Northeast Conference on British Studies
October 1-2, 2004
McGill University
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

This is a draft program. Room assignments will be added, and other changes may be made. Please check the NECBS website http://www.wpi.edu/~phansen/necbs.html for any updated information regarding the program, registration, and local arrangements.

FRIDAY, October 1

Registration: 2:00-6:30 pm
McGill University Faculty Club

2:15-3:45 pm Panels Session I:

1. Where was Life Lived in Medieval England?
Chair: Evan May (Concordia University)
Shannon McSheffrey (Concordia University), “The Personal is Political: Late Medieval Understandings of the Public and the Private”
Derek Neal (McGill University), “Being A Husband in Late Medieval England”

2. The Romantic Legacy in Victorian Britain
Chair: Monique Morgan (McGill University)
Emily Allen (Purdue University), “Doctoring Byron: Mary Elizabeth Braddon and the Domestication of Genius”
Michael Eberle-Sinatra (Université de Montréal), “Romantic Critic and Victorian Playwright: Leigh Hunt and his 1840 play A Legend of Florence”
Jason Camlot (Concordia University), “Oscar Wilde’s Community of Masks: Romantic Journalism at the Victorian Fin-de-Siècle”
Dino Felluga (Purdue University), “Byron Redux: The Politics of Romance and the Romance of Politics in George Eliot’s Felix Holt, the Radical”

3. Christianity and Character in Late Victorian and Edwardian Britain
Chair/Comment: Pamela Walker (Carleton University)
Brian Lewis (McGill University), “God, Mammon and Lord Leverhulme”
Stephanie Olsen (McGill University), “Faith and Fatherhood: Lessons in Character Building for Young Boys”
Thomas Brydon (McGill University), “Christian Economy and the Lone Reverends of Late Victorian London”
Valerie Burton (Memorial University of Newfoundland), “Eleanor Rathbone and Working Class Men and Women in Edwardian Liverpool”

3:45–4:00 pm Break
FRIDAY, October 1
4:00-5:30 pm Panels Session II:

4. Politics, Society, and Cultural expression in Early Modern England
Chair: Kevin Pask (Concordia University)
Rachelle Taylor (McGill University), “Nicholas Lanier's Double Identity as Composer and Spy”
Anne Thackray (National Gallery of Canada), “The Catholicism of Queen Henrietta Maria”
Audree-Isabelle Tardif, (Concordia University), “Dancing Masters as Cultural Entrepreneurs in Eighteenth century London”
Comment: David Dean (Carleton University)

5. Roundtable: No Camelot, No Gothic: The Other Victorian Medievalism
Chair: Loretta M. Holloway (Framingham State University)
Barbara Bell (Edge Hill College of Higher Education), “Victorian Medieval Performance”
Jennifer Palmgren (Saint Paul’s College), “Victorian Medievalism: A Medievalist’s Perspective”

6. Outside/Inside: Interwar Britain and Europe
Chair/Comment: Susan Pennybacker (Trinity College)

Mauro Marsella (McMaster University), “The British Union of Fascists and Interwar Britain: The View from Fascist Italy”
Ellen Jacobs (Université du Québec à Montréal), “‘Seeing the USSR’: Travel narratives and political argument in Interwar Britain”
Michele Haapamaki (McMaster University), “The Spanish Civil War and the Guerrilla Warrior: Reconstructing the Hero in Leftist Interwar Britain”

5:30-7:00 pm Reception

Friday, 7:00-9:00pm, Dinner with Plenary Speaker

Plenary Speaker: Robert Tittler (Concordia University), “‘The Face of the City’: Civic Portraits and Civic Identity in Post-Reformation England”

SATURDAY, October 2
8:15-10:30 am Registration, University Club of Montreal
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8:45-10:15 am Panels Session III:


Chair: Tim Stretton (St. Mary’s University)

Marie-Hélène Rousseau (University of Laval), “Call for services of monks and chaplains: chantry foundations in secular and regular cathedrals in England, 12th-16th centuries”

Sarah Covington (Queen’s University, CUNY), “Inside and Outside the One True Church: Defining Religious Deviance in Sixteenth-Century England”

Katharine Olson (Harvard University), “‘Llyma iawn ffordd lle mae’n ffydd:’ Re-examining Lay Piety in Pre-Reformation Wales, c. 1450-1530”

Lisa McClain (Boise State University), “Communities of Time, Body, Food, and Ritual Performance among Catholics in Protestant England”

8. Defining Women, Work and the Nation at the Center and Periphery

Chair/Comment: Richard Connors (University of Ottawa)

Anne Wohlcke (Eastern Kentucky University), “Peddling, Serving and Showing: Interpreting Women’s Work Spaces at Eighteenth Century London Fairs”

Birte Pfleger (California State University, Los Angeles), “‘A man must not think of Marrying a[n English] woman’: Eighteenth-Century Ethnic Stereotypes about Women and Work in Pennsylvania”

Padhraig Higgins (Penn State), “Consuming Patriotism: Shopping, Gender and the Politics of Free Trade in Ireland”

9. Race, Gender and Empire: Mary Seacole’s Wonderful Adventures

Chair/Comment: Rhonda Frederick (Boston College)

Sara Salih (University of Toronto), “‘Identity in the field of empire’: Creole-British subjectivity in Wonderful Adventure of Mrs Seacole in Many Lands”

Claudia Klaver (Syracuse University), “Mrs. Seacole Race and Miss Nightingale’s Nurses: Crimean Contradictions and Inversions”

Alison Fletcher (Kent State University), “‘Mother Seacole’: Victorian Domesticity on the Battlefields of the Crimean War”

10. Ideological Paradoxes of 20th-century Political Culture

Chair/Comment: Reba Soffer (California State University, Northridge)

Dan Ritschel, (University of Maryland, Baltimore County), “From ‘Practical Socialism’ to British Fascism: The Socialist Origins of Sir Oswald Mosely's Economic Thought”

Laura Odelius (Houston Baptist University), “Ideology makes strange bedposts… ‘Labour’ and ‘Conservative’ in 1950s Nottingham.”

Jonathan Schneer (Georgia Institute of Technology), “The Oxford Cambridge Boat Race Mutiny”

10:15-10:30 am Break
SATURDAY, October 2
10:30-11:45 am Panels Session IV:

11. Theatre and Historical Analysis: Contextualizing the English Stage, 1658-1728

Chair: Chris R. Kyle (Syracuse University)

Susan D. Amussen (Union Institute and University), “The Colonial World in Restoration Drama”

Andrew R. Walkling (SUNY, Binghamton), “Theatre, Politics, and the Succession: Genre and Performance in John Dryden's Absalom and Achitophel and Albion and Albanius”


Comment: David Underdown (Yale University)

12. Uses and justifications of violence in Great Britain and its empire, from the 16th to the 19th centuries

Chair: Michael Maxwell (McGill University)

Michael Wasser (Dawson College and Concordia University), “Violence and Pacification on the Anglo-Scottish Borders in the 16th and early 17th centuries: contemporary views and later reactions”

Douglas Hay (York University), “Masters, magistrates, commanders, and coercion in Britain and the Empire”

Elizabeth Elbourne (McGill University), “Thinking about violence: Early nineteenth-century British perspectives on frontier violence”

Comment: Philippe Rosenberg (Emory University)


Chair: Pamela J. Walker (Carleton University)

Susan Tananbaum (Bowdoin College), “Tending to Body and Soul: Catholic Care in Turn of the Century England”

Anne Huebel (Franklin Pierce College), “The Best Security Against Future Pauperism: Boarding-out in England and the Successful Working-Class Mother, 1870-1900”

Moira Maguire (University of Arkansas at Little Rock), “‘A Proper and Fit Guardian? Unmarried Mothers and Public Assistance in Twentieth-Century Ireland”

Comment: Kathleen Paul (University of South Florida)

14. Negotiating Democracy in Interwar Britain

Chair/Comment: Dan L. LeMahieu (Lake Forest College)

Laura Dumond Beers (Harvard University), “Whose Opinion? The potentialities and pitfalls of opinion polling in the age of mass democracy”

Sandra Dawson (University of California, Santa Barbara), “Circuses, Fans, and Democracy in Britain, 1920-1945”

Daniel Ussishkin (University of California at Berkeley), “‘The Sense of Society’: British Social Psychologists and the First World War”

12:00-2:00 pm Lunch with Plenary Speaker

Plenary Speaker: Dane Kennedy (George Washington University), “Richard Burton and the Victorian World of Difference”
SATURDAY, October 2
2:15-3:45 pm Panels Session V:

15. Gendered Re-enactments: Female Roles in Early Theatre
Chair: Malcolm Smuts (University of Massachusetts, Boston)
Jane Tolmie (Harvard Society of Fellows/University of Western Ontario), “Not a Girl; A Boy from the Theatre”
Joyce Boro (Université de Montréal), “Swetnam, The Woman Hater, the ‘woman debate,’ and Juan de Flores’ Grisel y Mirabella”
Jennifer Drouin (McGill University), “William S: Writing Back to Shakespearean Representations of Gender”
Comment: Helen Ostovich (McMaster University)

16. Networks and Identities in a Wider British World, 1680-1763
Chair: Keith Wrightson (Yale University)
Lindsay O’Neill (Yale University), “Thawed Mouths and Flowing Ink: the Communities of Correspondence of William Byrd I and II of Virginia, 1684-1742”
Sarah Yeh (Brown University), “A Sink of all Filthiness”: Gender, Family and Identity in the British Atlantic, 1688-1763”
Comment: Brian Cowan (McGill University)

17. Political Masculinities in the ‘Long’ Nineteenth Century
Chair: Paul Deslandes (University of Vermont)
Catriona Kennedy (University of York), “‘The Frenchman’s gallantry is on his lips, the Irishman’s in his heart’: Chivalric masculinity and Irish nationalism in the 1790s”
Rob Boddice (University of York), ‘Manliness contested: cockfighters and the political discourse of cruelty, c.1800-1875’
Matthew Roberts (University of York), ‘Manliness and morality in late Victorian popular Conservatism: the case of W. L. Jackson’
Comment: Paul Ward (University of Huddersfield and Westminster College)

18. Race, Violence and the Construction of Police Heroism: Policing the Twentieth-Century British Empire
Chair: Andrew R. Muldoon (Harvard University)
David Leeson (Laurentian University), “‘Courage Wears a Uniform’: Police Discourse and Police Violence in the Irish War of Independence.”
Michael Silvestri (Clemson University), “‘The Courage of the Bengali Intelligence Officer’: The ‘Martial Races’ and the Policing of Revolutionary Terrorism in Colonial Bengal.”
Georgina Sinclair (University of Reading), “From Criminal Investigation to Political and Security Policing at End of Empire, 1945-1955”
Comment: Mary A. Conley (College of the Holy Cross)
SATURDAY, October 2
3:45-4:00 pm Break

4:00-5:30 pm Panels Session VI:

19. Credit and the Family in Early Modern Britain
Chair: Shannon McSheffrey (Concordia University)
Marjorie McIntosh (University of Colorado at Boulder), “Women, Family Relationships, and Economic Credit in Early Modern England”
Retha Warnicke (Arizona State University), “Mary, Queen of Scots, and Family Strategies”
Comment: Linda Pollock (Tulane University)

20. Historical Memory of the English Revolution in the Atlantic World, 1660-1714
Chair: James Delbourgo (McGill University)
Louise A. Breen (Kansas State University), “Constructing the Memory of John Oxenbridge”
Michelle Orihel (Syracuse University), “Republicans under the Bed: the Calves-Head Club and Tory Invective during the Reign of Queen Anne”
Comment: Carla Pestana (Miami University)

21. Heroism and Masculinity in British Culture, 1740 to the Present
Chair: Stephen Heathorn (McMaster University)
Stephen Moore (York University), “A Nation of Harlequins?: The English Sailor and the Transformation of the Masculine Ideal, 1740-1760”
Janice Cavell (Carleton University), “The Nelsons of Discovery”: Arctic Heroes and the National Character in Britain, 1818-1860
Alison Matthews-David (Winchester School of Art/University of Southampton), “Unchivalrous Camouflage: Masculinity, Concealment and the “Sniper Suit” during WWI”
Stephanie Barczewski (Clemson University), “We Took Risks”: The Changing Reputations of Robert Falcon Scott and Ernest Shackleton, 1912 to the Present
Comment: Hugh Dubrulle (St Anselm College)

22. The Left and Cultural Politics in Post-War Britain
Chair: Peter Weiler (Boston College)
Mark Phythian (University of Wolverhampton), “George Orwell, the Left and the Dawning of the Atomic Age”
Steven Fielding (University of Salford), “British Labour and the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s”
Comment: Catherine Ellis (Ryerson University)

5:30 - 6:30 pm Reception