

C21 Global Victorians Newsletters (Report)

OVERVIEW OF PARTICIPANTS

This conference was a success, as agreed by all of the participants, attracting many influential scholars from around the globe to present their latest research. Not only did we successfully invite Prof. Regenia Garginer (Exeter), one of the most influential academic in 19th century Victorian Studies and expert in Wildean study as well as material culture; we also had the honour to have Prof. Stefano Evangelista (Oxford), whose expertise lies in the studies of Oscar Wilde and his global reception in Eastern Europe and Japan.

Much to our thrill, we also had Prof. Hiromu Nagahara (MIT), whose new project explores the intriguing Japanese Anglophile. Other leading figures in the area of the Victorians Studies and the Far East include Prof. Ross Forman, Prof. Kristina Mahoney, Prof. Rebecca Mitchell Prof. Oleg Benesch, Prof. Ian Rapely, Prof. Alexander Bubb, Prof. Benjamin Barber and more. Apart from established scholars, many students from universities across the globe also came to this conference.

HIGHLIGHTS

We have achieved the major objectives of this conference.

Investigated the representational practices of the *Others* in both the East and the West, breaking the entrenched concept that the East played the passive role in these global encounters. Rather it is to present a more complete picture of the cultural interchanges between the two sides.

Approached Victorian Studies with a presentist optic that permits us to read Victorian texts beyond the horizon of their immediate historical context, exploring the Victorian legacy and its 21st century counterpart in the creative industry with cases from films, artifacts, musicals, etc.

Acknowledged the colonial nature of the cultural interchanges between the "Oriental" and the West, but approached it with a more co-operative scope to include more scholars not limited to post-colonial studies.



SUMMARY OF THE CONFERENCE

"It was a really excellent day. Thank you for the super organization!"

- Madeline Boden, PhD student, University of York

The conference started at 10:00, conference organiser Dee Wu from English Department (Warwick) welcomed Prof. Gagnier, who kicked off the conference with her fascinating talk on transnational political languages. The transnational cultural flows between the West and the Far East and also the flows among China, Japan, and Korea.



This was followed by two parallel panels. Panel A focused on the Victorian influences in space and objects, with four panelists exploring the Aestheticism and Decadence with material and spatial scope, featuring a cemetery in Hong Kong, the Japanese bathing house, Frederic Leighton's collections from the Middle and Far East, and 19th century Japanese painters' works exhibited in London.



Panel A Prof. Ian Rapely (Cardiff), Madeline Boden (York), Bobby Tam (Warwick), Mariko Hiyabayashi (York) chaired by Prof. Julia Kuhn (HKU)

Panel B focused on Japonism and the Japanese Anglophile, exploring the reciprocal gaze at the exotic *Other*. The three papers covered a Japanese ambassador's adventure in WWI London, Japanese delegates' fascination with the Medieval tradition present in Victorian society; and finally marginalized occidental communities in Victorian society employing Japanese iconography as a means of their artistic expression.



Panel B Prof. Hiromu Nagahara (MIT), Prof. Oleg Benesch (York) and Joseph Throne (LJM), chaired by Waiyee Loh (Warwick)

After the Lunc break, we welcomed Prof. Kristin Mahoney (MSU), Prof. Ross Forman (Warwick), and Prof. Rebecca Mitchell (Birmingham) for a very thought-provoking roudtable discussion about Aestheticism, Decadence, queer subjectivity during the early 20th century outside England, shifting our geographical focus from Japan to West Coast America and Beijing.



In the afternoon we had another two parallel panels, the image of China in Literature as Panel C and the Victorian legacy in pop culture and mediasphere as Panel D. Panel C, chaired by Prof. John Gilmore (Warwick), covered topics from chiniserie in Eliot's work, to American female missionary's adventure along the Huangpu River, to the imagery of Yellow Peril in Ezra Pound's poem *Cathy*, and to modern Chinese factory poet Xu Lizhi's inspiration from Victorian working-class poets.



Panel D Dee Wu (Warwick), Amy Mathewson (SOAS), and Prof. Alexander Bubb (Roehampton)

Panel D featured the popular editions of Chinese & Japanese literature for the Victorian general readers during 1870-192; *Punch's* caricatures of China and Chiniserie as a job at the Aesthetic movements; and finally Oscar Wilde's cultural impact in contemporary East Asian pop culture and LGBTQ+ movement.



Finally, Prof. Stefano Evangelista ended this conference with his fascinating talk about the materiality of Japanese objects and their global traffic in C19.



List of Participants

Regenia Gagnier, University of Exeter

Stefano Evangelista, University of Oxford

Anne Y. Brinton, University of Maryland University College

Alexander Bubb, Roehampton University

Amy Matthewson, SOAS, University of London

Aaron Eames, Loughborough University

Benjamin Barber, Beijing Normal University - Hong Kong Baptist University: United International College

Bobby Tam, University of Warwick

Dee Wu, University of Warwick

Di Yang, Tsinghua University

Flair Donglai Shi, University of Oxford

Hiromu Nagahara, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Ian Rapley, Cardiff University

Julia Kuehn, University of Hong Kong

Joseph Thorne, Liverpool John Moores University

John Gilmore, University of Warwick

Kristin Mahoney, Michigan State University

Madeline Boden, University of York

Mariko Hirabayashi, University of York

Oleg Benesch, University of York

Rebecca N. Mitchell, University of Birmingham

Ross G. Forman, University of Warwick

Tina Jassen, University of Warwick

Thirayut Sangangamsakun, University of Warwick

Waiyee Loh, University of Warwick

Yuting Wu, University of Warwick

Zainab Alqublan, Cardiff University



Organiser

Dee Wu, University of Warwick

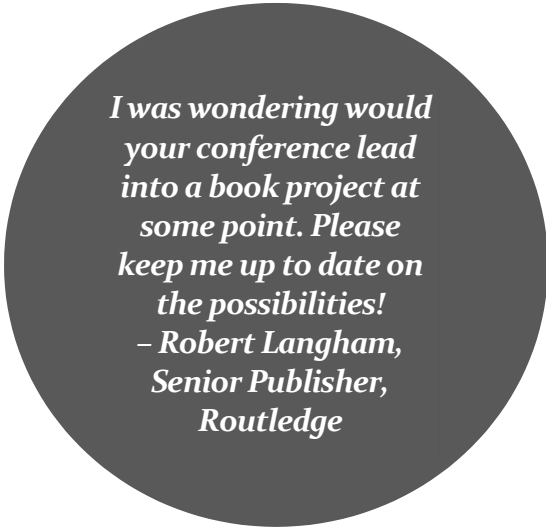
External Advisors

Flair Donglai Shi, University of Oxford

Joseph Throne, Liverpool John Moores University

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This newsletter was written and designed by Dee Wu. All images used by permission of the authors. Those appearing in photographs have given the consent.



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