

The Undergraduate and Graduate Victorian Association (UGSVA) presents our 2025 conference

# VICTORIAN FAÇADES, FACETS, AND FANTASIES

## A free Zoom Conference

Thursday, May 1, 2025: 10:00 AM – 2:30: PM CDT

Sponsored by Dr. Lara Karpenko and English 316, Carroll University

[Click here to join or scan the code below:](#)



Dante Gabriel Rossetti, *Lady Lilith*, (1873)

## **Victorian Façades, Facets, and Fantasies: an electronic undergraduate and graduate conference.**

“The picture is seemingly objectless. It tells no tale, but there is a weird power about it that haunts one . . .”

—*Fitz-James O'Brien (1858)*

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

This conference was organized by the students in English 316 at Carroll University: Shohrat Asgarov, Victoria Asuar Aznarez, Camryn Drake, Samantha Erstad, Shannon Gates, Tyler James, Rachel Pluta, Avery Sorochan, Brynn Valuch and Lead Undergraduate Conference Organizer, Alivia Hanson. We want to take a moment to recognize Alivia’s tremendous contribution. Without her work, dedication, and vision, this conference would not be occurring. We would also like to recognize Drs. Brooke Cameron and Lauri Dietz for their continuing partnership and support of this conference. Next year, look for this conference to be sponsored by Queen’s University!

**SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE:** [click here to join](#) or scan the code found on the first page of this program.

Thursday, May 1, 2025: 10:00 AM – 2:30: PM CDT.

- 10:00 AM - 10:15 AM: Introductions
- 10:15 AM- 11:15 AM: Concurrent session 1  
*Note: each panel will be in a self-selected break-out room that you can access from the main Zoom link. Breakout room names can be found in the Concurrent Session Information.*
- 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM: Keynote
- 12:15 PM-12:30 PM: Break
- 12:30- 1:30 PM: Concurrent session 2  
*Note: each panel will be in a self-selected break-out room that you can access from the main Zoom link. Breakout room names can be found in the Concurrent Session Information.*
- 1:30-2:30 PM: Interactive session and closing discussion.

### **FEATURED SPEAKERS:**

#### **Keynote: 11:15 AM- 12:15 PM, Main Room**

Jessica Tebo, University of Colorado

- “Running Wild! Women’s Sports and Exercise in Victorian Literature”

Jessica Tebo is a Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Colorado. She is primarily interested in representations of female mobility in the long nineteenth-century novel. Her scholarship on Willa Cather and opera-diva, Olive Fremstad, is forthcoming in *Cather Studies*. She is also the winner of the Walter Byers Scholarship, the NCAA's most prestigious academic award.

#### **Interactive session panel: 1:30-2:45 PM, Main Room**

Negin Heydari, Arizona State University

Lauri Dietz, Northwestern University

Alivia Hanson, Carroll University

- “The Parlors of Progress: A Victorian Salon Experience”

Negin Heydari is a PhD student in English Literature at Arizona State University. Her research interests include Victorian literature, the Gothic, psychoanalytic theory, and gender and sexuality studies. Her doctoral project explores the representation of asexuality in Victorian Gothic literature, examining its connections to the Gothic genre and its broader implications within Victorian cultural and literary contexts.

Lauri Dietz is the Director of Pedagogy and Assessment at Northwestern University's Searle Center for Advancing Learning & Teaching. In her role, she champions faculty to create inclusive learning environments by incorporating high impact practices to maximize engagement and learning for all students--practices such as undergraduates creating an undergraduate conference! She received a PhD in Renaissance Literature from Notre

Dame and has spent much of her career directing peer writing and mentoring programs. Her published work has appeared in venues such as *The Journal of Effective Teaching* and *To Improve the Academy*.

Alivia Hanson is a third-year undergraduate with a Major in English and Writing, in addition to a Minor in Spanish. Her literary interests includes Victorian literature, Romantic poetry, and gender and social class studies. After graduating, she intends to enter the publishing industry as an editor or literary agent.

*All information regarding concurrent sessions can be found on the following pages.*

**CONCURRENT SESSION INFORMATION:** [Please click here to find all abstracts and learn more about the presenter's fascinating work!](#)

## Session 1: 10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

### Panel 1A: Colonialism, Imperialism, and Industrialization

Breakout room name: "Come buy, come buy"

Moderator: Vivienne Tailor, Claremont Graduate University

1. Anuska Indra, Jadavpur University  
"The Cost of Progress: Reimagining Victorian Childhood Through the Lens of Labor and Industry"
2. Athina Bekou, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Colonial  
"Philhellenic and Gender: Politics in Eliza Lynn Linton's *Amymone: A Romance of the Days of Pericles* (1848) and Elizabeth Mayhew Edmond's *Amygdala: A Tale of the Greek Revolution* (1894)"
3. Marta Dorschner, Queen's University  
"Far Less Than Any Monkey": Social Degeneration and Primitivism in H.G. Wells's *The Time Machine*."
4. Shohrat Asgarov, Carroll University  
"The White Man's Burden' and Shaping of Imperial Identity in Kipling's Work."

### Session 1B: Gothicism & the Supernatural

Breakout room name: Lilith's Web

Moderator: Madeline Gangnes, University of Scranton

1. Samantha Erstad, Carroll University  
"Let me kiss thy mouth': Aestheticism and Desire in *Salome*"
2. Büşra Tepebaşı, Gaziosmanpaşa University  
"The Opal as a Symbol of Uncertainty: Exploring Love, Perception, and the Limits of Knowledge in George Eliot's *The Lifted Veil*"
3. Eva Yang, Queen's University  
"Comparing the Gothic in *Frankenstein* and *The Devil May Cry*"
4. Gabriella S. Meditz, University of Scranton  
"William Blake's Poetic Illustration of Celestial Ideas"

### Session 1C: Madness and Victorian Outcasts

Breakout room name: Glass Closet

Moderator: Brooke Cameron, Queen's University

1. Heidi Nephin, Queen's University  
"Steampunk Wonderland: The Industrial Revolution's Destructive Presence in *Alice: Madness Returns*."
2. Rachel Pluta, Carroll University  
"Challenging the Binary: Self-Realization and Power in *Jane Eyre*"
3. Snigdha Jana, Jadavpur University,  
"The Asylum Trap: Women, Madness, and Medical Gaslighting in Victorian England"
4. Senjuti Mazumder, Jadavpur University,  
"Beyond the Victorian Madwoman: Knowledge and Resistance in Sarah Grand's *The Heavenly Twins*"

### **Session 1D: Victorian Livelihoods**

Breakout room name: The Tea Parlor

Moderator: Jessica Tebo, University of Colorado

1. Burcu Cinar, Middle East Technical University  
“Emotional Story Arcs and Sentimental Structures in Novels of Charles Dickens”
2. Sabrina Bernard, Queen’s University  
“The Feminine Depiction of Wilbur in E.B. White's *Charlotte's Web*”
3. Tyler James, Carroll University  
“‘Oh, Icarus! For All You Have Fallen, Still You Flew! And For a Moment, The Sun Knew of You Too.’: The Fallen Men in the Works of Thomas Hardy”
4. Debadrita Panja, Jadavpur University  
“Naden's Nexus: Exploring the Intersections of Science, Gender, and Society in Victorian England”

### **Session 1E: Detective Fever**

Breakout room name: 221B Baker Street

Moderator: Lauri Dietz, Northwestern University

1. Monika Markéta Šmídová, Masaryk University  
“Queering the ghosthunter and the detective in Neo-Victorian queer paranormal romance”
2. Alivia Hanson, Carroll University  
“Nota bene: Women like these little compliments!: Misogyny and Misandry in *The Moonstone*”
3. Aryani Roy, Jadavpur University  
“‘The Game is Afoot!’: Critically Examining Conan Doyle's *A Study in Scarlet* in Light of Social Darwinism”
4. Hope Siler, Ohio University  
“Deceptive Materiality: A Fictional Narrative of Production in *Somebody’s Luggage*”

### **Session 1F: Religion and Science**

Breakout room name: Nocturnal Beauties

Moderator: Therese Novotny, Carroll University

1. Ranjabati Chattopadhyay, Jadavpur University  
“Charles Kingsley's Aquatic Fantasy: Exploring the Significance of Water in *The Water-Babies*”
2. Sarah Venables, Texas State University  
“In a Gown of Shadow”: Expressing Gender, Class, and Religious Identity Through Color, Clothing, and Flowers in *Villette*”
3. Abel Fenwick, University of Arkansas  
“One might suppose you had never opened a Bible in your life”: Rereading Religion in *Wuthering Heights*”
4. Avery Sorochan, Carroll University  
“No One Likes a Mad Women: Desire and Madness in Victorian Literature”

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***All information regarding Session 2: 12:30 – 1:30 PM can be found on the following pages.***

## Session 2: 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

### Session 2A: Consumption and Consumerism

Breakout room name: “Come buy, come buy”

Moderator: Jessica Tebo, University of Colorado

1. Jennifer Russon, Florida Atlantic University  
“The Most Wonderful Time of the Year: How Charles Dickens Reshaped Public Discourse on Charity by Way of Ignorance, Want, and the Writing of *A Christmas Carol*”
2. Preston Goebel, Case Western Reserve University, “Fantasy Feminism for the Orient: Victorian Writers and Oriental Women”
3. Victoria Asuar Aznarez, Carroll University  
“Linguistic Manipulation in *Nineteen Eighty-Four*: Newspeak, Basic English, and Political Language in Totalitarian Regimes”
4. Souvik Karmakar, Jadavpur University  
“Pemmican, and Other Survival Superfoods: A Culinary Counter-Narrative to Colonial Erasure”

### Session 2B: Sublime Aestheticism

Breakout room name: Lilith’s Web

Moderator: Brooke Cameron, Queen’s University

1. Natalie Chiu, Queen’s University  
“Breaking Conformity through Lolita Fashion and Hyper Femininity in the 21st Century ‘New Woman’”
2. Brianna Duffin, Rosemont College  
“Appearances Concealing Warped Identities in Gothic Literature”
3. Rebecca Stewart, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay  
“Supernatural Sexuality: Female and Queer Sexuality in The Victorian Vampire Gothic”
4. Audrey Carranza, University of Incarnate Word  
“Origins of the Western Vampire: A Close Reading of Sheridan Le Fanu's "Carmilla" as the Foundation of the New Vampire”

### Session 2C: Gender & Sexuality

Breakout room name: Glass Closet

Moderator: Lauri Dietz, Northwestern University

1. Shannon Gates, Carroll University  
“Hyding in the Closet?: The Hidden Queer Agenda in Undertones *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*”
2. Protiti Maji, Jadavpur University  
“Gender, Power, Desire: Unmasking Henrik Ibsen’s *Hedda Gabler*”
3. Carly Achinapura, Florida State University  
“The Crime Worse Than Death: Sex and Fallenness in Charles Dickens's *The Chimes* (1844)”
4. Roopsa Upadhyaya, Jadavpur University  
“The 'Slave Master': Exploring the ambivalent relationships between power, race and gender in Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*”

## **Session 2D: Gender Roles and Ideals**

Breakout room name: The Tea Parlor

Moderator: Abel Fenwick, University of Arkansas

1. Megan Lolley, University of Idaho  
“Starvation and Feasting as Modalities for Authentically Expressing Emily Dickinson's Bi-Gendered Experiences Concerning Victorian Gender Expectations”
2. Brynn Valuch, Carroll University  
“The Fools Who Humor Them: How Wilkie Collin's *The Moonstone* Subverts Gender Norms”
3. Aaranyah Vignarajah, Queen’s University  
“Exploring the threat of the Victorian New Woman in Le Fanu's *Carmilla*”
4. Riddhi Guha, Jadavpur University  
“Childish fantasies: *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and the Victorian childhood”

## **Session 2E: Social Class and Discipline**

Breakout room name: 221B Baker Street

Moderator: Tim Galow, Carroll University

1. Negin Heydari, Arizona State University  
“Portraits of Discipline: Surveillance, Desire, and Artistic Sublimation in Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* (1847)”
2. Camryn Drake, Carroll University  
“Thomas Hardy's Women: The Scorn and the Fallen in the Writings of *Life's Little Ironies*”
3. Vivienne Tailor, Claremont Graduate University  
“The Serpent in the Heterotopia: How *Lady Macbeth* (2016) Inverts, yet Perpetuates the Elitist Gaze”
4. Ritam Dutta, Jadavpur University  
“Animals on Trial and the Animalization of the Marginalized in Victorian Literature”