

VISAWUS

Zoom Series 2022-23: Victorian Promises

THE PROMISES OF FEMINISM

Friday, 4 November 2022

11:00 AM Pacific Time

Please join us!

<https://sou.zoom.us/j/82296018963>

The promise of a better, more egalitarian future was fundamental to Victorian feminism. Victorian feminists envisioned a future where women had the opportunity to meaningfully participate in waged labor, to exercise the right to vote, to hold property, to have equal access to quality education, and to hold equal protection under the law. As many scholars have noted, though, such visions were almost exclusively limited to white, middle-class women, whose promising futures were often dependent upon the subjugation of working-class women and women of color. Our panel critically examines and interrogates the promises of Victorian feminism, offering new analysis of Victorian feminist thought and new directions for the study of the Victorian feminist canon. We explore the way Victorian feminism has shaped contemporary feminist theory and practice, and propose new modes of teaching, preserving, and writing about Victorian feminism.

"Economic Promises and our Neoliberal Present"

– **Lana L. Dalley**, California State University, Fullerton

"Victorian Studies and the Category of 'Woman'"

– **Doreen Thierauf**, North Carolina Wesleyan University

"Utopian Visions in Victorian Fiction"

– **Tara MacDonald**, University of Idaho

"Orlando: Time Travels in Feminist Victorian Literary Criticism, 2005 and 2022"

– **Karen Bourrier**, University of Calgary

"The Menace of Victorian Feminism: Temperance, Eugenics, Racial Uplift and Other 'Promising' Directions in Short Biographies of Activists"

– **Alison Booth**, University of Virginia



The Victorian Interdisciplinary Studies Association of the Western United States