

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

Chair: Dr Rebecca Whiteley

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, Falleness, and the Selling of the Body: A Case Study of Christina Rossetti's "Goblin Market" and and Dante Gabriel Rossetti's "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*'

Dr Jorunn Joiner (Lund University, Sweden) "A fond fantastic boy": Gender Performance and Medievalist Chivalry in Walter Scott's *Harold the Dauntless*'

Dr 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

Chair: Dr Louise Kane

Siobhan-Michelle Smith (Teesside University) 'Women's Moustaches and the Tell-Tale Titbit: How Minor Discourses Reveal Major Insights into Policing Gendered Identity'

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

Chair: Dr Enit Karafili Steiner

Freya Walker (University of Glasgow) 'A Hairy 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

Chair: Katie MacLean

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

Chair: Sophie Thompson

Rebecca Hamilton (University of Aberdeen) '"An immodest Woman is a kind of Monster": Exploring Sexual Compatibility Through Art in *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*'

Sylwia Stokłosa (Jagiellonian University) "We have been slaves and servants long enough" - The Polish Woman Who Did. Reading Józef Ignacy Kraszewski's *Szalona*'
Zhongyi Yin (University of Edinburgh) '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

Chair: Kibria Nasir

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

Chair: Mette Hildeman Sjölin

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'

Hao-Yu Hu (University of Edinburgh) 'Decadence, Death, and the Queer Suspension of Time in Walter Pater's 'Emerald Uthwart''

15.00 Tea and Coffee

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. The conference dinner will be held at The Maharaja (39 King Street, Stirling, FK8 1DN) at 6pm. It is a short bus ride from campus to Stirling city centre. Please note that drinks are not included; attendees will need to settle their own drinks separately on the evening.

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 Canterbury city centre. Some budget options include [Travelodge](#) and [Premier Inn](#).