



MIDWEST VICTORIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

April 26-28, 2019

Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas

VICTORIAN POWER

Midwest Victorian Studies Association 2019 Conference

British world power peaked in the Victorian era, when industrial might, rule of the waves, and cultural “soft power” paved the way for Britain’s “imperial century” or, as its most recent chronicler has called it, Britain’s “victorious century.” Soldiers, traders, missionaries, and others added more red to the imperial map at the same time as a range of new institutions, such as the Metropolitan Police, prison system, museums, and primary education promised greater discipline and an enlightened citizenry at home. And yet nowhere was dominion complete or unchallenged, from frontiers of colonial conflict to internal contestations over religious, political, and civil rights, as well as access to arts, education, and culture. MVSA’s 2019 conference invites papers on the subject of **Victorian Power**. Submissions are welcome from scholars working in art history,



musicology, history, science, philosophy, theater, literature, and other fields of scholarly endeavor. Topics might include:

Britain as the new Rome? Niels Moller Lund's
The Heart of Empire (1904)

- The aesthetic power of art, literature, and music, as well as the control that such institutions as the Royal Academy or the press wielded over these fields
- The role of arts and culture in relation to “soft power”
- The intersections of gender, race, and class in representing or theorizing a variety of forms of power
- The circulation of power across spaces, whether transatlantic, imperial, or urban vs. rural
- The science and technology of power
- Economic power of producers and consumers including in the literary and artistic marketplaces where cultural products circulated
- Religion and spiritual power
- Political parties and pressure or interest groups, such as abolition, temperance, constitutional reform
- Coercive power of the state and its institutions regarding (among other things) crime, public order, censorship, conquest, as well as resistance

More details and the Call for Papers will be available at the MVSA website: www.midwestvictorian.org