

Welcome to the University of Warwick, and to the second biennial symposium of the British Association of Nineteenth-Century Americanists: 'Keywords: Nineteenth-Century American Studies in the Twenty-First Century'.

BrANCA is a UK-based organisation of researchers, teachers, writers, and cultural critics engaged in progressive, interdisciplinary scholarship concerning American writing in the long nineteenth century. Our mission is to foster a network of scholars interested in drawing on the vast potential of nineteenth-century American texts to intervene in a variety of discourses and pressing issues. Now in its third year, and following our successful first symposium at the University of Sussex in 2013, BrANCA has organised panels at international conferences as well as an ongoing series of readings groups hosted by universities around the UK.

If you would like to find out more about us, please go to www.branca.org.uk and follow us on Twitter: @brancaUK

Hilary Emmett, J. Michelle Coghlan,
Andrew Lawson, Mark Storey, and Tom F. Wright
BrANCA Committee

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Humanities Research Centre
University of Warwick



Faculty of Arts and the
Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies

Schedule

Friday 6th November 2015

- 1.00 Registration
1.40 Introduction (Humanities Studio)
2.00 Session One (Wolfson Research Exchange, Library)
 World (Room 2)
 Development (Room 3)
3.45 Tea and coffee
4.30 **Keynote (Humanities Studio)**
 Susan Gillman: 'Worlding Nineteenth-Century
 American Literature'
5.45 Wine reception
7.30 Symposium dinner (Scarman Dining Room)

Saturday 7th November 2015

All events are in the Wolfson Research Exchange

- 9.15 Tea and coffee
9.45 Session Two
 Sensation (Room 2)
 Territory (Room 3)
11.30 Break
11.45 Session Three
 Capital (Room 2)
 Networks (Room 3)
1.30 Lunch
2.30 Session Four
 Crisis (Room 2)
 Time (Room 3)
4.15 Close

Session One

W O R L D

Wolfson Research Exchange, Room 2

We aim to reflect on the “state of the field” by looking at intersections between scholarship and pedagogy in relation to the keyword “World.” Our papers and subsequent roundtable discussion focus in particular on the emerging phenomenon and implications of “American Literature as World Literature.”

Schedule

2.00-3.00: 15-minute papers

Mary Grace Albanese (Columbia University)

“‘This Calenture of the National Brain’: Nautical Hallucination and the Terraqueous Globe’

Wyn Kelley (MIT)

‘Un-Mapping Melville’s Global Imaginings’

Christa Holm Vogelius (University of Copenhagen)

‘Margaret Fuller’s Transatlantic Imagination’ (via Skype)

Hilary Emmett (University of East Anglia)

‘Object-ing Twain: Satire and Slavery in the Pacific’

3:00-3:20: Roundtable Discussion of Classroom Practice:
‘American Literature in a Global Context’

3:20-3:45: Q&A

Chair: Susan Gillman (University of California, Santa Cruz)

2.00-3.45 : Friday 6th November

D E V E L O P M E N T

Wolfson Research Exchange, Room 3

This panel will consist of three 20-minute papers and an open Q+A session:

Natalia Cecire (University of Sussex)
'Development and Puerility'

Robin Vandome (University of Nottingham)
"It is a long way from savagery to civilization": Science and
Development in the Late Nineteenth Century'

Sarah Wilson (University of Toronto)
'Development and Underdevelopment at Tammany Hall'

Chair: Nick Lawrence (University of Warwick)

S E N S A T I O N

Wolfson Research Exchange, Room 2

Roundtable participants

J. Michelle Coghlan (University of Manchester)

Michael Jonik (University of Sussex)

Donald Moores (National University)

Peter Riley (University of Exeter)

The senses came to matter more and differently in the long nineteenth century, a fact we are only now beginning to account for in nineteenth-century American literary studies. This roundtable examines sensation as both a thematic and analytic ground for literary inquiry, and aims to explore the changing work of this keyword in light of the affective, enchanted, and, with the rise of food studies, sensory turn. Our short talks center on the aesthetics and matter of the senses, sonority and disembodied sensations in Melville, and “distracted” history as a paradoxical jumping off point for alternative sensations of relationality as provocations for further roundtable and audience discussion on the state of sensation in our own work and in the field at large.

Chair: Stephen Shapiro (University of Warwick)

9.45-11.30 : Saturday 7th November

T E R R I T O R Y

Wolfson Research Exchange, Room 3

Roundtable participants

Greg Ablavsky (Stanford University)

Sam Erman (University of Southern California)

Craig Green (Temple University / Princeton University)

Property and law often caused and derived from territorial disputes, but the specification and demarcation of land had consequences well beyond legal concepts of property. Territory manifested foundational assertions about space, resources, and people. To large degrees, empires and their opponents were self-defined by the terms of contested territorial claims. Demographic shifts, racial constructions, technological ambitions, communities, personal ambitions, and kinships were all driven by the creating and rewriting of territorial boundaries, and in turn territory also helped to shape those shifting borders. Territory was thus inescapably important for thoughts about economy, culture, society, politics, and law.

Outside the context of international relations, it is sometimes easy for contemporary observers to accept territory and its consequences as natural features. But the opposite is true. To examine the historical and cultural processes by which territory was constructed and contested is to emphasize the contingency and artificiality of presupposed categories like nations, borders, constitution, sovereignty, the state, citizenship, and peoples.

Session Three

C A P I T A L

Wolfson Research Exchange, Room 2

Dominic Jaeckle (Goldsmith's, University of London)
'The Incomplete Sale: Emerson's Awkward Translation / Emerson's
Awkward Imitation'

Benjamin Pickford (University of Nottingham)
'Emerson's Automaton: A Poetics of the Index'

The participants on this panel seek to elaborate on why Emerson is a critical figure in thinking through how literature might successfully mediate between the conditions of transaction and the priceless singularity that always lies back of affectivity. By what theoretic or pragmatic means does his writing manage to transcend, and yet enrich, the personal experience that each reader brings to his texts? Do such methods help us to comprehend the role that Emerson has taken, and continues to take, in arbitrating cultural value in America and dictating the formation of the canon? Engaging with these questions not only opens up the possibility for a further revision of Emerson's aesthetic philosophies and an Emersonian scholarly tradition but also invites speculation as to the possible application of his thinking within a twenty-first-century context.

Chair: Daniel Katz (University of Warwick)

11.45-1.30 : Saturday 7th November

N E T W O R K S

Wolfson Research Exchange, Room 3

Tom Wright (University of Sussex): 'Ethical Networks'

Matthew Pethers (University of Nottingham): "'Dead Letters! Does it Not Sound Like Dead Networks?": Bartleby the Postman'

Graham Thompson (University of Nottingham): 'Vertical Networks, Magazine Production and Nineteenth-Century American Literary Culture'

Katie McGettigan (University of Nottingham): 'Nodes, Edges and Longfellow's Pie: Evaluating Twenty-First Century Models for Nineteenth-Century Networks'

Critical interest in the network as a model for understanding the structure and development of nineteenth-century American literature and culture has much increased over the past decade. The turn toward digital humanities within the academy itself has, moreover, fostered methodologies for applying these current tools and transformations to the past, as well as providing a fund of metaphors for re-presenting it. But what do such analogies and analyses conceal as well as reveal? What do we need to appreciate about cultural interconnectivity in nineteenth-century America in order to understand it on its own terms? As attention to nineteenth-century social networks, communications networks, and textual networks gathers pace these questions are becoming all the more urgent. In response to them, this panel will consider some of the so-far neglected or embryonic elements of 'network theory' – the moral, the administrative, the material, the transatlantic – and their potential for revising and reorienting our view of some of the nineteenth-century's key writers and cultural institutions.

Chair: Hilary Emmett (University of East Anglia)

Session Four

C R I S I S

Wolfson Research Exchange, Room 2

Bridget Bennett (University of Leeds)
'Home, Loss and the Ubiquity of Crisis'

Hannah Murray (University of Nottingham)
'Liminality as Crisis in Melville's *Pierre*'

Matthew Salway (University of Leeds)
'U.S. Literary Morality and the Crisis of Character'

Jonathan Sudholt (Brandeis University)
'Catharine Maria Sedgwick's Antidote to
Self-fulfilling Prophecies of Crisis'

This panel will consist of four 10-minute presentations on moments of crisis chosen from the researcher's own area of study. Each speaker will contribute to the group a summative 'definition' of crisis — a passage or image that they feel epitomises the way crisis operates in their work. The entire group will then discuss the tabled set of definitions, leading to a wider discussion about genealogies of crisis in nineteenth-century U.S. studies. This will be followed by a time for questions.

Chair: Myka Abramson (University of Warwick)

2.30-4.15 : Saturday 7th November

T I M E

Wolfson Research Exchange, Room 3

This panel will consist of three 10-15 minute papers and an open Q+A session.

Dara Downey (University College Dublin) will be looking at the links between Poe's 'The Raven', 'Morella', and 'Ligeia' and Edward Bellamy's *Looking Backward*, in the context of notions about 'deep' time, and how that interacts with memory and cyclical time. Ed Sugden (King's College London) will be talking about the loom of time in *Moby-Dick*, demonstrating how it directs us to the political world of the early Pacific and time perception therein, and allows us to recategorize *Moby-Dick* as a "Pacific elegy". Thomas Constantinesco (Université Paris Diderot) will be focusing on Henry James's *A Small Boy and Others* using Giorgio Agamben's 'What Is the Contemporary?', to look at the paradoxes of James's anachronistic contemporaneity with his time, and how this enables him to mingle multiple temporalities within the present of the text.

Chair: Lloyd Pratt (University of Oxford)

Teaching Nineteenth-Century American Literature in Britain

BrANCA would like to publish materials for teaching nineteenth-century American literature in Britain on its website. Teaching American literature in Britain involves particular opportunities and challenges. Students in the British education system may well encounter less American literature than textbook writers realise, especially in the wake of the government's May 2014 decision to drop American texts from the GCSE curriculum. The structure of the U.K. undergraduate curriculum is different than in the U.S., with fewer modules, fewer options, and more opportunities for a shared body of knowledge.

We solicit two-page statements of research-led teaching of nineteenth-century American texts from any level of the university curriculum (first, second, or third-year undergraduate, or postgraduate taught modules). These statements should include a brief description of the module (identified by institution, course of study, and module tutors), its rationale, its relation to other modules on the curriculum, a list of literary texts and/or key theoretical/critical readings, and description of key forms of assessment. Narratives of pedagogical strategies that worked well for these materials are welcome. Modules can be focused on nineteenth-century U.S. texts or put those texts in dialogue with literature from other periods or geographical locations. These statements should not be raw course materials but reasoned narratives of why particular texts or teaching topics/strategies expand or enliven students' literary understanding. They might, for example, explain the threshold concepts behind the module, or articulate how this teaching feeds back into emerging areas of research.

Please send a Microsoft Word document (one per module) by **11 December 2015** to **Stephanie Palmer** (stephanie.palmer@ntu.ac.uk) and **Hilary Emmett** (hilaryemmett@gmail.com). Any questions can be directed to us as well.

Campus Information

Food and drink on campus

There are cafes on the ground floors of both the Humanities building and the Library, serving tea, coffee, soft and alcoholic drinks, as well as a range of snacks, sandwiches, etc. (Note that the Humanities Café does not open on Saturdays).

For those not joining us for the symposium dinner at Scarman House, dining options include Le Gusta Oven and Bar in the Arts Centre: “Le Gusta offers customers a tempting menu of Mediterranean and Moroccan inspired dishes and pizzas baked in our front of house stone oven.” To reserve a table call 024 7652 2900. For those seeking a different kind of evening, The Dirty Duck is the Student Union pub; it offers an extensive menu as well as the full array of drinking options.

Taxis

Trinity Street Taxis are based in Coventry but also operate on campus: 02476 999 999. Alternatively, try Metro Taxis: 02476 700 700.

Buses

Buses can be caught at various stops around the main campus loop, but also from the Bus interchange located near the Arts Centre/Student Union. The 11 goes to Coventry, and the U1 goes to Leamington Spa. More information can be found at <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/about/environment/transport/buses>