

# Play in the Long Nineteenth Century

## Conference Programme

17<sup>th</sup> January 2025 | University of Kent, Canterbury

### Conference Chair

Sophie Thompson

### Conference Committee

Marion Tempest Grant, Will Kitchen, Andie Lloyd,  
Katie Maclean, Megan McInenrey  
and Michelle Reynolds

### With thanks to

Christopher Prior, Johanna Harrison-Oram, Timothy Gao and Sara Lyons

*Carnation, Lily, Lily, Rose*, John Singer Sargent (1885-6)





**R R R R**

**Romance, Revolution & Reform**

## **Play in the Long Nineteenth Century**

**Conference Programme\***

**17<sup>th</sup> January 2025 | University of Kent, Canterbury**

**9.00 Registration open**

**9.30 Welcome**

**9.45 Panel 1 (KSR1): Reading and Writing Play**

**Michele Brugnetti (Sapienza University of Rome and University of Silesia)**

The Rhythm of Decadence and Desire, or: leisured reading in Arthur Symons's *Jenny Lane*

**Anna Barton (University of Sheffield)**

'Is it earnest with me? Is it play?' Towards a Textual Critique of Tone in the Poetry of Mary Elizabeth Coleridge

**Rebekah Cohen (University of Cambridge)**

From rags to patent revivers: playing with the past in sketch-writing by Charles Dickens and Washington Irving

**Panel 2 (KSR10): Play and the Body**

**Ralph Roberts (University of Kent)**

Manly, Muscular, Mindless? The Relationship between Christianity and Physical Activity in the Middle Years of the Nineteenth Century

**Anna Shane (University of Exeter)**

'Affinity between the two things': the athletic body and the criminal body in E. W. Hornung's Raffles stories

**Heather Glenny (University of Chicago)**

Visceral Play: Regression, Innovation, and Ethical Crises Inside the American Cadaver

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

**11.00 Panel 3 (KSR1): Play and Politics**

Christopher Blandford (University of Kent)

Playing with form: Robert Browning's political retreat into classical closet drama

Aditi Behl (IIT Bombay)

Linguistic Play and Cultural Politics: The Evolution of Insha's *Rani Ketki ki Kahan* in 19th-century North India

Travis Seetoo (Brock University)

Glasstown: The Brontë's Imaginary World of Play, Power and Politics

**Panel 4 (KSR10): Play and Performance**

Amélie Addison (Northumbria University)

'Playing' for your Life: Virtuosity, Hardship and Invisibility in the Lives and Deaths of Touring Performers

Henry Mason (Queen Mary University of London)

'Is there any news stirring?': Satire and Spectacle in J.R. Planché's *Success; or, A Hit if you Like it*

Victoria Roskams (University of Oxford)

Playing Chopin in Decadent Fiction

**12.00 Lunch**

**13.00 Panel 5 (KSR1): Play, Institutions and Society**

Mary Clare Martin (University of Greenwich)

Play and religion in the long nineteenth century, 1789-1914

Rachael Bailey-Gibson (University of Leicester)

Theatre Within the Victorian Lunatic Asylum

Stephen Edwards (University of Southampton)

Culture and Play in the Philanthropy and Fiction of Walter Besant and Mary Ward

**Panel 6 (KSR10): Playing Games**

Soomin Hong (University of Sydney)

Gamification of war in Meiji Japan—in case of Sino-Japanese War Sugoroku

Zahra Kandeh Kar (University of Haute Alsace)

Wordsworth Playing Around with Childhood Plays in *The Prelude*

TBC

**14.00 Panel 7 (KSR1): Spaces for Play**

Jacqueline Imre (University of Stirling)

The Water Drinkers Register: The Recreational Reading of Visitors to Dunblane's Spa, 1813-1833

Jon Winder (University of Liverpool)

Public spaces for play in the long nineteenth century

Xinrui Xu (Aalborg University and Shanghai University)

Translating Playground: The Localization of Playgrounds in China at the turn of the 20th Century

**Panel 8 (KSR10): Play and Identity**

Catherine Freeman (Independent)

Girls' play and imposed identity in a late nineteenth century English industrial school

Joshua Fagan (University of Washington)

H.G. Wells and the Playfulness of Victorian Travel

Oksana Volovodik (Central European University)

Leisure practices and masculinity in the Polish military units of the Napoleonic Army (1806-1814)

**15.00 Tea & coffee break**

**15.30 Keynote (KSR1): Dr Timothy Gao, University of Bristol**

Title TBC

**16.45 Closing comments and Issue 7 launch**

**17.00 End**

**18.30 Conference dinner** at the Parrot (Church Lane, St Radigunds Street, CT1 2AG).

## Further information

### Location

The main conference room is **Seminar Room 1 (SR1)** in the **Kennedy Building**. SR1 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 SR1 and one in nearby **Seminar Room 10 (SR10)**.

**SR1:** Enter the Kennedy Building via the main entrance. SR1 is the first room on the left.

**SR10:** Take the stairs or lift to the first floor. As you join the corridor, SR10 faces you.

See a map of the University of Kent 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 at [the Parrot](#), Church Lane, St Radigunds Street, Canterbury CT1 2AG (approximately a 30-minute bus ride from the University). The set menu is £26.95 per person in addition to your registration fee. Please let us know if you have any dietary requirements.

### How to get here

**Train:** The nearest train station is Canterbury West. You can either walk or take the bus from here.

**Walking from Canterbury West Train Station:** The campus is approximately a 25-minute walk from the station. Turn left as you exit the station and walk to the end of the road. Just after the 'Goods Shed' market on your left, take the footpath on the left and then the subway under the railway line. From here, follow the blue signs directing you to the University.

**Bus:** Unibus services run every 10 minutes from the city centre. Take either Unibus 1, Unibus 2 or the Triangle Services. The nearest stops are on Giles Lane or Darwin Road.

**Car:** Please choose public transport where possible. A blue badge is required to park in the bays in front of the Kennedy Building (no need to book). Please email us ([RRR@soton.ac.uk](mailto:RRR@soton.ac.uk)) if you need parking and we can arrange this for you.

### Accommodation

Delegates who need accommodation in Canterbury may stay on campus in Tyler Court en-suite bedrooms, with breakfast included. You can book a room [here](#) using the code: LOYALTY to receive a discount. There are many more options for accommodation in Canterbury city centre. Some budget options include [Travelodge](#) and [Premier Inn](#).

### Useful links

- Visit Canterbury: <https://www.canterbury.co.uk/>
- How to get to the University of Kent: <https://www.kent.ac.uk/locations/canterbury/directions>