

Romance, Revolution and Reform/Southampton Centre for Nineteenth-Century Research

Research Symposium: RESISTANCE

Schedule

Wednesday 22 May 2019

LT B, Avenue Campus, University of Southampton

11.00 a.m. Welcome: Mary Hammond, Director of SCNR and Zack White, Editor of *RRR*

11.05 – 12.25: Panel 1: Dissent, Crime and Punishment (Chair: Mary Hammond)

a) Stephen Bygrave: Combustible mixtures: picturing Dissent in the 1790s

b) Zack White: A Conundrum of Command & Control: Resistance to Judicial Reform in the British Army, 1808-1818

c) Katie Holdway: ‘These kennel pirates are not worth the powder and shot of the law’: Dickens, the Press and the Problem of Reprinting 1836-1837

d) Andrew Hinde: Resistance to the Poor Law Amendment Act in 1834

We envisage about 10 minutes per speaker and at least 5 minutes for questions and discussion after each presentation

12.25 – 12.40: Coffee and Light Refreshments

12.40 – 2.00: Panel 2: Women and Resistance (Chair: Katie Holdway)

a) Emma Clery: Resisting Power/Resisting Shame

b) Mark Cornwell: Female Traitors in the era of the 1848 Hungarian Revolution

c) Stephen Edwards: Power to the People: Resistance and Revolution in Marie Corelli’s *Temporal Power* (1902)

d) Mary Hammond: Train Travel, Reading and Dangerous Women: resisting the stereotype

We envisage about 10 minutes per speaker and at least 5 minutes for questions and discussion after each presentation

2.00: Closing Remarks: Mary and Zack

Presentation Summaries/Research Context:

Panel 1: Dissent, Crime and Punishment

a) Stephen Bygrave: Combustible mixtures: picturing Dissent in the 1790s

This talk is on some printed and graphic versions of dissent in the 1790s. Joseph Priestley is its example of the way dissent is represented as illegitimate because it promiscuously mixes roles (minister, scientist, politician) that in a period of Revolution may turn volatile and signal civic danger, even conflagration.

Stephen Bygrave has published on Romanticism and on the enlightenment. His current project is on the rhetoric of dissent.

b) Zack White: 'A Conundrum of Command & Control: Resistance to Judicial Reform in the British Army, 1808-1818'

The Napoleonic Wars witnessed radical changes to the British Army's justice system, as pressures from society resulted in limitations being placed on military courts' powers. This paper appraises how this was resisted by officers on the ground, as they reconciled the need to punish with the necessity of maintaining morale.

My research investigates crime and punishment in the British army during the Napoleonic era. Central to my thesis is a crime database of 7,000 cases, which is unlocking our understanding of the army's priorities and the pragmatic system of discretionary justice which prevailed, at times deliberately circumventing the legal process.

Zack White is a Doctoral Researcher, and holder of the Archival Scholarship, at the University of Southampton. He is Editor in Chief of the open access, interdisciplinary, nineteenth-century research journal *Romance, Revolution & Reform*, is Post-Graduate Liaison for the British Commission for Military History, and the creator of the online hub on the Napoleonic era www.thenapoleonicwars.net

c) Katie Holdway: 'These kennel pirates are not worth the powder and shot of the law': Dickens, the Press and the Problem of Reprinting 1836-1837

Because of his notoriousness for pouncing on piracies and copyright flag-flying, it is often argued that Charles Dickens maintained a masterful level of control over the circulation of his work. However, this paper will explore a form of unauthorized reproduction that Dickens found it almost impossible to resist or combat: the incessant reprinting of choice excerpts of his novels in the periodical press.

Katie Holdway is a Wolfson-funded PhD researcher at the University of Southampton, investigating the unauthorized adaptation and appropriation of Charles Dickens's early works in the periodical press. She is the Deputy Editor of *Romance, Revolution & Reform (RRR)*.

d) Andrew Hinde: Resistance to the Poor Law Amendment Act in 1834

This paper examines the ways in which local poor law authorities responded to the prohibition on outdoor relief following the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834. Some were openly defiant, whereas many others found ingenious ways to exploit loopholes in the law so that they could continue established practices whilst giving the appearance of compliance.

This presentation will be part of the development of a paper on workhouses that I am hoping to give at the Social Science History Association meeting in Chicago in November.

Panel 2: Women and Resistance

a) Emma Clery: Resisting Power/Resisting Shame

At the close of the 2010s Greta Thunberg launched the ‘School Strike’ movement against climate change inaction by sitting alone with a placard outside the Swedish parliament, and the Cambridge economist Victoria Bateman strips naked to counter the lies of Brexiteers. The 1810s saw the spectacle of a few hundred ‘blanketeers,’ weavers protesting at famine, crossing the north of England to deliver a petition in London, and a celebrated female poet writing against war, in the knowledge that she would be publically humiliated. Historians have given relatively little attention to the psychology and emotional demands of political protest. Physical courage is sometimes required, but resistance to the status quo and the flow of ‘business as usual’ is a constant, involving public exposure and the likelihood of censure, mockery and shame. What lessons can be learned from the examples of resistance in the age of revolution?

This short talk is based on research into protest in the 1790s and 1810s, in particular by Mary Wollstonecraft and Anna Letitia Barbauld.

b) Mark Cornwell: Female Traitors in the era of the 1848 Hungarian Revolution

While it was men who led the 1848 Hungarian resistance and revolution against the Austrian Empire, notorious female rebels also emerged, their behaviour soon interpreted as ‘treason’. This paper explores when and why ‘resistance’ could morph into ‘treason’ in the eyes of the Austrian regime, and focuses on the behaviour and fate of Countess Blanka Teleki.

This paper is a small part of my current book project, a study of treason and traitors during the reign of the Habsburg emperor Franz Joseph (1848-1918). Across seventy years, treason was interpreted and managed by the regime in different ways. Two chapters will focus on traitors who surfaced in the 1848 revolutions, how they were punished and then amnestied.

c) Stephen Edwards: Power to the People: Resistance and Revolution in Marie Corelli’s *Temporal Power* (1902)

Marie Corelli’s much maligned romances were abrasively anti-establishment, seeking to create a sympathetic bond with a Board-school educated common readership. Her novel *Temporal Power* promoted an incendiary and paradoxical mix of revolution, socialism and autocratic kingship, alongside an empowering fantasy fiction of love and imagination.

Stephen Edwards is a part-time PhD researcher at Southampton University, exploring how concepts of sympathy in Mary Ward’s and Marie Corelli’s romances reveal the progressive nature and democratic intent of their popular fiction. This not only critiqued their society’s class inequalities but also sought to build a relationship with their readers that would help to change it.

d) Mary Hammond: Train Travel, Reading and Dangerous Women: resisting the stereotype

In 1872, in Letter No 20 of *Fors Clavigera: Letters to the Working Men and Labourers of Great Britain*, John Ruskin published an infamous outpouring of scornful disgust over a pair of young American female readers he had encountered on the train from Verona, who, he tells us, instead of demurely contemplating the classical scenery or reading their Bibles 'were dressed in thin white frocks, coming vaguely open at the backs as they stretched or wriggled; they had French novels, lemons, and lumps of sugar, to beguile their state with; the novels hanging together by the ends of string that had once stitched them, or adhering at the corners in densely bruised dog's-ears, out of which the girls, wetting their fingers, occasionally extricated a gluey leaf.' Ruskin was just one among many Victorian artists, commentators and moralists in Britain who, ever since the invention of the railway, had found in the female traveller and her reading habits a grave cause for concern – and an opportunity to ogle, censure, and make dire predictions about the future of the nation. But what did real women travellers make of this public outcry against their reading habits? This paper compares the explosion of images of female readers in the nineteenth century with the testimony of real Victorians who read while they travelled, in order to show how a form of resistance through reading enabled women to negotiate the new heterogeneous spaces of modern life. This comparison, I further suggest, also enables us to understand more fully the nature of the anxieties depicted in these images.

Mary Hammond works on print culture and reception history in the long nineteenth century. She is currently Director of SCNR.