org).*

Front cover: The cartoon is from *Punch* (15 April 1876):146 by John Tenniel and is taken from The Victorian Web.

<http://www.victorianweb.org/art/illustration/tenniel/1.html>

**Thursday, October 2**

**Suzzallo Library**

**7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast      Petersen Room, Fourth Floor**

**8:30 a.m. Conference Welcome      Petersen Room, Fourth Floor**

**Constance M. Fulmer, President VISA WUS  
Karen Kurt Teal, Local Arrangements Coordinator**

**8:45-10:15: Session I**

**POLITICS IN THE NOVEL -- Petersen Room**

**Chair: Karen Kurt Teal, University of Washington**

- “A Lady of Good Caricature: Becky Sharp and the Politics of Mimicry”  
Bryn Gribben, Seattle University
- “The Politics of Subversion: Elinor’s Revision of Marianne’s Methods of Resistance in Jane Austen’s *Sense and Sensibility*”  
Eric Dunnum, Marquette University
- “The Politics of Cleanliness in *Bleak House*”  
Kelly Hager, Simmons College

**TRANSNATIONAL POLITICS -- Allen Auditorium**

**Chair: George Mariz, Western Washington University**

- “Olive Schreiner and Empire: Shifting Colonial Identities through Sacrifice”  
Rachel Slivon, University of Florida
- “The EBB and POE of Transatlantic Identity Politics”  
Victoria Haynes, University of Victoria
- “The King, the Cabinet, and the Opera Singer: European and Gender Politics in ‘A Scandal in Bohemia’”  
Jim Barloon, University of St. Thomas

**10:15 a.m. Break**

**Petersen Room Fourth Floor**

**10:30-12:00: Session II**

**DOMESTIC POLITICS -- Peterson Room**

**Chair: Martha Rapp Sayles, California State University, Northridge**

- “‘The Family Romance’: Politics, Power and Love in Disraeli’s *Endymion*”  
Robert Peter O’Kell, University of Manitoba
- “Custodial Fictions: Narratives of Maternal Distress in England’s Custody Debates and Caroline Norton’s Early Writing”  
Leslie J. Bruce, California State University, Fullerton
- “Shaking British Dust from their Feet: The Deceased Wife’s Sister Controversy and National Identity in Dinah Mulock Craik’s *Hannah*”  
Anne D. Wallace, University of North Carolina Greensboro

**Thursday, October 2**

**Suzzallo Library**

**10:30-12:00: Session II**

**COLONIAL POLITICS -- Allen Auditorium**

**Chair: Kristen Guest, University of Northern British Columbia**

- “From Dancers to Rebels: Nautch Girls and the Indian Mutiny of 1857”  
Charn Jagpal, University of Alberta
- “Writing Home and Empire: The Private/Public Divide in Victorian Zenana Narratives”  
Jennifer Keys, University of California, Riverside
- "Lady Montagu's Smokers' Pastils and *The Graphic*: Advertising the Harem in the Home"  
Kellie Holzer, University of Washington

**Noon Lunch**

**Peterson Room Fourth Floor**

**1:30-3:00: Session III**

**THE POLITICS OF REPRESENTATION -- Peterson Room**

**Chair: Sophia Andres, University of Texas of the Permian Basin**

- “Realism in Retrospect: Representation, Disraeli’s *Sybil* and the ‘Two Nations’”  
Michael Zeitler, Texas Southern University
- “Malthus’s *Essay*: Conjectural History, Political Economy, and Ethnography”  
Frank Palmeri, University of Miami
- “To the Queen: Gender, Class, and the Victorian Subject”  
Ingrid Ranum, Gonzaga University

**POLITICS OF THE NOVEL -- Allen Auditorium**

**Chair: Kathleen Peck, Executive Director, VISAWUS**

- “Luck, Love, and the Law: Embracing Contingency in Trollope’s *Mr. Scarborough’s Family*”  
Larisa Tokmakoff Castillo, Pomona College
- “Blackstone’s Plots: Law, Literature, and Politics in Victorian England”  
George Scott Christian, University of Texas at Austin
- “Rewriting Radicalism: Political Histories in *Frankenstein* and *The Last Man*”  
Jane J. Lee, University of Washington



**Thursday, October 2**

**Suzzallo Library**

**3:15-4:30: Session IV**

**PUBLIC vs. PRIVATE POLITICS -- Peterson Room**

**Chair: Richard Fulton, Windward Community College, University of Hawai'i**

- “The Country in the City: Parks, Politics and Postcards”  
Rory Wallace, Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design
- “How the Personal Became the Political: Gandhi’s Vegetarianism”  
Frances Singh, Hostos Community College/CUNY
- “Semi-private: Interpersonal Politics on the Victorian Omnibus”  
Arlene Young, University of Manitoba

**EUROPEAN POLITICS -- Allen Auditorium**

**Chair: William Scheuerle, University of South Florida**

- “Of Pets and People: Arnold’s Pet Elegies and Michelet’s *The People*”  
Shannon N. Gilstrap, Gainesville State College, Oakwood
- “The Process of Unification: Italian Politics and Sensational Fiction in Mary Augusta Ward’s *Eleanor*”  
Kathryn Pivak, Cottey College
- “‘Why Should There Be Any Eastern Question?’: The Status of the Balkans in the British Political Discourse During the Crimean War”  
Ana Savic, University of California, Riverside

**4:30 – 6:45: Reception**

**Peterson Room Fourth Floor**

**5:00 – 6:45: Panel on Research**

**Peterson Room Fourth Floor**

*“How We Did It”:*

*The Ins and Outs of Financing a Research Trip Abroad*

**7:00 p.m. Dance Performance**

**Faculty Club**

*“All Golden in the Lamplight’s Gleam”*

This dance is an examination of the life of D. G. Rossetti’s model and mistress, Fanny Cornforth. In her roles as prostitute, artist’s model, lover, housekeeper, collector and seller of fine art, and friend, Fanny Cornforth exemplifies public and private roles which are representative of the Victorian period. Susanne Seales and Susan Haines have incorporated poses taken from the paintings for which Cornforth sat. They capture through the lenses of history and dance both the icon and the woman. The actual performance is by Laura Bartczak.

This is the third dance in the triptych on Pre-Raphaelite stunners created and presented by Susanne Seales (historian and independent scholar) and Susan Haines (dance instructor, Western Washington University). The first was “Elizabeth S.” which was presented at the VISAWUS Conference in 2006 in Malibu. The second was “The Violet of Iffley Road” which was presented last year in Boulder.

**Friday, October 3**

**Husky Union Building**

**7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast**

**Husky Union Building 200C**

**8:45-10:15: Session V**

**BODY POLITICS -- HUB 200A**

**Chair: Laurel Williamson, San Jacinto College**

- “An Unlikely Hero in William M. Thackeray’s *Vanity Fair: A Novel without a Hero*”  
Nikole J. King, Gonzaga University
- “‘I let the odious deceit go on’: Body Politics in Wilkie Collins’ *The Law and the Lady*”  
Mark Mossman, Western Illinois University
- “Publicizing the Private in *Fors Clavigera*: John Ruskin’s Problems in Negotiating between Reading Publics”  
Ji-Hyae Park, University of Michigan

**POLITICS AND THE PRESS -- HUB 200B**

**Chair: Julie Codell, Arizona State University**

- “Politics and the Press’ – An Unfamiliar Look at a Very Familiar Subject”  
Eugenia M. Palmegiano, Saint Peter’s College
- “Representing India(ns): The Art of Politics and the Politics of Poetry in the Indian-English Press”  
Sheshalatha Reddy, Fordham University
- “The Politics of Sentiment: Professionalization and Self-Representation in the *Police Review and Parade Gossip*”  
Kristen Guest, University of Northern British Columbia

**10:15 a.m. Break**

**HUB 200C**

**10:30-12:00: Session VI**

**POLITICS AND CLASS -- HUB 200A**

**Chair: George Mariz, Western Washington University**

- “See the Change: Confronting Social Convention in *Pride and Prejudice* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*”  
Joey Schumacher, Clemson University
- “The Mean Girls of Carlingford: Social Politics in Margaret Oliphant’s *Miss Marjoribanks*”  
Lindsay Lawrence, Texas Christian University
- “‘I want all of these things, and you may depend on’t’: The Music Hall and the Desire for Social Mobility”  
Scott Banville, University of Nevada, Reno

**Friday, October 3**

**Husky Union Building**

**10:30-12:00: Session VI**

**THE POLITICS OF MORALITY -- HUB 200B**

**Chair: Constance M. Fulmer, Pepperdine University**

- “The Moral Implications of Politics in George Eliot’s *Felix Holt* and *Middlemarch*”  
Constance M. Fulmer, Pepperdine University
- “A Dickens of a Political Agenda: *War and Peace* as Dickensian Fairy Tale”  
Amy Sonheim, Ouachita Baptist University
- “Matthew Arnold as Public Intellectual”  
Alfred J. Drake, Chapman University

**Noon Lunch and Business Meeting**

**HUB200C**

**1:30-3:00: Session VII**

**INSTITUTIONALIZING POLITICS -- HUB 200A**

**Chair: George Mariz, Western Washington University**

- “Building the Empire, Book by Book: The British Museum Library and British National Identity”  
Solveig C. Robinson, Pacific Lutheran University
- “Land Reform and Irish Writing”  
Andrew J. Garavel, Santa Clara University
- “Elizabeth Strickland’s *Life of Mary II* (1848): Rereading the Glorious Revolution from the Perspective of a Victorian Woman Historian”  
Robert C. Petersen, Middle Tennessee State University

**VISUAL POLITICS -- HUB 200B**

**Chair: Genie Babb, University of Alaska Anchorage**

- “‘Ugliness’ and ‘Disease’ in Pre-Raphaelite Paintings: Cultural Anxieties in Visual Politics”  
Sophia Andres, University of Texas of the Permian Basin
- “Market Cycles, Aesthetic Commodities and Heterotopias: The Politics of Tastemaking”  
Julie F. Codell, Arizona State University
- “Sexual/Textual/Visual Politics: *Griffith Gaunt*, Serial Illustration, and the Making of Victorian Sensation”  
Lisa SurrIDGE, University of Victoria, and Mary Elizabeth Leighton, University of Victoria

**3:00 p.m. Break**

**HUB 200C**



**Friday, October 3**

**Husky Union Building**

**3:15-4:30: Session VIII**

**POLITICS IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE -- HUB 200A**

**Chair: Constance M. Fulmer, Pepperdine University**

- “John Stuart Mill: The Power of Rhetoric vs. the Rhetoric of Power”  
Dennis Rohatyn, University of San Diego
- “Political Propaganda or Ladies’ Fair: Print Culture at the 1845 Anti-Corn Law Bazaar”  
Leslee Thorne-Murphy, Brigham Young University
- “Thomas Arnold and the ‘Oxford Malignants’: The Discourse of Religious Reform in Early Victorian England”  
George Mariz, Western Washington University

**AESTHETIC POLITICS -- HUB 200B**

**Chair: Laurel Williamson, San Jacinto College**

- “The Brawny Balladeer: The Ethno-musical Politics in “The Widow of Windsor” by Rudyard Kipling”  
Erin R. McCoy, University of Louisville
- “Public Prophets and Private Poets: Reconfigurations of Edward Burne Jones in George Bernard Shaw’s *Candida*”  
Clark Moreland, University of Texas of the Permian Basin
- “The Medium’s the Thing: Poetic Influence in the Poetry of Robert Browning and EBB”  
Caley Liane Ehnes, University of Victoria

**5:45 p.m. Reception**

**Burke Natural History Museum**

**6:15 p.m. Keynote Address**

**Burke Natural History Museum**

**Antony Harrison**

**Professor of English  
North Carolina State University**



***“The Politics of Victorian Taste:  
Culture and Sensation in Mid-Victorian England”***

**7:15 p.m. Dinner**

**Burke Natural History Museum**



**Saturday, October 4**

**Husky Union Building**

**8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast**

**Husky Union Building 309**

**8:45-10:15: Session IX**

**POLITICS OF AESTHETICISM: OUTSIDER AESTHETICISM -- HUB 309**

**Chair: Rory Wallace, Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design**

- “The Figure of Watteau in Walter Pater’s “A Prince of Court Painters” and Michael Field’s *Sight and Song*”  
Kit Andrews, Western Oregon University
- “Old Guard/Avant-Garde: Vernon Lee and the Politics of Aestheticism in the Twentieth Century”  
Kristin Mahoney, Western Washington University
- “Matilde Serao and Antonio Mancini: Decadence and Dream in the Belly of Naples”  
Diana Maltz, Southern Oregon University

**POLITICAL ECONOMY: WEALTH AND LABOR -- HUB 304F**

**Chair: Lisa Surridge, University of Victoria**

- “Adam Smith and the Delusional Scrooge: Wealth and Happiness in Charles Dickens’s *A Christmas Carol*”  
Mary Elizabeth Hotz, University of San Diego
- “Liberal Economics and the ‘New Woman’ in Olive Schreiner’s *The Story of an African Farm*”  
Lana L. Dalley, California State University, Fullerton

**10:00 a.m. Break**

**HUB 309**

**10:30-12:00: Session X**

**GENDER POLITICS -- HUB 304**

**Chair: Charles LaPorte, University of Washington**

- “Gothic Fiction/Detective Fiction: The Heroines’ Work in *The Woman in White*”  
Sandra A. Grayson, Saint Mary’s College of California
- “The Angel on the Estate: Rosa Mulholland’s *Marcella Grace* and the Moral Reform of Landlordism”  
Sherrin Berezowsky, The University of Western Ontario
- “Stolen Diamonds and Secret Selves: Same-Sex Male Desire in Wilkie Collins’s *The Moonstone*”  
Sharleen Mondal, University of Washington

**Saturday, October 4**

**Husky Union Building**

**10:30-12:00: Session X**

**POLITICS AND THE SPIRITUAL -- HUB 304F**

**Chair: George Griffith, Chadron State College**

- “Indivisible Man: H. G. Wells and the Politics of Supernaturalism”  
Genie Babb, University of Alaska Anchorage
- “‘The voice of a brother’: Religious Texts and Contexts in *The Mill on the Floss*”  
Kathleen Vejvoda, Bridgewater State College



## ***The VISAWUS Board of Directors***

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***Lisa Surridge, University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C.***

*Karen Kurt Teal, University of Washington, Seattle, WA  
Laurel Williamson, San Jacinto College District, Houston, TX*

## *Keynote Speaker*

*Antony Harrison is Professor of English and Department Head at North Carolina State University. The books he has written include Swinburne's Medievalism, Christina Rossetti in Context, Victorian Poets and Romantic Poems, and Victorian Poets and The Politics of Culture.*

*He has also edited The Letters of Christina Rossetti (4 vols.), a special double issue of the journal Victorian Poetry on Christina Rossetti, and a special issue of the John Donne Journal on "The Metaphysical Poets in the Nineteenth Century." He is co-editor of The Blackwell Companion to Victorian Poetry, The Culture of Christina Rossetti, and Gender and Discourse in Victorian Literature and Art.*

*He is the recipient of fellowships from the National Humanities Center, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Folger Shakespeare Library, and the ACLS. He is currently completing a new book, The Cultural Production of Matthew Arnold and has begun a major project on Victorian taste. He continues to work as a completing editor for The Correspondence of Dante Gabriel Rossetti (10 vols.).*

*He serves on the Advisory Board of the NINES and the Dante Gabriel Rossetti Hypertext Archive as well as the editorial boards of RaVoN, Victorian Poetry, Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies, the Journal of Pre-Raphaelite Studies, and the Victorians Institute Journal.*



## Program Outline

**Thursday, October 2** **Suzzallo Library**

**7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast** **Petersen Room, Fourth Floor**

**8:30 a.m. Conference Welcome** **Petersen Room, Fourth Floor**

**8:45-10:15: Session I**

**POLITICS IN THE NOVEL -- Petersen Room**

**TRANSNATIONAL POLITICS -- Allen Auditorium**

**10:15 a.m. Break** **Petersen Room Fourth Floor**

**10:30-12:00: Session II**

**DOMESTIC POLITICS -- Peterson Room**

**COLONIAL POLITICS --Allen Auditorium**

**Noon Lunch** **Peterson Room Fourth Floor**

**1:30-3:00: Session III**

**3:15-4:30: Session IV**

**PUBLIC vs. PRIVATE POLITICS -- Peterson Room**

**EUROPEAN POLITICS -- Allen Auditorium**

**4:30 – 6:45: Reception** **Petersen Room, Fourth Floor**

**5:00 – 6:45: Panel on Research** **Petersen Room, Fourth Floor**

**7:00 p.m. Dance Performance** **Faculty Club**

**Friday, October 3** **Husky Union Building**

**7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast** **Husky Union Building 200C**

**8:45-10:15: Session V**

**BODY POLITICS -- HUB 200A**

**POLITICS AND THE PRESS -- HUB 200B**

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**VISUAL POLITICS -- HUB 200B**

**3:00 p.m. Break** **HUB 200C**

**3:15-4:30: Session VIII**

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**AESTHETIC POLITICS -- HUB 200B**

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**6:15 p.m. Keynote Address** **Burke Natural History Museum**

**7:15 p.m. Dinner** **Burke Natural History Museum**

**Saturday, October 4** **Husky Union Building**

**8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast** **Husky Union Building 309**

**8:45-10:15: Session IX**

**POLITICS OF AESTHETICISM -- HUB 309**

**POLITICAL ECONOMY -- HUB 304F**

**10:00 a.m. Break** **HUB 309**

**10:30-12:00: Session X**

**GENDER POLITICS -- HUB 304**

**POLITICS AND THE SPIRITUAL-- HUB 304F**

