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Romance, Revolution & Reform

Labour in the Long Nineteenth Century

Conference Programme | 5-6 January 2024

Avenue Campus, University of Southampton



Adolph Menzel, 'Das Eisenwalzwerk' ('The Iron Rolling Mill'), 1872-75

Conference chair: Johanna Harrison-Oram

Conference committee: Olivia Krauze, Sophie Thompson, Will Kitchen, Michelle Reynolds,
Daniel Breeze

With thanks to: Christopher Prior, Olivia Krauze, Zoë Thomas, Nicholas Lawrence, and the
University of Southampton

5th January 2024

- 9:15-9:45** **Conference registration**
- 9:45-10:00** **Welcome**
- 10:00-11:00** **Panel 1: Women's Labour**
Ruth Quante (University of Heidelberg)
Net(working): Victorian Women in the Reading Room of the British Museum
Garth Wenman-James (University of Surrey)
'Reading Girl' to 'Writing Girl': Erotic transactions and philanthropic reactions in Mary Elizabeth Braddon's *Mary* (1915)
Florence Heath (University of Leicester)
Marriage, Motherhood, and Work – Middle-Class Women's Labour in the Life-Writing of The Potter Sisters
- 11:15-12:30** **Keynote: Dr. Zoë Thomas, University of Birmingham**
Marriage, collaboration, and literary labour in the English-speaking world, c. 1870-1914
- 12:30-13:30** **Lunch**
- 13:30-14:30** **Panel 2: Artistic and Literary Endeavour**
Deborah Lam (University of Bristol)
Labourled Textures: Ruskin, Whistler, and Pre-Raphaelite Effort
Mari Komnæs (Lund University)
Labour and Mary Hays's challenge to Richardson's *Clarissa*
Amy Wells (University of Oxford)
Head, Heart, and Hand: Ruskinian Labour and Literary 'Works'
- 14:30-15:00** **Coffee**
- 15:00-15:45** **Panel 3: Ecologies of Labour**
Oriane Poret (University of Lyon)
Representations of animal labour: investigating Rosa Bonheur's contribution
Cal Sutherland (University of Edinburgh)
'A Perfect Republic': Labour, Landscape, and Property in Wordsworth's *Guide to the Lakes*
- 15:45-16:45** **Panel 4: Urban and Industrial Labour**
Megan McInerney (University of Surrey)
'Are we intelligent?': Ethel Carnie's Factory Reading
Jason Collins (Brown University)
A Self-Ordained Woman: Clerical Labor in Elizabeth Gaskell's *North and South*
Jenny Harper (University of Reading)
Ethel Carnie Holdsworth, Labour Resistance and the Unfettered Mind
- 18:00-19:00** **Film screening and roundtable discussion: 'Suspensions' by Patricia Silva**
- 19:30-21:30** **Conference Dinner**

6th January 2024

09:15-10:00

Panel 5: Imperial Labour

Debadrita Saha (Ashoka University)

The embodied semiotics of the subaltern subject: mapping the sexual agency of female domestic labourers in nineteenth-century Bengal

Ridhima Tewari (Indian Institute of Technology, Dharwad)

Women as 'Labourers', Women as 'Lamenters': Retrieving Women's Contribution and Subsistence in the Bhojpuri Region Through Select Folk Songs of the Indenture Legacy

10:15-11:15

Panel 6: Political and Radical Labour

Thinkal Hansan (University of Delhi)

Reform and Literature: Labour and Political Economy in the works of Chartist writers Thomas Doubleday and James Bronterre O'Brien

Alison Morgan (University of Warwick)

John Stafford: Labour, Song and the Radical Public Sphere

Megan McLennan (Western University, Canada)

Self-Fashioning as Resistance in Henry Mayhew's *London Labour and the London Poor*

11:15-11:45

Coffee

11:45-13:00

Keynote: Dr. Nicholas Lawrence, University of Warwick

The Exceptional Worker in the Nineteenth Century Literary Imagination

13:00-14:00

Lunch

14:00-15:00

Panel 7: Care and Emotional Labour

Charlotte Wilson (University of Oxford)

"I don't care for ignorance!": Institutional Failures to Support Care Labour in Charlotte Yonge's *The Daisy Chain*

Fabia Buescher (University of Cambridge)

'Wanted, a companion for a lady': Caregiving and Emotional Work in Wilkie Collins' *Poor Miss Finch*

Rosemary Archer (University of Loughborough)

Body and Soul: Emotional Labour in Margaret Harkness' fin-de-siècle journalism and fiction

15:00-15:30

Coffee

15:30-16:30

Panel 8: Employment

John D. Attridge (University of Surrey)

Working/Not-Working: Labour, Un/Employment, and the Deserving/Undeserving Poor in Edith Wharton's *The House of Mirth* and Arnold Bennett's *The Card*

Tabitha Lambert-Bramwell (University of Birmingham)

Domestic Service, Professionalisation and Middle-Class Femininity in the Memoir of Annie Swan

Deborah Giggie (University of East Anglia)

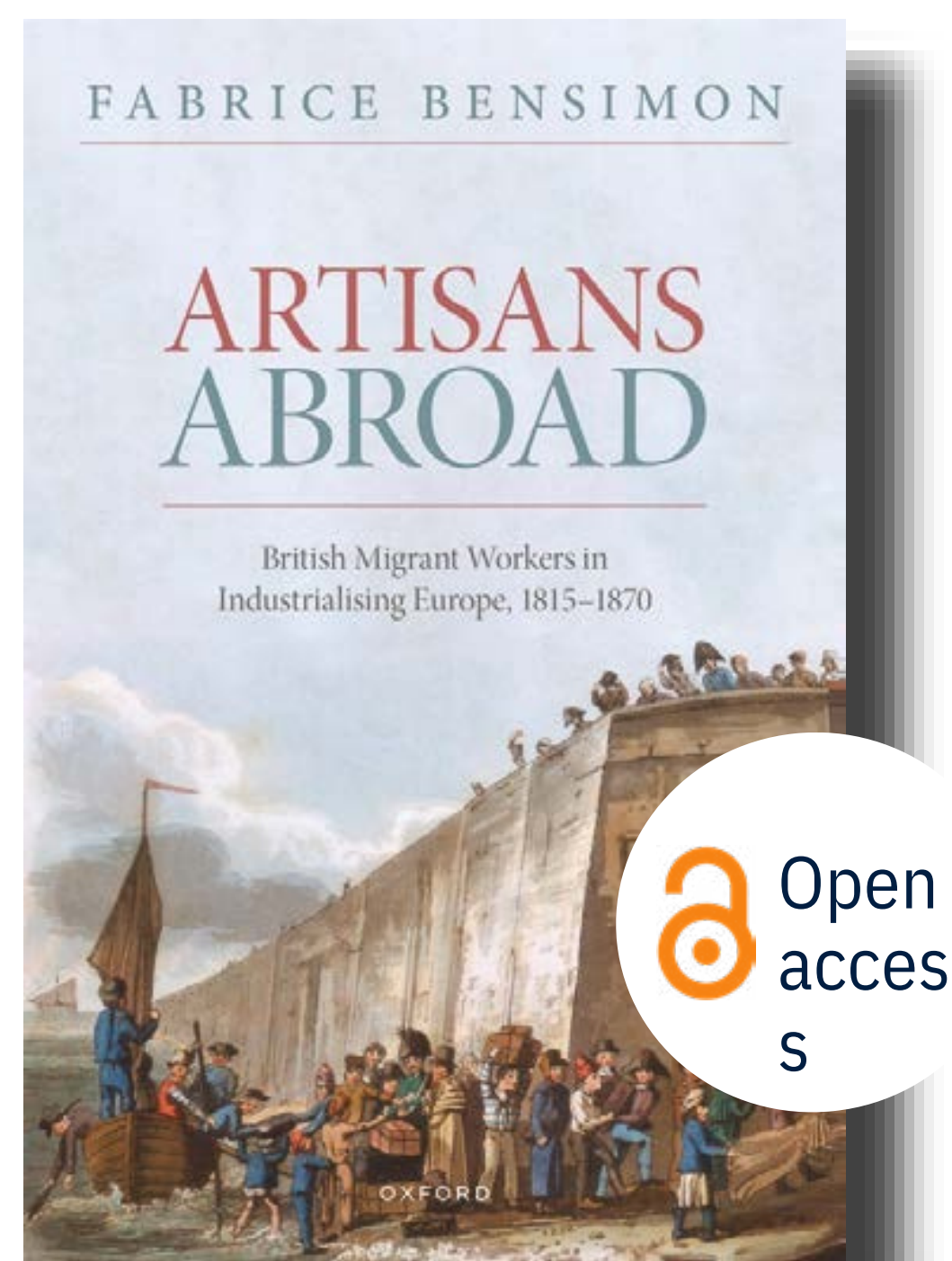
Hidden Labour, Hidden Critique: Literary Representations of Domestic Servants by Socially Marginalised Writers

16:30-17:00

Closing remarks

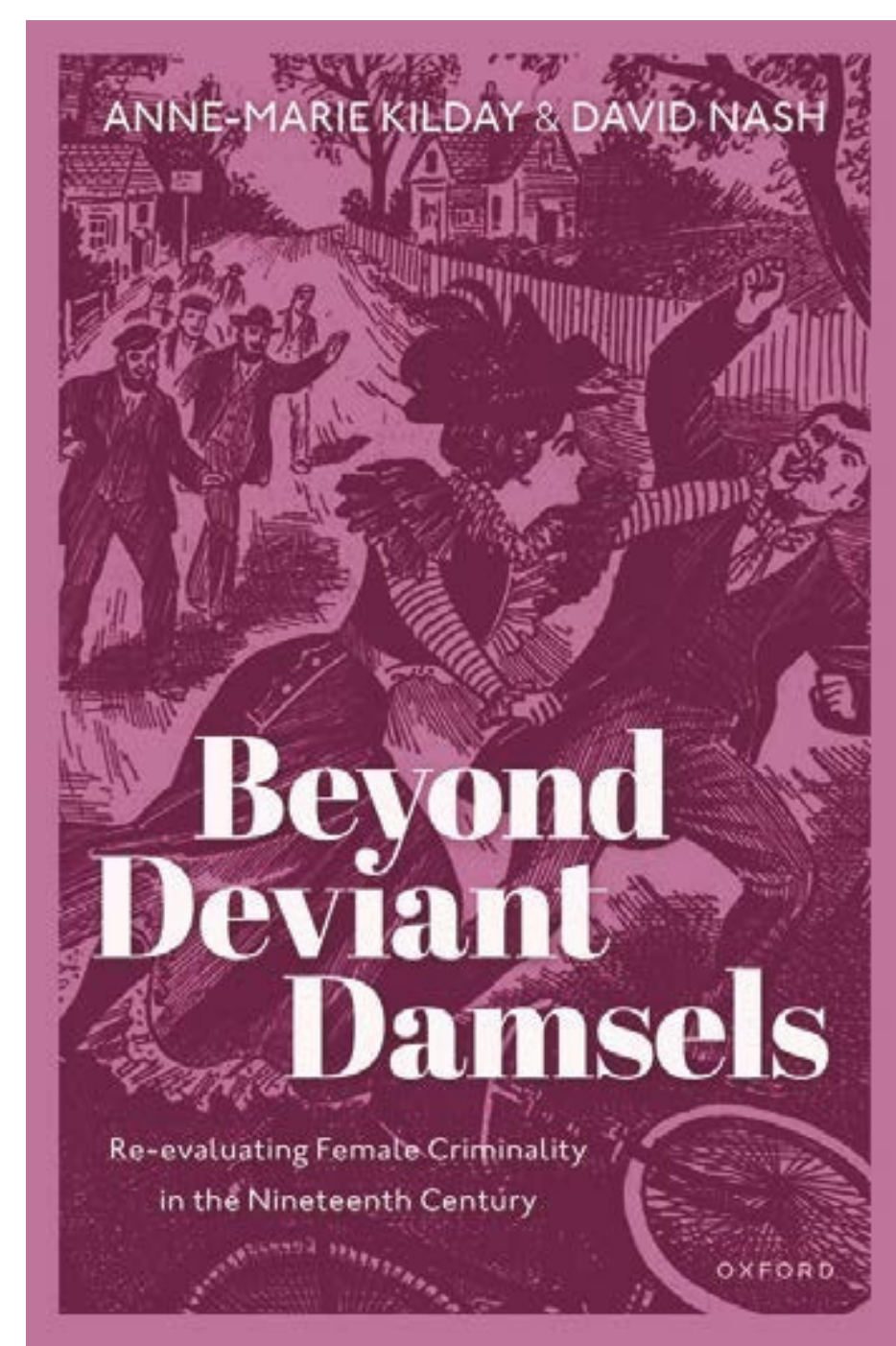
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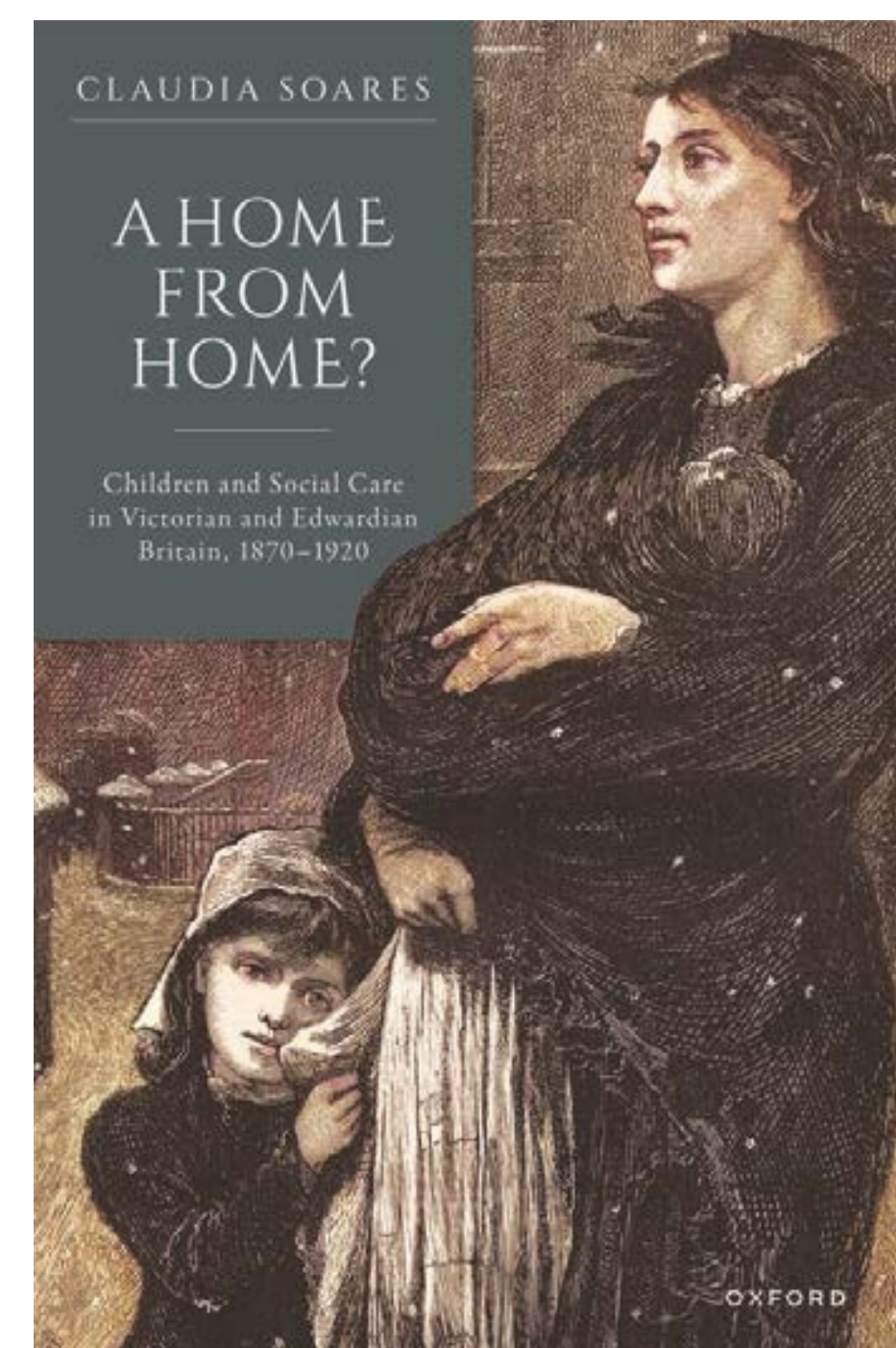
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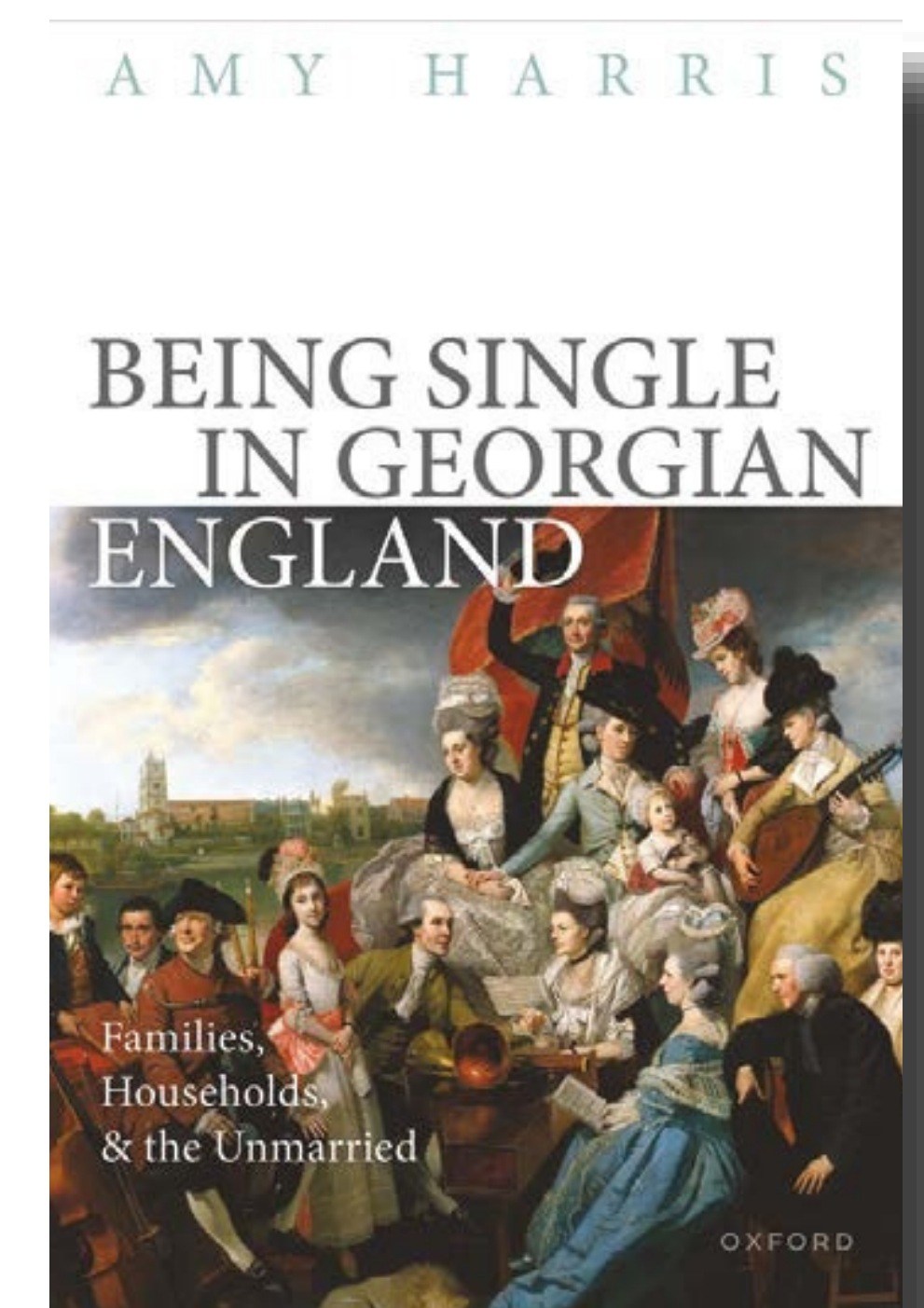
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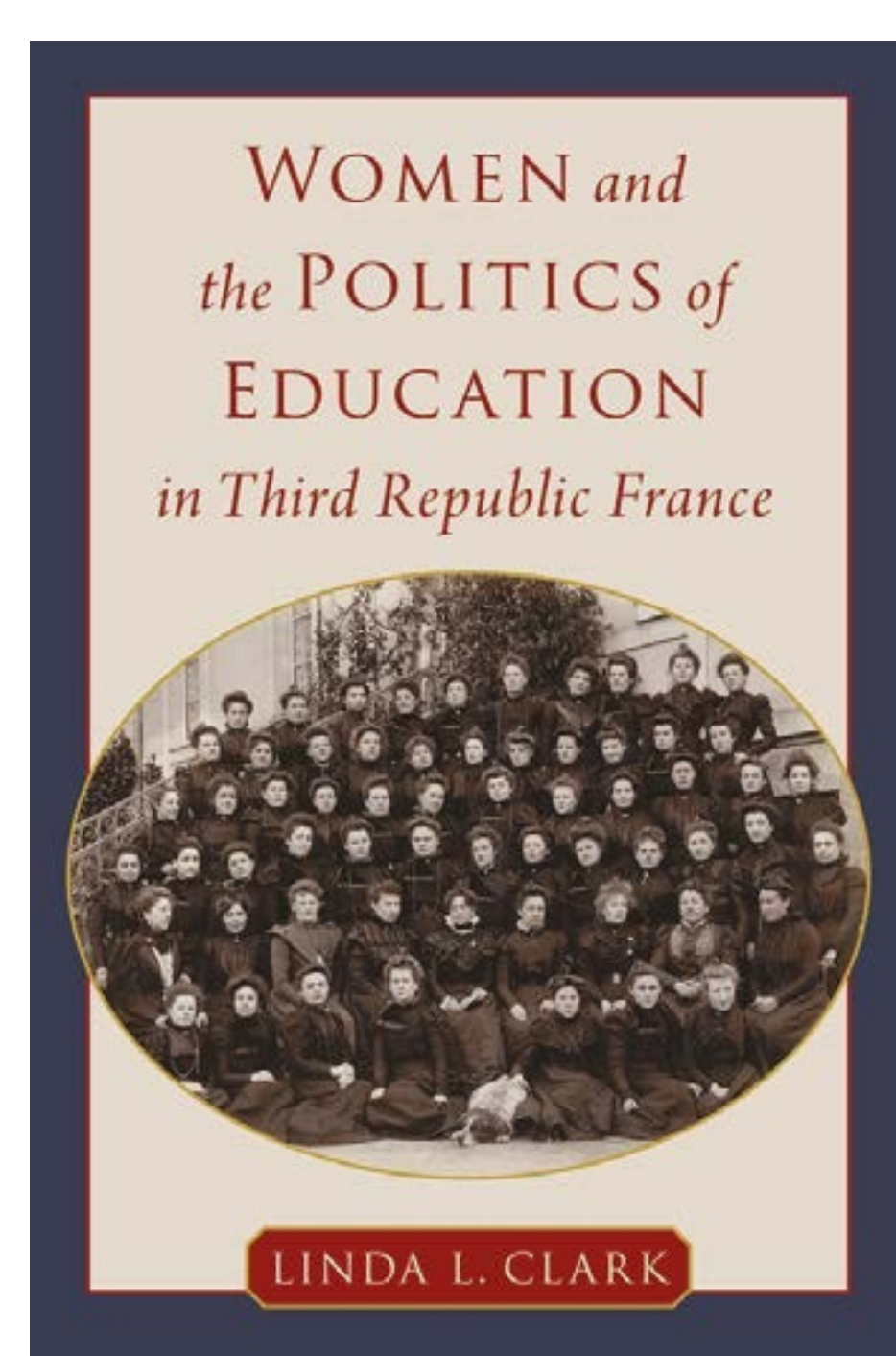
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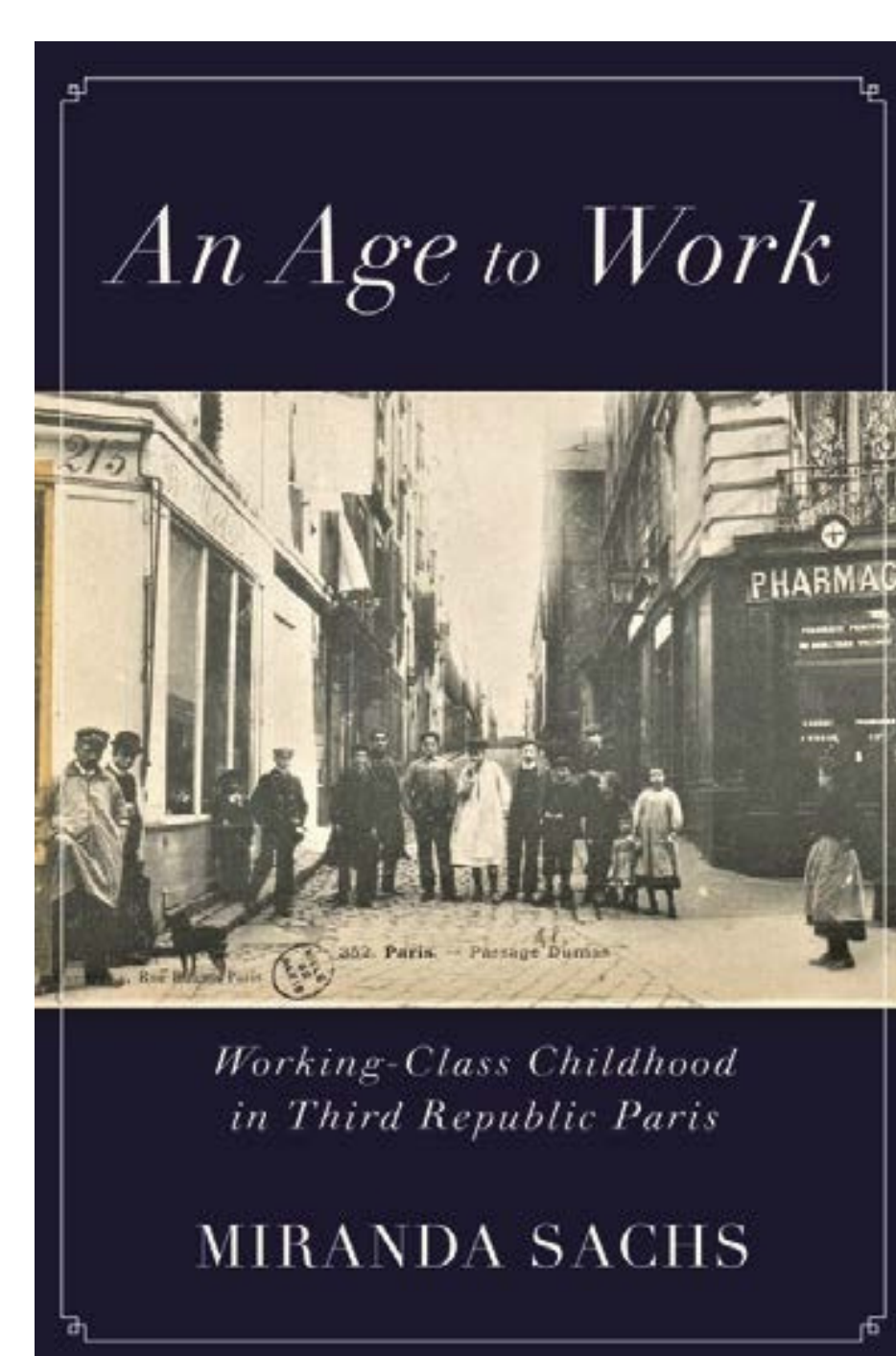
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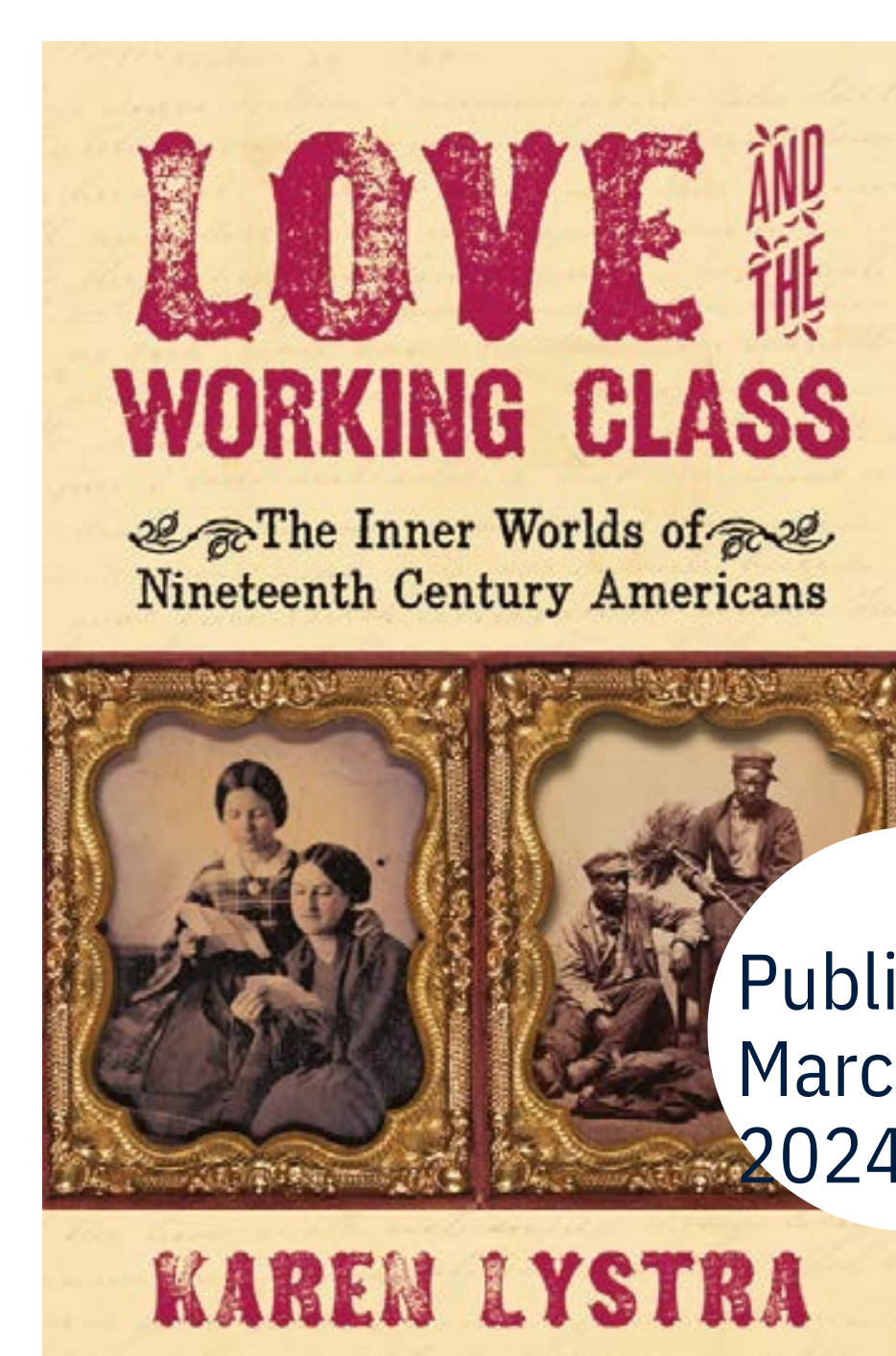
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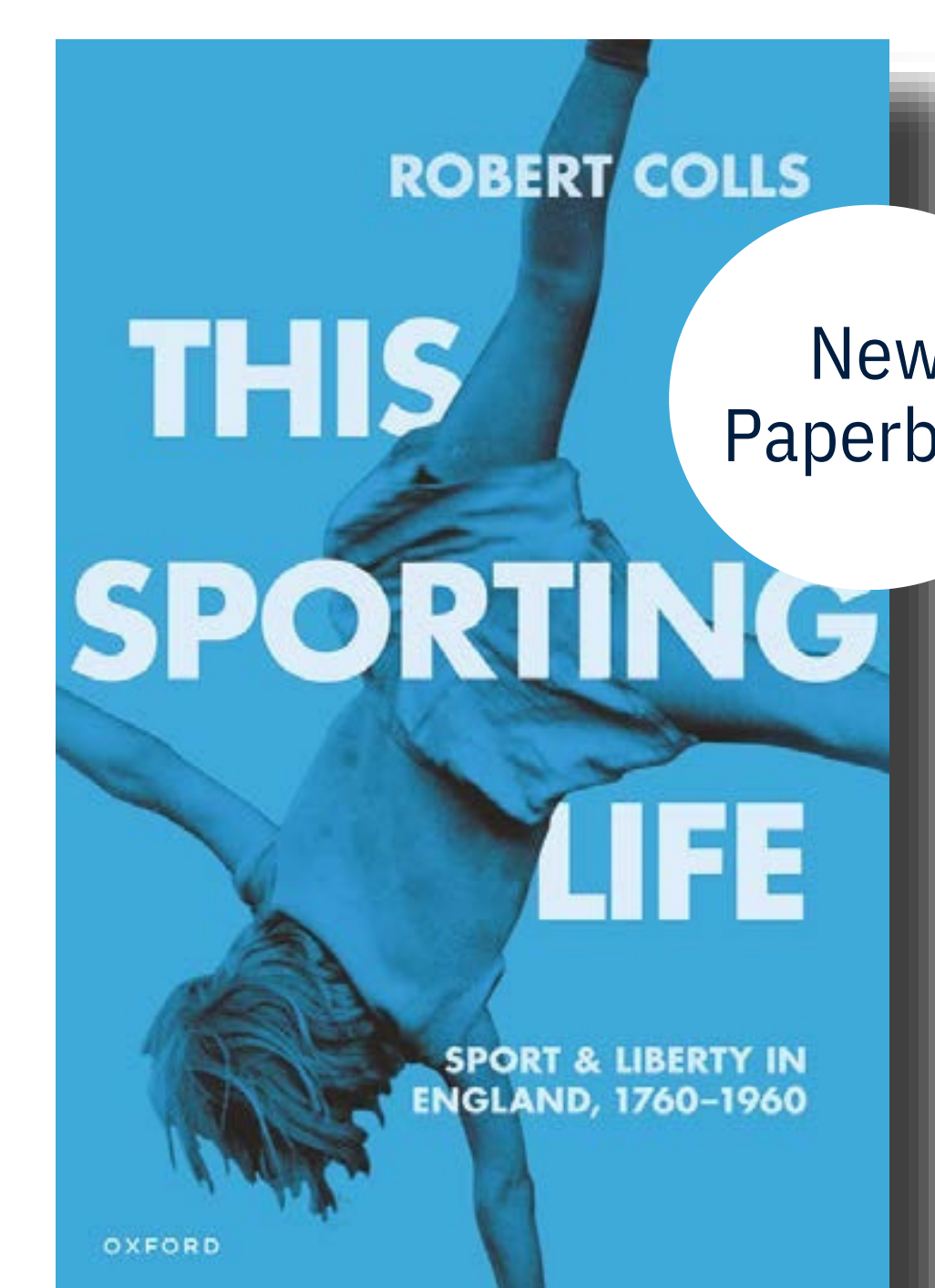
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