

The Vulgar and the Proper: Victorian Manners and Mores
Victorian Interdisciplinary Studies Association of the Western United States
16th Annual Conference
Houston, Texas 13-15 October 2011

Pre-conference Activities, Wednesday, 12 October: NASA Tour: 12:00pm – 4:30pm (lunch will take place at NASA; limit of 20 people; must sign up; will have vans for transportation leaving from the Doubletree Hotel at 11:15am; meet in hotel lobby)

Thursday, 13 October

8:00am – 3:00pm: Registration at University of Houston-Downtown

8:00am – 9:00am: Continental Breakfast

9:00am – 9:30am: Welcome from Dr. Julie Codell, President, VISAWUS Board of Directors, and Dr. Laurel V. Williamson, VISAWUS Board of Directors and Conference Organizer

9:30am – 11:00am: Concurrent Sessions

Session 1A, Room **Identity and Propriety in Child-focused Texts** Moderator: Constance Fulmer (Pepperdine U)
“Kingsley’s *Water-Babies* and the Rhetoric of Muscular Christianity” (M. Melissa Elston, Texas A & M University)
“Alice’s British Identity” (Monica Sabahi, California State University at Fullerton)
“Something Unspeakable: The Abuse of Orphans in Three 19thcentury Texts” (Theresa Habbestad, Texas A & M)

Session 1B, Room **Art and the Visual** Moderator: Lisa Surrige (University of Victoria)

“Eating Abstraction: Gastronomic Analogies in the Victorian Reception of Whistler’s Art” (Aileen Dashi Tsui, Washington College)

“Pre-Raphaelite Vulgarities” (Sophia Andres, University of Texas of the Permian Basin)

“Color and the Vulgar in Bronte’s *Jane Eyre* and Hardy’s *The Return of the Native*” (Jessica Durgan, Texas A & M)

Session 1C, Room **Victorian Gothic, Feminism, and Sensation Novels** Moderator: Scott Banville (Nicholls State)

“‘Are you honest? Are you fair?’: Stoker’s *Dracula* and LeFanu’s *Carmilla*” (Adam Cheney, U of Texas at Dallas)

“Women Readers, Male Reviewers: Victorian Men and the Sensation Novels” (Janet Fairfield, U of Texas at Dallas)

“‘At Peace with All Men’: Stevenson’s *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*” (Kayla Walker Edin, Southern Methodist U)

11:00am – 1:30pm – Lunch on Your Own

2:00pm – 3:30pm: Concurrent Sessions

Session 2A, Room **Vulgar Women and Gender Norms** Moderator: M. Melissa Elston (Texas A & M University)

“The Vulgar Made Popular: George Egerton’s Untamed Woman (S. Brooke Cameron, Concordia University)

“Vulgar Women in Charles Dickens’s *Oliver Twist*” (Sumangala Bhattacharya, Pitzer College)

“Victorians without Vulgarities: Gaskell’s *Cranford*” (Audrey Curtis, Claremont Graduate University)

Session 2B, Room **Feminine Identity and Empowerment** Moderator: Genie Babb (State U of NY at Plattsburgh)

“*Villette* the Right One In: *Villette*, *The Woman in White*, and *Daniel Deronda*” (Bryn Gribben, Seattle University)

“‘Thick, Sour Pap, and Other Abominations’” (Lana L. Dalley, California State University at Fullerton)

“‘There Is Nothing to Forbid Me Now’: Thackeray’s *Vanity Fair*” (Mary K. Leigh, University of Arkansas)

Session 2C, Room **Shifting and Blurring of Gender Roles** Moderator: George Griffith (Chadron State College)

“‘The King of Wines’: Food, Effeminacy, and Sexual Impropriety in Bram Stoker’s *Dracula* and Wilkie Collins’s *The Law and the Lady*” (Mary Timothy Wilson, Louisiana State University)

“War, Vanity, Sex, and Blood: *The Island of Doctor Moreau* and *Ernestus Berchtold* (Aileen Farrar, U of Louisiana)

“Teleny and a Queer Method (Justin O’Hearn, Simon Fraser University)

Session 2D, Rm **Capitalism and Gender in Victorian Detectives** Moderator: Laurel V. Williamson (San Jacinto)

“Vulgar or Virtuous?: Sensation Novels” (Laura Perrings, Texas A & M University)

“Detecting Victorian Propriety in Money Matters in *Sherlock*: The BBC’s Modern Adaptation of Conan Doyle’s Stories” (Svetlana Bochman)

“‘Who is Quite Safe from the Trembling of the Balance?’: Lady Audley’s Threat to Male Stabilization in Mary Elizabeth Braddon’s *Lady Audley’s Secret*” (Kristin M. Hutchins, Claremont Graduate University)

3:30pm – 3:45pm: Break

3:45pm – 5:00pm: Concurrent Sessions

Session 3A, Room **Travels in the New World** Moderator: Ann Tate (San Jacinto College)

“Fanny Trollope, Harriet Martineau, and ‘Brute America’” (Lee Behlman, Montclair State University)
“Public Words in a Private World: Codes and Consumption” (Bianca Gendreau, Canadian Postal Museum/Canadian Museum of Civilization)
“The Vulgar New World: Fanny Trollope’s ‘Idea of America’ in *Domestic Manners of the Americans*” (Christine DeVine, University of Louisiana at Lafayette)

Session 3B, Room **Duality of the Interior and Exterior, the Angel and the Monster**

Moderator: Ann Pearson (San Jacinto College)

“The Safety of the Subjective, Psychological Sin-terior: Social Escapes in Naturalist Works” (Cameron Dodworth, Creighton University)

“Dual Ideas in Victorian Fiction: Gender in *Lady Audley’s Secret*, *The Odd Women*, and *The Woman Who Did*” (Jami Barnett, University of Tulsa)

“Diads of Tension and Triads of Stability: Esther Summerson in *Bleak House*” (Patrick Lewis, U of Louisiana)

Session 3C, Room **Cultural, Political, and Economic Class Aspirations** Moderator: Karen Hattaway (San Jacinto)

“From Johnny Keats to Leonard Bast” (Scott D. Banville, Nicholls State University)

“Trollope’s Resounding Judgment: Vulgarity in *The Prime Minister* (1876)” (Karen Kurt Teal, U of Washington)

“The ‘Vulgarity’ of the Working Classes at the Great Exhibition” (Natasha Alvandi Hunt, Lone Star College)

5:00pm: Dinner on Your Own

4:30pm: Board of Directors Meeting

7:00pm: Board of Directors Dinner

Friday, 14 October

8:15am – 9:45am: Concurrent Sessions

Session 4A, Room **Race, the Foreign, and the Exotic** Moderator: Laurel V. Williamson (San Jacinto College)

“The Vulgar Hybrid in the Works of James Tissot” (Karen A. Stock, Winthrop University)

“Racial ‘Admixing,’ the Homoerotic, and Oscar Wilde’s *Picture of Dorian Gray* (David W. Toise, CA State)

“‘A Promiscuous Arrangement’: Isabella Bird on the Decline of Native Hawaiians” (May Caroline Chan, College of Saint Rose)

Session 4B, Room **Mass Media, Capitalism, and Knowledge Democracy as Threats to Social Stability**

Moderator: Scott Banville (Nicholls State University)

“Liberal Self-culture and the Liberal Professions in Dickens” (David Thiele, University of Mount Union)

“Vulgarity and Respectability in *The Way We Live Now*” (Ali Rezaie, Louisiana State University)

“Becky Sharp as Commodity” (Mary Jordan Chapman, U of Colorado)

Session 4C, Room **Propriety and the Nation** Moderator: Constance Fulmer (Pepperdine University)

“The Propriety of Oscar Wilde’s 1882 American Tour (or Bunthorne and the Literary Canon)” (Caroline E.

Kimberly, University of Houston-Downtown)

“Propriety and the Proprietary on the Victorian Stage: Charles Dickens’s *Bleak House*” (Julianne Smith, Pepperdine)

“Popular Reviews and Cultural Mandates” (Kristen Kesonon, Pepperdine University)

Session 4D, Room **Gender Roles and Imposed Social Norms** Moderator: Richard Fulton (Windward CCollege)

“‘Strange Passionate Pleasure’: Gaskell’s *North and South*” (Sara L. Keeth, University of Texas at Dallas)

“The Mistress Is Not at Home: Gaskell’s Domestic Novel *Cranford*” (Carroll C. Savant, Tarrant cty CCollege)

“The Reconstruction of Gerard Manley Hopkins (Courtney R. Dombroski, University of Texas at Dallas)

9:45am – 10:00am: Break

10:00am – 11:30am: Concurrent Sessions

Session 5A, Room **British Theatre and the Performance of Self** Moderator: William Scheuerle (U of S. Florida)

“‘The Whole Was Thrilling’: A Colonial Visitor’s London Excursions” (Kay Ferres, Griffith University)

“The Vulgarity of Public Display and the Art of Narrative Propriety in Charlotte Bronte’s *Villette*” (Bethany Shepherd, Brown University)

“After *A Doll’s House*: Late Victorian Culture and the Reinvention of Nora” (Maria Su Wang, Biola University)

Session 5B, Room **Religious Practice, Ritual, and Redemption** Moderator: Ann Pearson (San Jacinto College)

“Performing Religion in *Bleak House*” (Teresa Huffman Traver, California State University at Chico)

“‘Good Words for Every day of the Year’” (Caley Ehnes, U of Victoria)

“The Victorians and Nicodemus’s Question” (Karen Hattaway, San Jacinto College)

Session 5C, Room **Sexual Identity and Instruction** Moderator: John C. Hughes (Valencia College)
“Riding Lessons: Impropriety, Girls, and Grooms in the 19th-century Stable” (Angela Hofstetter, Butler University)
“How to Be Properly Vulgar: Victorian Pornographic Conduct Manuals” (Carolyn Joy Tate, University of Virginia)
“Stripping the Philosophy from Sade’s Bedroom Drama” (Ann M. Tandy, University of Minnesota)

11:45pm – 12:45pm: Lunch and Business Meeting Room

1:00pm – 2:00pm: Plenary Speaker, Lynn Voskuil, U of Houston, “Dirt and Disciplinarity” Room

2:15pm – 3:45pm: Concurrent Sessions

Session 6A, Room **Gender and Religious Discourse** Moderator: Kerry Mix (San Jacinto College)
“Religious and Gender (Im)propriety in Margaret Oliphant” (Susan E. Colon, Baylor University)
“Liberal Agency and Religious Discourse: Florence Nightingale’s *Suggestions for Thought* Reconsidered” (Magdalena Nerio, University of Notre Dame)
“Moral Propriety and Religious Vulgarity in George Eliot’s Clerics” (Constance M. Fulmer, Pepperdine University)

Session 6B, Room **Sensation Fiction and the Values of Vulgar and Proper** Moderator: Richard Fulton (Windward College)

“The Danger of Respectable Reading: Mary Elizabeth Braddon’s *The Doctor’s Wife* as Gendered Critique of Middle-class Literature” (Jennifer Conary, DePaul University)
“Sensation and Realism: Vulgar and Proper Elements and the Construction of Categories” (Kristen Pond, University of North Carolina at Greensboro)
“Liberating Loss in *The Law and the Lady*” (Kathryn Elizabeth Hudson, University of California at Chico)

Session 6C, Room **The Victorian Vampire: Enduring Dracula** Moderator: John C. Hughes (Valencia College)
“All in the Family: *Dracula*’s Kinship Fears Revisited in HBO’s *Trueblood*” (Stephanie Alexander, U of Louisiana)
“Dracula as Social and Sexual Contrarian” (Juliette Highland, University of Louisiana)
“Vampiric Fecundity: Fear and Lure of Non-genital Reproduction in *Dracula*” (Madoka Kishi, U of Louisiana)

3:45pm – 4:00pm: Break

4:00pm – 5:30pm: Concurrent Sessions

Session 7A, Room **Proper Knowledge and Too Much Information**
Moderator: Kristin Mahoney (Western Washington University)
“Aesthetic Self-consciousness in *New Grub Street* and *Tit-Bits*” (Richard Menke, University of Georgia)
“Implicit and Revisionist Ethnographies in Arthur Morrison’s Slum Fiction” (Diana Maltz, Southern Oregon U)
“Fugitive Information: Oscar Wilde’s Induction” (Simon Reader, University of Toronto)

Session 7B, Room **Shame and Sensibility** Moderator: Karen Kurt Teal (University of Washington)

“The Skimmity-ride: Staging Gender Through Custom in Hardy’s *The Mayor of Casterbridge*” (Brian Donnelly, University of California at Santa Barbara)
“George Eliot’s Vulgar Realism” (George V. Griffith, Chadron State College)
“Neo-Victorian Vulgarity, or What Sarah Waters’s Fingersmith Teaches Us about W. T. Stead’s *Maiden Tribute of Modern Babylon*” (Kellie Holzer, University of Washington)

Session 7C, Room Fashion, Style, Dress, and Class Distinction Moderator: Kerry Mix (San Jacinto College)
“Picturing Desire and Disorder: Pre-Raphaelite Declassé Excess” (Julie Codell, Arizona State University)

“Fashionable Ink: Tattooed Women and the Limits of Imperial Authority” (Jane J. Lee, University of Washington)

5:30pm – 6:30pm: Cocktail Reception Doubletree Hotel

6:30pm – 7:30pm: Keynote Speaker, Helena Michie “Conceding the Marriage Plot: The Proprieties of George Scharf, Victorian Bachelor”

7:30pm – 9:00pm: Texas Barbecue Dinner Doubletree Hotel