

# Victorian Modernities conference programme

Thursday, June 25

[11am onwards – registration desk open in Woolf Foyer]

## 1pm OPENING OF CONFERENCE (Woolf Lecture Theatre)

Welcome & introductory remarks - Catherine Waters (Kent)

## 1.15 – 2.15pm PLENARY 1 (Woolf Lecture Theatre)

Jonathan Grossman (UCLA), “Standardisation (standardization)”

Chair: Catherine Waters (Kent)

2.15 – 3pm coffee / tea in Woolf Foyer

(keys for on-campus accommodation available to collect)

## 3 – 4.30 pm PARALLEL SESSION A

### A.1 Transport & modernity I (Woolf SR4)

Chair:

1. Nicola Kirkby (KCL), “Railway vision & terminal form in *Howards End*”
2. Una Brogan (Paris 7-Diderot), “Bike to the future: Progress & nostalgia in turn-of-the-century cycling narratives”
3. Anna Despotopoulou (Athens), “*Dames seules*: Railway adventures in sensation & New Woman fiction”

### A.2 The child, vulnerability & modernity (Woolf SR5)

Chair:

1. Wendy Parkins (Kent), “Dickens, modernity & vulnerability (or, the precarious life of the Jellyby children)”
2. Elizabeth Drumm (UNSW), “Consigned to the sea: Children & the ambivalent recuperative power of ocean travel & the seaside ‘cure’ in *Dombey & Son*”
3. Andrew Humphries (Canterbury Christ Church), “The ‘innocent child in the midst’: Fin-de-siècle ambivalence about the Victorian family & modern childhood in Henry James’s *What Maisie Knew* & *The Turn of the Screw*”

### A.3 The future of Victorian modernities (Woolf SR6)

Chair:

1. Elisavet Ioannidou, “‘A vision of a terrible tomorrow’: Neo-Victorian scientific crime & the passage to the modern future”
2. Jeanette Atkinson (Leicester), “Air transport in the (Neo)-Victorian age”
3. Robbie McAllister (Aberystwyth), “The past made present: Evaluating the mechanics of 21<sup>st</sup>-century Steampunk cinema”

4.30 – 4.45pm short break

**4.45 – 6.15pm PARALLEL SESSION B**

**B.1 Victorian Women Travelling I (Woolf SR4)**

Chair:

1. Murray Baumgarten (UCSC), “Then & now: Travel, history, narration”
2. Barbara Franchi (Kent), “Sailing alone to the end of the world: Queer travellers in Eleanor Catton’s *The Luminaries* & Isabel Allende’s *Daughter of Fortune*”
3. Charlotte Mathieson (Warwick), ‘An ecstasy of freedom & enjoyment’: Gender & mobility in Charlotte Brontë’s writing”

**B.2 Soundscapes of modernity (Woolf SR5)**

Chair:

1. Helen Groth (UNSW), “Violent speech: Rioting scenes & early ear-witnessing”
2. Penelope Hone (UNSW), “Inspired speech & modern literary voices in the 19<sup>th</sup> century”
3. David Ellison (Griffith), “Noise, memory & contested domesticity”

**B.3 Modernity in/and Decline (Woolf SR6)**

Chair:

1. Adrian Tait, “‘After London ended’: Richard Jefferies’ revenge on the modern”
2. Melissa Dickson (Oxford), “If you don’t snooze, you ooze: Overpressure & physical & mental collapse in Victorian education”
3. Alicja Urbanik (Warsaw), “Ghosts in the age of progress: The relation between 19<sup>th</sup>-century inventions & the rise of spiritualism”

6.30pm Dinner at Dolce Vita Restaurant, Keynes College  
(for delegates staying in Keynes college accommodation only)

*Recommended restaurants in Canterbury:*

*Rafael’s Restaurant*

*The Goods Shed (farmers’ market & food hall)*

*Station Road West (right next to Canterbury West Station)*

*Canterbury CT2 8AN Phone: 01227 459153*

*The Ambrette (Contemporary Indian)*

*14 Beer Cart Lane*

*Canterbury CT1 2NY Phone: 01227 319814*

*Deeson’s Restaurant (Modern British)*

*25-27 Sun Street*

*Canterbury CT1 2HX Phone: 01227 767854*

*Café du Soleil (Modern Mediterranean Wood Fire Cuisine)*

*5 Pound Lane,*

*Canterbury CT2 8AA Phone 01227 479999*

## Friday, June 26

[8.30am – registration desk open in Woolf Foyer]

### 9 – 10am PLENARY 2 (Woolf Lecture Theatre)

Ruth Livesey (Royal Holloway), “Victorian Modernity & the 'Just' Past: Travelling the Empty Road with Dickens & Hardy”

Chair: Wendy Parkins (Kent)

10 – 10.30am coffee / tea in Woolf Foyer

### 10.30am – 12 noon PARALLEL SESSION C

#### C.1 Trans-imperial modernity (Woolf LT)

Chair:

1. Tamara Wagner (Nanyang), “Imported modernity & New World returnees: Wilkie Collins’s ‘Scientific English Savage’”
2. Sukanya Banerjee (Wisconsin-Milwaukee), “Marriage, modernity & the transimperial”
3. Priti Joshi (Puget Sound), “Ballooning expectations: The Great Exhibition & the great Indian contractor”

#### C.2 Dickens & modernity I (Woolf SR4)

Chair:

1. Jessica Valdez (Hong Kong), “‘The part of Mr Pickwick’s biographer’: Charles Dickens, George W. M. Reynolds & the construction of authorship”
2. Adam Abraham (Oxford), “Fan fiction or foe: Victorian imitations of *A Christmas Carol*”
3. Carolyn W. de la L. Oulton (Canterbury Christ Church), “‘A coverless book without a title-page’: Heritage & the modern in the Dickens centenary year”

#### C.3 Picturing modernity I (Woolf SR5)

Chair:

1. Owen Clayton (Lincoln), “Intimate strangers: Photographic exchange in fin-de-siècle fiction”
2. Brianna Beehler (USC), “In the looking-glass: Visual exchange in Christina Rossetti’s *Speaking Likenesses*”
3. Peter Andersson (Lund), “Victorian body language & its adaptations to photography & popular culture”

#### C.4 Rural modernities (Woolf SR6)

Chair:

1. Georgina Hunter (Exeter), “Rural modernities & the global marketplace: Political economy in the early fiction of Harriet Martineau”
2. Kate Lawson (Waterloo), “Charlotte Brontë’s *Shirley*: Modernising *Wuthering Heights*”
3. Teja Varma Pusapati (Oxford), “Female foreign correspondence & the signs of colonial modernity: Harriet Martineau’s letters from Ireland”

12 – 1.15pm lunch in Woolf Foyer

**1.15 – 2.45 pm PARALLEL SESSION D**

**D.1 Women, work & modernity (Woolf LT)**

Chair:

1. Jessica Gray (Kent), “‘I continued to click, click, click like the machine I was’: The creative function of the typewriter girl”
2. Arlene Young (Manitoba), “Risky Business: The thoroughly modern typewriter & sexual exploitation in the Victorian office”
3. Laura Rotunno (Penn State Altoona), “What if the New Woman is a ‘scholar-athlete’ too?”

**D.2 Picturing modernity II (Woolf SR4)**

Chair:

1. Leigh-Michil George (UCLA), “‘The last days of coarse caricatures’: Victorian nostalgia, ‘modern refinement’ & Pierce Egan’s *Life in London* (1821)”
2. Rebecka Klette (Birkbeck), “The pathological metropolis: Representations of urban degeneracy, the atavistic city-dweller & deviant modernity in *Punch* & 19<sup>th</sup>-century caricature”
3. Michael Connerty (TCD), “Educated apes, flying men & mechanical animals: Modernity & the British comic strip”

**D.3 Theorising modernity (Woolf SR5)**

Chair:

1. Michael Rectenwald (NYU), “Secularism as modern secularity”
2. Jeffrey L. Spear (NYU), “Ruskin post-Piketty”
3. Michael Vignola (UCLA), “World of chance? *The Nether World*, counterfactuals & statistical determinism”

**D.4 Cosmopolitan modernity (Woolf SR6)**

Chair:

1. Richard Bonfiglio (Sogang), “The Cosmopolitan education of Pen Browning”
2. Elena Rimondo (Ca’ Foscari), “John Ruskin & tourism: *St Mark’s Rest* as an alternative tourist guide”
3. Heidi Liedke (Freiburg), “The Victorian experience of railway travel: Joys, anxieties & impatience”

2.45 – 3.15pm coffee / tea in Woolf Foyer

### **3.15 – 4.45pm PARALLEL SESSION E**

#### **E.1 Plotting modernity (Woolf SR4)**

Chair:

1. Margaret Kolb (Berkeley), “Modernising Moses: Dickens’s updated orphan plots”
2. Wendy Veronica Xin (Berkeley), “Social anxiety, modernity & metalepsis in two Victorian novels”
3. Julia Podziewska, “Modern property forms & relations in the plots of Wilkie Collins’s novels: *The Woman in White*”

#### **E.2 Aestheticism & modernity (Woolf SR5)**

Chair:

1. Anna Antonowicz (Lublin), “Art against fashion: From the anti-modernity of artistic dress to the modernity of aesthetic dress”
2. Sasha Dovzhyk (Birkbeck), “Cosmopolitan afterlife of the Victorian avant-garde: Aubrey Beardsley’s adoption by Russian aesthetes”
3. Tara N. Thomas (UCSC), “Michael Field’s *To an Exile*: Domestic Socialism in Queer Suburbia”

#### **E.3 Victorian Women Travelling II (Woolf SR6)**

Chair:

1. Kat Powell (Tennessee), “Engineering heroes: Railway inventions & literary interventions in Victorian women’s writing”
2. Clive Sinclair, “*Dracula* & the New Woman: Which is the more dangerous?”
4. Elvan Mutlu (Kent), “‘The *Castle* arrived off Durban & anchored’: Female mobility & modernity in Haggard’s *Benita: An African Romance*”

4.45 – 5pm short break

### **5 – 7pm MAGIC LANTERN PRESENTATION (Gulbenkian Theatre)**

Joss Marsh & David Francis (Kent Museum of the Moving Image, Deal)  
“Are the Signals All Right?: The Victorian railway & visual experience”

Chair:

7.30pm Drinks reception, followed by Conference dinner,  
*Dolce Vita Restaurant, Keynes College*

**Saturday, June 27**

**9 – 10.30am PARALLEL SESSION F**

**F.1 Dickens & modernity II (Woolf SR4)**

Chair:

1. Yael Maurer (Tel Aviv), “Restless travellers: Dickens’s global imagination”
2. Christine Huguet (Lille), “Dickens & modern Greenland”
3. Joanna Robinson (KCL), “‘So graphically described by Dickens’: Appropriating *Oliver Twist* & modernising London”

**F.2 Technologies of modernity (Woolf SR5)**

Chair:

1. Courtney Salvey (Kent), “Technology’s past: Histories of technology & the inventors of modernity”
2. Amanda Sciampacone (Birkbeck), “‘Revelations of the microscope’: Cholera, the Thames & the horrors of the sub-visible”
3. Ben Bethell (Birkbeck), “‘Wondrous & perfectly Dutch-like cleanliness’: The English prison, sanitation & Victorian modernity”

**F.3 Modernity’s other (Woolf SR6)**

Chair:

1. Michael Plygawko (Cambridge), “‘Notes of busy life in distant worlds’: Tennyson & the voice of antiquity”
2. Emma Liggins (MMU), “19th-century up-to-date with a vengeance?: Modernity & the monstrous in fin-de-siècle vampire narratives”
3. Heather Braun, “Shadow selves: Oscar Wilde, Mary E. Coleridge & the Victorian Doppelgänger”

10.30 – 11am coffee / tea in Woolf Foyer

**11am - 12.30 pm PARALLEL SESSION G**

**G.1 Modern print culture (Woolf SR4)**

Chair:

1. Robert O’Kell (Manitoba), “Victorian advertising & the idea of the modern”
2. Annisa Suliman (Leeds Beckett), “Mind the gaps: Advice columns, fragmented narrative & the subjective realization of the reader in *Cassell’s Illustrated Family Magazine* (1853-1865)”
3. Tara Puri (Warwick), “The Indian New Woman: Women’s magazines & the cosmopolitan subject”

**G.2 Transport & modernity II (Woolf SR5)**

Chair:

1. Irene Iriondo (Goldsmiths), “The Victorian train wreck as photo opportunity”
2. Di Drummond (Leeds Trinity), “Railways & the making of ‘modern mobilities’ of migration in the British imperial imagination, 1853-1914”
3. Sandra Martina Schwab (Mainz), “Of mad bus drivers & strange underground railroads: Public transport in *Punch*”

### **G.3 Modern women (Woolf SR6)**

Chair:

1. Lucy Ella (Surrey), "The Rise of the New Woman in the 19<sup>th</sup> century: The life & work of Evelyn de Morgan"
2. Stephanie Green (Griffith), "Victorian amateurs abroad: Charlotte Stopes's honeymoon journal"
3. Meg Tasker (Federation), "Amber Reeves: A New Woman from the New World"

*12.30pm Lunch*

*1.15pm Bus departs for Rochester walking tour*

*The optional walking tour of Dickens's Rochester will be led by guides from the City of Rochester Society and normally takes us past the Guildhall, the Cathedral, the Vines, Restoration House, Eastgate House (and Dickens's Swiss chalet tucked away behind it) and the Six Poor Travellers House. The bus will return us to the University by 6pm, but there will also be an option (for those who wish to travel onwards from Rochester) to be dropped at Rochester railway station (there will be capacity for strong luggage on the bus).*

### **Sunday, June 28**

*Optional visit to Kent Museum of Moving Image, Deal  
(delegates to make own transport arrangements; information to follow)*