

Sex in the Long Nineteenth Century

Conference Programme

15th January 2026 | University of Stirling

Conference Chair

Katie MacLean

Conference Committee

Sophie Thompson, Johanna Harrison Oram, Fraser Riddell, Fabia Buescher, Andrea Lloyd,
Megha Mazumdar, Ellie Hibbert, Mary Grant, Michelle Reynolds

With thanks to

British Association for Victorian Studies, Christopher Prior, Michael Shaw, Katie Halsey,
Emma McCabe

Abroad and At Home, Thomas Rowlandson (1807)



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9.00 Registration (CC 3.04)

9.30 Welcome (CC 3.04)

9.45 Panel 1A (CC 3.10): Sex Work and Sexual Assault

Scarlette-Electra LeBlanc (University of Hull)

Innocence and Ignorance: Sexual Assault and Fictions of Respectability in Elizabeth Barrett Browning's *Aurora Leigh*

Aurora Soriano (Brandeis University, Massachusetts)

Against Pathology and Criminalization: Sex Workers' Pleasure, Resistance, and Community Building in the Nineteenth Century

Dr Madeline Sporer (University of Regensburg, Germany)

Sexual Desire, Fallenness, and the Selling of the Body: A Case Study of Christina Rossetti's "Goblin Market" and "Jenny"

Panel 1B (CC 3.11): Negotiating gender performance for the heterosexual model

Mari Komnæs (Lund University, Sweden)

"The rightful heir to Glenowen": Gender Masquerade and the Order of Inheritance in Mary Robinson's *Walsingham; or, The Pupil of Nature*

Jorunn Joiner (Lund University, Sweden)

"A fond fantastic boy": Gender Performance and Medievalist Chivalry in Walter Scott's *Harold the Dauntless*

Mette Hildeman Sjölin (Halmstad University, Sweden)

"All I hope for in my wife": Gender Identity and Same-Sex Marriage in Anne Lister's Journals

11.00 Panel 2A (CC 3.10): Policing Gender

Siobhan-Michelle Smith (Teesside University)

Women's Moustaches and the Tell-Tale Titbit: How Minor Discourses Reveal Major Insights into Policing Gendered Identity

* Please note that the conference schedule is subject to changes.

Rebecca Williamson (University of Glasgow)

Constructing Femininity, Configuring Illegitimacy: Two Trials for Child Murder in Mid-Nineteenth-Century Scotland

Emily Bardgett (Durham University)

Smoking and Sexuality: Cigarettes as Cultural Markers of Misogyny in the 1890s

Panel 2B (CC 3.11): Sex and Colonialism

Freya Walker (University of Glasgow)

A H-airy spot: gossip, rumour and interracial sex in the West Indies

Kibria Nasir (University of Birmingham)

Gender, Sexuality, and Colonial Power in Indian Shakespeare Adaptations

Ellesse Patterson (University of Sheffield)

"The true daughter of an infamous mother": Reading *Bad Blood* and *Bad Brides* in Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* (1847) and Florence Marryat's *The Blood of the Vampire* (1897).

12.00 Lunch

13.00 Panel 3A (CC 3.10): Medical Humanities

Hawwah Yiwen Chen (陳意雯) (National Chengchi University, Taiwan)

The "Queer" Case of Male Hysteria in *The Woman in White* and *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*

Dr Rebecca Whiteley (University of Birmingham)

The Medical Nude: Erotic Looking and Medical Knowledge in Mid-Victorian Britain

Dr Louise Kane (University of Central Florida, Orlando)

"To dabble in questionable literature": *The Fruits of Philosophy* (1877), 'Chinese Translations', and the Rise of Sexology

Panel 3B (CC 3.11): Sex and the Novel

Rebecca Hamilton (University of Aberdeen)

Anne Brontë's *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* (1848)

Sylwia Stokłosa (Jagiellonian University)

"We have been slaves and servants long enough" - The Polish Woman Who Did. Reading Józef Ignacy Krasiński's *Szalona*

Zhongyi Yin

"A Double and Divided Flame": Female Genius and Self-division in May Sinclair's *The Creators*

14.00 Panel 4A (CC 3.10): Race and Nation

Dr Miguel Gaete (University of Melbourne)

Gangbang Theory: Johann Moritz Rugendas, Kidnappings, and the Fragile White Woman Fantasy

Shelbi Ferguson (University of Pittsburgh)

The English Vice: Flagellation, Pornography, and National Character in Victorian Culture

Enit Karafili Steiner (University of Lausanne)

Olaudah Equiano's Revealed and Concealed Sexual Body

Panel 4B (CC 3.11): Queer Studies

Imogen Cook (University of Kent)

'You're a queer one and I'll ask no more': Reading the said and unsaid in Anne Lister's venereal correspondence

Dr Sarah Wingrove (University of Surrey)

'Epistemology of the [Water] Closet: Fantasy and Fetish in Anne Lister's Journals'

Hao-Yu Hu (University of Edinburgh)

Decadence, Death, and the Queer Suspension of Time in Walter Pater's 'Emerald Uthwart'

15.30 Keynote (CC 3.04): Dr Michael Shaw, University of Stirling

Queering Scottish Periodicals in the Long Nineteenth Century

16.45 Closing comments and Issue 9 launch

17.00 End

18.00 Conference dinner, details TBC

Further information

Location

The main conference room is 3.04 in the Campus Central building. 3.04 is also where you will register and where lunch and the tea & coffee break will be held. Panels will run two at a time in parallel, one in room 3.10 and one in nearby room 3.11.

See a map of the University of Stirling campus [here](#).

Seminar rooms are fully accessible. See more information [here](#).

Catering and conference dinner

Lunch and refreshments are included in your registration fee. All are invited to dinner, details TBC, the price of which is included in your conference ticket. Please let us know if you have any dietary requirements.

How to get here

Train: The nearest train stations are Bridge of Allan and Stirling.

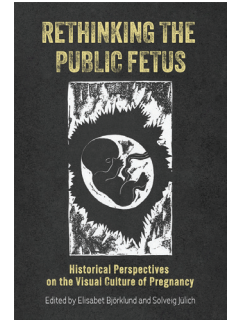
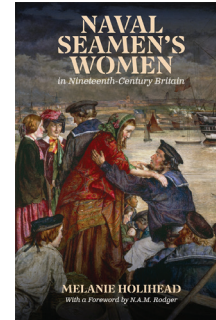
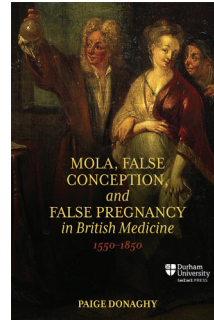
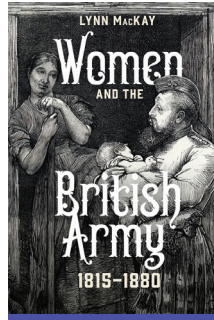
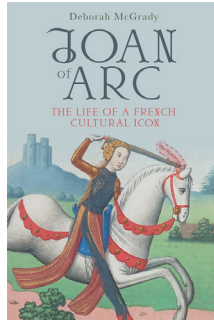
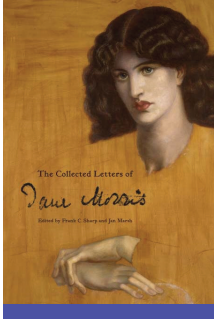
Bus: The University of Stirling has excellent bus links from Stirling city centre and some from Bridge of Allan. The Unilink shuttle bus runs between Stirling centre, the train station and the main University campus.

Car: Please choose public transport where possible. Car parking is very limited on the Stirling Campus and you must pay via the RingGo app.

Find more detailed information on travel to the university [here](#).

Accommodation

There are many more options for accommodation in Stirling city centre. Some budget options include [Travelodge](#) and [Premier Inn](#).



Title	ISBN	List price	Conf. price
Bluestockings and Landscape in Eighteenth-Century Britain	9781837650507	£85.00	£51.00
Collected Letters of Jane Morris, The [Paperback]	9781837651382	£36.99	£22.19
Female Circumcision and Clitoridectomy in the United States [Paperback]	9781648250958	£26.99	£16.19
Great Books by German Women in the Age of Emotion, 1770-1820	9781640140974	£95.00	£57.00
Grete Meisel-Hess	9781640141032	£95.00	£57.00
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