

# **Victorian Belief/ Victorian Doubt**

**Midwest Victorian Studies  
Association Annual Conference**

## **PROGRAM**



**Hyatt Regency  
Cleveland, Ohio  
April 12-14, 2013**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 12<sup>th</sup>**

REGISTRATION, 10-4 p.m. Cleveland Hyatt Regency.

WELCOME, 11 a.m.-11:15 a.m., MVSA President Florence Boos (University of Iowa)

**SESSION ONE, 11:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m.**

***Religion and Secularism***

- 1) Micael Clarke (Loyola University)  
“The Idea of a Secular Society in Victorian Literature”
- 2) Brian Eschrich (Indiana University)  
“A Scrupulous Scepticism”: Models of Epistemic Virtue in Late-Victorian Philosophy
- 3) Mark Knight (University of Toronto)  
“Re-telling the Story of Victorian Doubt: Samuel Butler’s *The Way of All Flesh*”

**SESSION TWO, 1 p.m.-2:30 p.m.**

***George Eliot***

- 1) Simon Calder (University of Minnesota)  
“Thoughts in Aid and Interrogation in Faith: Feurbach, Hennell, and Eliot”
- 2) Robert Koeppe (Illinois College)  
“Mode of Belief or Evidence of Doubt? George Eliot and the ‘Religion of Favourable Chance’”
- 3) Dwight Lindley (Hillsdale College)  
“George Eliot, John Henry Newman, and the Unknown”

**SESSION THREE, 2:45 p.m.- 4:15 p.m.**

***Women, Poetry, and Religion***

- 1) Alisa Clapp-Itnyre (Indiana University East)  
“‘Weary I am—O give me strength’: Doubt--and Faith--in the Brontë Sisters’ Hymn Experiences”
- 2) Stephanie L. Johnson (The College of St. Scholastica)  
“Ghostly Relics: Christina Rossetti and Victorian Death Culture”
- 3) Michelle Taylor (University of Iowa)  
“God Spelled Backwards: Dog as Divinity in Michael Field’s *Whym Chow: Flame of Love*”
- 4) Anna Stenson Newnum (University of Iowa)  
“Dora Greenwell’s Presentist Theology and Advocacy for the Mentally Disabled”

**JANE STEDMAN LECTURE, 4:30-5:15 p.m.**

Timothy Larsen, McManis Professor of Christian Thought, Wheaton College,  
author of *Crises of Faith: Honest Faith in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century England* (2006)  
and *A People of One Book: The Bible and the Victorians* (2012)

**“The Bible and Belief in Victorian Britain”**

Reception: 5:30-6:15 p.m.

*Dinner on your own, with conference-goers, 6:30 p.m....* (see suggestions in Conference packet)

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13<sup>th</sup>**

Hyatt Regency

SESSION FOUR, 8:30 a.m.-10 a.m.

***Beyond Christianity***

1) Erin Louttit (University of St. Andrews)

“Bards of the Buddha”

2) Lindsay Dearing (The University of Central Oklahoma)

“It is folly to suppose it:’ Grace Aguilar’s Talmudic Apologia”

3) Sharon Cogdill (St. Cloud State University)

“For Isis and England: The Golden Dawn as a Social Network”

SESSION FIVE “A”, 10:15 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

***Fictional Faiths at Midcentury***

1) Christine Colon (Wheaton College)

“Wrestling with their Father’s Faith: Charlotte, Emily, and Anne Respond to Patrick Brontë’s Christianity”

2) Jessica Hughes (University of Notre Dame)

“The Problem of Jesus: The Incarnation, Character and Dicken’s *The Life of Our Lord*”

3) Karen C. Gindele (Indiana University South Bend)

“Superstition as Imaginative Critique in *Armada*”

SESSION FIVE “B”, 10:15 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

***Alternate Beliefs***

1) Thomas Prasch (Washburn University)

“All the strange facts’: Alfred Russell Wallace’s Spiritualism and Evolutionary Thought”

2) Elizabeth Sanders (University of Iowa)

“A Profound Duplicity:’ Dr. Jekyll, Mr. Hyde, and Religion Without Belief”

3) Kja Isaacson (University of Ottawa)

“Scientific Systems of Belief in H. G. Wells’s *The Time Machine*”

*12 noon -1:30 p.m.: LUNCH at the Hyatt & Business Meeting*

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. SECOND PLENARY

Julie Melnyk, of the University of Missouri-Columbia,  
and author of *Women’s Theology in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Britian* (1998)  
and *Victorian Religion: Faith and Life in Britain* (2008)

**“Faith and the Feminine”**

SESSION SIX "A", 2:45 p.m – 4:15 p. m.

***Digital Victoriana***

- 1) Michael Kramp (Lehigh University)  
"The Victorian Imagination of Africa: the iPad and Multimedia Archival Contributions"
- 2) Dana Wheelles (University of Virginia)  
"Using NINES for Research"
- 3) Katherine Montgomery (University of Iowa)  
"Digital Pedagogy: Data Visualization and Uncertainty in Oscar Wilde"

SESSION SIX "B", 2:45 p.m.- 4:15 p.m.

***Missionaries and Pilgrims***

- 1) Winter Jade Werner (Northwestern University)  
"*Jane Eyre* and the Battle Over the Christian Moral Imagination"
- 2) Emily Madsen (University of Wisconsin, Madison)  
"Missivary Work: Unitarian Missionaries and India"
- 3) Katherine Haldane Grenier (The Citadel)  
"Public Acts of Faith and Devotion': Pilgrimages in Late 19<sup>th</sup> century England and Scotland"

SESSION SEVEN, 4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

***Biblical Texts and Holy Books***

- 1) Eric Reisenauer (University of South Carolina)  
"Gog, in the Land of Magog: Russophobia, Biblical Prophecy and British Belief During the Crimean War"
- 2) Lynn M. Alexander (University of Tennessee at Martin)  
"Holy Dying: The Influence of Jeremy Taylor on the Victorian Deathbed Scene"
- 3) Miriam Elizabeth Burstein (SUNY Brockport)  
"Two sayings of man's past, into which man's present has breathed new meanings': *Robert Elsmere* and the Challenge of Proof-texting"
- 4) Michelle Meinhart (University of Cincinnati)  
"Feminine Accomplishment, Religious Virtue, and Musical Philanthropy: Lady Katrine Cowper's 'Hertfordingbury Choir' Book"

*Dinner: 6 p.m....on your own with conference-goers (see Suggestions in Conference Folder)*

**SUNDAY, APRIL 14<sup>th</sup>**

Hyatt Regency

SESSION EIGHT, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

***Religion and the Imagination***

1) Barbara Barrow (Washington University in St. Louis)

“The ‘Immeasurable All’: Matthew Arnold, Deep Time, and the Reinvention of the Sacred”

2) Laura Wallace (The Graduate Center of the City University of New York)

“Beethoven's Titan Mace’: the Romantic Philosophy of Music as a Language of Faith in Robert Browning's Poetry”

3) Christine Choi (University of Toronto)

“But the principle was the same’: Questions of Faith Inheritances in the Romances of George MacDonald”

4) Andrew Willson (Yale University)

“Literary Exercise: Reading, Doubt, and Health in *Father and Son*”

SESSION NINE, 10:45 a.m. -12:15 p.m.

***Controversies and Dissent***

1) Richard Norton (ChildAid Organization)

“Anglican Monastic Revival and the Protestant Response – first trumpet blasts in the current battle”

2) Joseph Stubenrauch (Baylor University)

“A Woman and Her Watchers: Clergymen, Surgeons, and the Uncertainties of a Female Charlatan’s Body”

3) Lawrence Poston (University of Illinois at Chicago)

“History or Hagiography: Newman’s Other Froude”

*Farewell Remarks and Burgan Award (best graduate-student paper)*

*Lunch on your own with conference-goers*