



Call for Papers

C21 Global Victorians: When East meets West

Friday 15 Feb 2019, University of Warwick

The images of *Other* usually stage the national consciousness of the native/Self (C. Marez, 2015). Each society imagines the other based on its own social, political, religious and ethical tradition, spiritual paradigms, and perspectives on humanity and the world. The description of foreigners touches on the things that are most intrinsic and most fundamental to any society or culture. "A society's view of foreigners may at times be one of disinterest, or curiosity, or rapturous approval, or unjust condescension or hatred. But the reasons for this infatuation or repulsion are in themselves always enlightening." (J. Gernet 143). The problematic term "Oriental" abounds

fascinating arguments, and have already developed into an established school in post-colonial studies since the publication of Edward Said's *Orientalism* (1978). It seems that the Western images in Eastern context, however, comparatively received less scholarly attention. Therefore, while exploring the Asian images in the long 19th century art and literature, this conference also wishes to address a reversed gaze at the "exotic" Occidental *Other* to present that such intercultural exchanges between the two are in fact mutual. The Victorian style is also a major commercial inspiration in the creative industry in the 21st century. The increasingly popular Neo-Victorian trend in films and fashion arena is encouraging an examination of such "exotic" images in modern interpretation.

This event aims to create a multi-disciplinary forum where Victorianists and scholars who are interested in material cultures of the Victorian era in general to discuss different approaches to study cultural interchanges between the two sides of the globe – with a focus on East and South East Asia – within the framework of the long 19th century and its legacy in the 21st, highlighting the interconnections between the "Oriental" and the "Occidental".

Possible themes, approaches and topics might include:

- ❖ Otherness and diaspora
- ❖ Orientalism in Aestheticism
- ❖ Neo-Victorian in the Orient
- ❖ Victorian Material Cultures
- ❖ Chiniserie / Japonism
- ❖ Yellow Peril/Yellow Fever
- ❖ Gothic, steampunk, retro-metal
- ❖ Wilde / Beardsley / Decadence
- ❖ Sexuality and Gender

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- ❖ Consuming the Victorians
 - ❖ Dandyism and Fashion
 - ❖ Neo-Victorian in manga / anime / video games

We welcome expressions of interest for papers of 15-20 minutes long. Please send your abstract entitled with your name (of up to 250 words) to c21globalvictorians@gmail.com by 10th November 2018.

Keynote Speakers:

**Prof. Stefano Evangelista, University of Oxford
Prof. Regenia Gagnier, University of Exeter**

Conference Organiser:

**Dee Wu, University of Warwick d.wu@warwick.ac.uk
Conference Twitter: @GlobalC21**

Publishing opportunities:

This conference is funded by the Humanities Research Centre and the Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies. The outcome of this project will be considered for the Warwick Series in the Humanities (with Routledge) publication.

In addition, Routledge's senior editor has already contacted the organiser expressing their interest to publish an anthology of this conference's papers into a book for their new series Modern History since 1800.