All genres of Victorian literature addressed the major questions of social and political reform that characterized the period, as did many art and craft practices, genres of history writing or scholarship, and forms of popular culture. This conference will give us an opportunity to think about the “form” of reform. Current debates about form and formalism in Victorian Studies open the door to this dimension of the word “reform,” and they urge us to reconsider their relation.

This conference has been organized by Carolyn Williams (Rutgers University), Rae Greiner (Indiana University, Bloomington), Tricia Lootens (University of Georgia), and Elsie Michie (Louisiana State University).

Generous co-sponsorships provided by the Dickens Project, The School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers University, The Friends of the Dickens Project, George Eliot - George Henry Lewes Studies, the Institute for Humanities Research, Porter College, and the Departments of Literature and History at UC Santa Cruz.

Cover image: Domed centerpiece of the Barry Rooms, National Gallery, London. Photo by Diego Delso.
THURSDAY, JULY 27

3:00-5:00 PM  
**Check In** | *Colleges Nine and Ten Community Room*

6:00-7:30 PM  
**Welcome Dinner and Reception** | *Bhojwani Dining Room*

7:30-9:00 PM  
**Keynote Lecture:** Caroline Arscott (Courtauld Institute of Art) | *Bhojwani Dining Room*
“Fluctuating Forms: Albert Moore, Walter Pater, Ernst Haeckel”

FRIDAY, JULY 28

7:45-8:30 AM  
**Breakfast** | *College Nine and Ten Dining Commons*

8:30-10:15 AM  
**Panel I: Form and Reform in Dickens and Eliot** | *Bhojwani Dining Room*
Moderator: Susan Zieger  
Synthesizer: Helena Michie

John O. Jordan (UC Santa Cruz)  
“Is *David Copperfield* a Chartist Novel?”

Deanna K. Kreisel (University of British Columbia)  
“Forms of the Utopian in George Eliot’s Fiction”

John Kucich (Rutgers University)  
“Organic Reform in *Felix Holt*: From Paternalism to the Welfare State”

Jonathan Grossman (UC Los Angeles)  
“Guillotined”

10:15-10:45 AM  
**Coffee Break** | *Sentinel Room*

10:45-12:30 PM (concurrent panel)  
**Panel II: Blanks, Gaps, Fissures** | *Bhojwani Dining Room*
Moderator: Renee Fox (UC Santa Cruz)  
Synthesizer: Jos Lavery (UC Berkeley)

Zoe Beenstock (University of Haifa)  
“Reforming Sympathy: Adam Smith and Wordsworth in John Stuart Mill’s Lyric Crisis”

Alicia Christoff (Amherst College)  
“George Eliot and Unformulated Experience”

Ella Mershon (Center for the Humanities, University of Wisconsin, Madison)  
“Fissure as Form”
10:45-12:30 PM (concurrent panel)

**Panel III: Forms of Poetry** | *Alumni Room*

Moderator: Tricia Lootens  
Synthesizer: Jennifer McDonell

Jesse Cordes Selbin (UC Berkeley)  
“A Definite Outline for Our Ignorance’: Literary Method in the Balance”

Jason R. Rudy (University of Maryland)  
“Reforming Hemans in the Colonies”

Simon Rennie (University of Exeter, Centre for Victorian Studies)  
“Tuned by the Hand of Circumstance’: Shifting Form in the Chartist Poetry of Ernest Jones”

Cornelia Pearsall (Smith College)  
“Tennyson, Form! War’s Lineations”

Michael Cohen (UC Los Angeles)  
“Anti-Slavery and Its Conventions”

12:45-1:30 PM  
**Lunch** | *College Nine and Ten Dining Commons*

1:45-3:30 PM (concurrent panel)

**Panel IV: Forms of History** | *Bhojwani Dining Room*

Moderator: Monique Morgan  
Synthesizer: James Eli Adams

Katherine J. Anderson (UC Davis)  
“The Banality of Empire: Forms of Torture, 1855”

Julie F. Codell (Arizona State University)  
“Folding the Canon: The Pre-Raphaelite List of Immortals and the Anti-Canon”

Helen Kingstone (Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies)  
“First to Climb to the Roof’: Panorama as a Form of Contemporary History”

Sara Maurer (University of Notre Dame)  
“I’ve Got a Blank Space, Baby: Filling Out Forms and Circulating Tracts in Victorian Charity”

1:45-3:30 PM (concurrent panel)

**Panel V: Forms of Fiction** | *Alumni Room*

Moderator: Murray Baumgarten (UC Santa Cruz)  
Synthesizer: Elsie Michie

Ruth M. McAdams (Boğaziçi University, Istanbul)  
“Victorian Perodization and the *Roman-à-Clef* Character”
Daniel Cook (Saginaw Valley State University)  
“Labor Reform, Asymmetrical Experience, and Ellen Wood’s *Johnny Ludlow* Series”

Rachel Teukolsky (Vanderbilt University)  
*Pickwick’s Zany Politics: Caricature and Violence after Reform*

Jesse Rosenthal (Johns Hopkins University)  
“The Bondswoman’s Due’: Broken Contracts in *The Egoist*”

3:30-4:00 PM  
**Break** | *Sentinel Room*

4:00-5:45 PM  
**Panel VI: Moving Outward** | *Bhojwani Dining Room*

Moderator: Catherine Robson  
Synthesizer: Kathleen Frederickson (UC Davis)

Sukanya Banerjee (University of Wisconsin, Madison)  
“Of Sensational Marriages and a Transimperial Genre”

Devin Griffiths (University of Southern California)  
“Deforming the Novel”

Jonathan Farina (Seton Hall University)  
“Various Levels of Painstaking: The Reformatory Work of Style in Victorian Criticism”

Ryan Fong (Kalamazoo College)  
“The Afterlife of Forms: *Middlemarch* and Zadie Smith’s *NW*”

6:00-7:30 PM  
**Dinner** | *College Nine and Ten Dining Commons*

8:00-9:30 PM  
**Keynote:** Ian Duncan (UC Berkeley) | *Bhojwani Dining Room*  
“The Natural History of Form: From Aesthetic Education to Sexual Selection”

9:30-10:30 PM  
**Reception** | *Levin Lanai and Ringold Rotunda*

**SATURDAY, JULY 29**

7:45-8:30 AM  
**Breakfast** | *College Nine and Ten Dining Commons*

8:30-10:00 AM  
**Panel VII: Synthesis and Discussion of Conference** | *Bhojwani Dining Room*

10:00-10:30 AM  
**Coffee and Refreshments** | *Sentinel Room*
James Eli Adams (Columbia University)
James Eli Adams has a background in literature and mathematics alike. He was selected as a Rhodes Scholar during his time at Oxford, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts, and is best known for his work on gender and sexuality in Victorian literature.

Katherine J. Anderson (UC Davis)
Katherine J. Anderson recently received her Ph.D. in British literature and Victorian studies from Indiana University, and currently lectures at UC Davis, where she is also working on a book manuscript on the practice of torture in relation to Victorian history and culture.

Caroline Arscott (Courtauld Institute of Art)
Caroline Arscott specializes in art of the Victorian period, and has lectured at The Courtauld Institute since 1988. She edited the Oxford Art Journal for ten years, and was editor of the RIHA Journal for five. A specialist in the work of Burne-Jones and Morris, she published William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones: Interlacings in 2008.

Sukanya Banerjee (University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee)
Sukanya Banerjee is a professor at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Along with Victorian literature and culture, she focuses her research on South Asia, post-colonial, and gender studies. Her essay, "Who, or What, is Victorian?: Ecology, Indigo, and the Transimperial" was published in 2016.

Murray Baumgarten (UC Santa Cruz)
Murray Baumgarten is a Research Professor of Literature and Distinguished Emeritus Professor of English & Comparative Literature, Emeritus Co-Director of Jewish Studies and the Founding Director of The Dickens Project. Ten years ago, with the help of the Helen Diller Family Foundation, he established the Jewish Studies program at UC Santa Cruz.

Zoe Beenstock (University of Haifa)
Zoe Beenstock currently works as a lecturer at the University of Haifa in Israel. She is the author of The Politics of Romanticism: The Social Contract and Literature (2016). Her essays have appeared in European Romantic Review, MLQ, and Philosophy and Literature.

Alicia Christoff (Amherst College)
Alicia Christoff received her Ph.D. at Princeton University in 2011 and works as an assistant professor of English at Amherst College. Though she specializes in Victorian literature and literary and critical theory, she is also interested in psychoanalysis. Her current book makes use of this by comparing key psychoanalytic essays to Victorian novels.

Julie F. Codell (Arizona State University)
Julie F. Codell is Professor of Art History at Arizona State University. Her areas of specialization are Victorian culture, the Victorian press, Indian culture under the British Raj, life writings in Britain and India, Indian travel narratives, representations of race and gender, material culture, the art market, and world film.

Michael Cohen (UC Los Angeles)
Michael Cohen teaches and studies the literature of the transatlantic nineteenth-century at UC Los Angeles, focusing on poetry between the 1790s and 1890s. His most recent project aims to re-imagine American literature from the perspective of readers, as opposed to authors.

Daniel Cook (Saginaw Valley State University)
Daniel Cook is an assistant editor for the journal Victorian Literature and Culture, as well as a professor of English at Saginaw Valley State University. He specializes in nineteenth-century British literature, mainly Victorian novels.

Jesse Cordes Selbin (UC Berkeley)
Jesse Cordes Selbin is a Ph.D. candidate at UC Berkeley, where she studies nineteenth-century literature and culture. Presently, she is working on a dissertation entitled "The Social Life of Reading: Literary Attention and Mass Culture in Nineteenth-Century Britain."

Ian Duncan (UC Berkeley)
Though he chiefly teaches at UC Berkeley, where he received the Distinguished Teaching Award in 2017, Ian Duncan has also held various visiting positions, and will be spending his fall as a visiting fellow at the Princeton University Council for the Humanities. He specializes in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British literature.

Jonathan Farina (Seton Hall University)
Jonathan Farina is both a professor of nineteenth-century British literature and Director of the Center for Literature and the Public Sphere at Seton Hall University. His first book analyzes the use of ordinary colloquial phrases found throughout Victorian literature in relation to more abstract concepts, such as physical laws, the economy, and legal practice.

Ryan Fong (Kalamazoo College)
Ryan Fong is a professor at Kalamazoo College, Ryan Fong is mainly focused on Victorian literature, but he also teaches classes in the Women, Gender, and Sexuality program. Although he admits that he thought he hated Victorian literature for his first 25 years, he now concedes that Bleak House changed his life.

Renee Fox (UC Santa Cruz)
Assistant Professor at UC Santa Cruz, Renee Fox is currently completing a manuscript on the reanimated body in Victorian British and Irish literature. One of her most recent works appears in Nineteenth-Century Contexts, an Interdisciplinary Journal.

Kathleen Frederickson (UC Davis)
Kathleen Frederickson researches the intersections between economics, politics, and the social and physical sciences, while working as a professor at UC Davis. Her first book was released in 2014 and she is currently at work on her second book, on economics and the psychologization of density.

Devin Griffiths (University of Southern California)
Holding degrees in both English and Molecular Biology, professor Devin Griffiths aims to explore the intersection between scientific literature, intellectual history, and the digital humanities, with an emphasis on nineteenth-century British literature and science. His first book, which also links these disciplines, was published in 2016.

Jonathan Grossman (UC Los Angeles)
Jonathan Grossman is a professor at UC Los Angeles, where he received the UCLA Senate Distinguished Teaching Award in 2014. While his interests are founded in nineteenth-century British literature, his most recent book project deals with the relation of community to systems and networks.

John O. Jordan (UC Santa Cruz)
John O. Jordan is Research Professor of Literature at UC Santa Cruz and Director of the Dickens Project. He is the author of Supposing Bleak House and editor, along with Robert L. Patten and Catherine Waters, of The Oxford Handbook of Charles Dickens (forthcoming 2018). He is working on a study of David Copperfield.

Helen Kingstone (Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies)
Helen Kingstone received her Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Leeds, in England, where she is currently a Postdoctoral Research Associate, as well as the Co-Deputy Director of the Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies. Her...
research examines the relationship between memory and history, the subject of her first book, to be published in 2017.

Deanna K. Kreisel (University of British Columbia)
Currently an associate professor of English at the University of British Columbia, Deanna K. Kreisel specializes in Victorian literature and culture. She is the co-founder of the international working group, Vcologies, and her most recent publication, “The Madwoman on the Third World: Jane Eyre in Space” appears in PMLA (2016).

John Kucich (Rutgers University)
Distinguished Professor of English at Rutgers University, John Kucich has written four books on Victorian literature and culture, and has edited or co-edited several others. His essay on Rudyard Kipling was awarded the 2005 Donald Gray Prize as the best essay of the year in Victorian studies.

Jos Lavery (UC Berkeley)
Assistant Professor Jos Lavery is currently at work on a book project regarding the implications of British realism, primarily concerning its expression in the work of George Eliot. In addition to nineteenth-century British literature, Lavery specializes in Pacific literature and gender and sexuality studies.

Tricia Lootens (University of Georgia)
Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor, Tricia Lootens currently teaches at the University of Georgia, concentrating on nineteenth-century poetry and feminist criticism. Lootens recently published The Political Poetess, a study of national sentimentality and the “poetess tradition” (2016).

Sara Maurer (University of Notre Dame)
An English professor at the University of Notre Dame, Sara Maurer focuses on nineteenth-century literature throughout the British Isles, as is demonstrated through her first book, The Dispossessed: Britain, Ireland, and Narratives of Ownership in the Nineteenth Century. She is also a fellow of the Keough–Naughton Institute for Irish Studies.

Ruth M. McAdams (Boğaziçi University)
In 2015, Ruth M. McAdams received her Ph.D. in English language and literature at the University of Michigan. She is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor at Boğaziçi University in Turkey, and is also working on her first book project, How the Victorians Invented the Regency: Historicizing the Recent Past.

Jennifer McDonell (University of New England, Armidale)
Jennifer McDonell is a Senior Lecturer in English at the University of New England, where she also holds the positions of Deputy Head of School and Chair of Teaching and Learning in the School of Arts. Her current research focuses chiefly on the question and condition of the animal “Other,” and is positioned at the intersection of Victorian studies and Human and Animal studies.

Ella Mershon (University of Wisconsin, Madison)
Ella Mershon received her Ph.D. in English from UC Berkeley in 2016. She is now a A.W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Wisconsin, Madison and is currently at work on a project entitled “Passing Forms: Decay and the Making of Victorian Culture.”

Elsie Michie (Louisiana State University)
Associate Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Louisiana State University, Elsie Michie is interested in Victorian vulgarity, social history and the Victorian Novel, and nineteenth-century female novelists, including George Eliot. Such research complements her role as the Executive Secretary for the North American Victorian Studies Association.

Helena Michie (Rice University)
Helena Michie is a Professor of English at Rice University, where she concurrently holds positions as the Director of Graduate Studies in English, and as the Chair of Faculty Advisory Board for the Program in Writing and Communication. She is also the author of five books in Victorian Studies and the study of gender and sexuality.

Monique Morgan (Indiana University, Bloomington)
With a background in both English and science, Professor Monique Morgan centers her research around Romantic and Victorian poetry and prose fiction; yet such exploration is tempered with research on science fiction, and literature and science. Her current project, Narrative and Epistemology in Victorian Science Fiction, exhibits this connection.

Cornelia Pearsall (Smith College)
As a professor of English Language and Literature at Smith College, Cornelia Pearsall teaches a variety of courses on Victorian and Modernist literature and culture. A specialist in Victorian poetry, she is currently working on both Victorian mourning and also on war poetry. She is a member of the Program for the Study of Women and Gender.

Simon Rennie (University of Exeter)
Simon Rennie is a lecturer at the University of Exeter, who is specifically interested in the working-class and political poetry of the mid-nineteenth century. His most recent book deals with English poet Ernest Jones.

Catherine Robson (New York University)
Catherine Robson is a professor at New York University, directing the program of NYU in London; her areas of research range from education and childhood studies to Victorian cultural studies and nineteenth-century British literature. Her work has appeared in a variety of scholarly journals, including Dickens Studies Annual, and Robson herself is a co-editor for Norton of The Victorian Age.

Jesse Rosenthal (Johns Hopkins University)
Author of Good Form: The Ethical Experience of the Victorian Novel, which was recently published in 2016, Jesse Rosenthal also teaches in the English department at Johns Hopkins University.

Jason R. Rudy (University of Maryland)
Jason R. Rudy, a professor at the University of Maryland, specializes in nineteenth-century British literature, especially poetry. He is president of the Northeast Victorian Studies Association, and his new book, Imagined Homelands: British Poetry in the Colonies, will be out from Johns Hopkins University any minute.

Rachel Teukolsky (Vanderbilt University)
Author of The Literate Eye: Victorian Art Writing and Modernist Aesthetics, Rachel Teukolsky focuses on aesthetics, art, writing, and media history in nineteenth-century Britain. She is an associate professor of English at Vanderbilt University.

Susan Zieger (UC Riverside)
Susan Zieger is a professor at UC Riverside, specializing in nineteenth-century British and related literatures and cultures, with an emphasis on the novel, ephemera, and other mass media forms. Her second book is forthcoming from Fordham University Press in 2018, and deals with the relation between the digital media saturation of the twenty-first century and nineteenth-century encounters with printed ephemera.
Since its founding as a newsletter in 1982, George Eliot-George Henry Lewes Studies (ISSN 2372-1901, E-ISSN 2372-191X) has recorded scholarly communication about the life and literature surrounding the Victorians George Eliot (Mary Anne Evans), the famous author and translator, and her life partner, the noted English philosopher and critic George Henry Lewes. For more than thirty years ago, George Eliot-George Henry Lewes Studies seeks to provide a forum for those interested and actively engaged in working with either George Eliot, George Henry Lewes, or the relationship between them and their circle. Currently, the journal publishes two issues per year.

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