

## Report for the Humanities Research Centre

Our one-day conference on ‘Print Culture and Gender in the British Empire’ took place on 5 June 2014, and was successful in firmly placing the University of Warwick on the academic map for the study of print culture. Building on a conference on ‘Locating Women in Victorian Print Culture’ in 2013, it made an intervention in ongoing conversations and debates in the field that will be expanded further in another conference scheduled for April/May 2015. The HRC Visiting Speakers’ Fund enabled us to fly in Professor Priti Joshi from the University of Puget Sound in the US.

The day started with Prof. Joshi’s keynote address, which raised questions about the circulation of print materials in India and levels of engagement with and critiques of imperialism. It raised a number of key themes to which speakers returned throughout the day. Her paper was based on her current project which focuses on a nineteenth-century English-language Indian newspaper, *The Mofussilite*, edited by an obscure Australian married to an Indian woman, John Lang. This funding covered the cost of her air ticket and some additional expenses. Prof. Joshi is an important scholar working in the field of Victorian print culture and studies of the empire, and her presence raised the profile of this event.

We formulated the conference itself to allow the space for discussion, with a single stream of panels and plenty of breaks between them. After three intense panels on ‘Gender, Print Culture and Fiction’, ‘Masculinities and Femininities across Imperial Networks’, and ‘Womanhood, Correspondence, and the Periodical Press’, the second keynote by Dr. Tanya Agathocleous from Hunter College, USA, closed the day but opened up other areas for exploration. The wine reception further allowed the speakers and other participants to consider these questions in an informal manner. We hope to take this project further with a potential publication.

The study of print culture is becoming increasingly central to Victorian Studies and to the study of imperialism, in part because it represents a vast archive that has yet to be mined by scholars. Our conference was noteworthy in bringing into conversation younger scholars with more established Victorianists who share an interest in this rich material. We are grateful to the HRC for supporting this conference and the opportunity for research, dissemination, networking and international partnerships it has provided.

Ross Forman

Tara Puri

(Conference organisers)