

SETTLER COLONIALISM IN VICTORIAN LITERATURE

How did the emigration of nineteenth-century Britons to colonies of settlement shape Victorian literature? Philip Steer uncovers productive networks of writers and texts spanning Britain, Australia, and New Zealand to argue that the novel and political economy found common colonial ground over questions of British identity. Each chapter highlights the conceptual challenges to the nature of “Britishness” posed by colonial events, from the gold rushes to invasion scares, and traces the literary aftershocks in familiar genres such as the bildungsroman and the utopia. Alongside lesser-known colonial writers such as Catherine Spence and Julius Vogel, British novelists from Dickens to Trollope are also put in a new light by this fresh approach that places Victorian studies in colonial perspective. Bringing together literary formalism and British world history, *Settler Colonialism in Victorian Literature* describes how what it meant to be “British” was reimagined in an increasingly globalized world.

PHILIP STEER is Senior Lecturer in English at Massey University. He is co-editor with Nathan K. Hensley of *Ecological Form: System and Aesthetics in the Age of Empire* (Fordham University Press, 2018), and his essays have appeared in *Victorian Studies* and *Victorian Literature and Culture*, as well as in *Modernism, Postcolonialism, and Globalism* (Oxford University Press, 2018) and *A History of New Zealand Literature* (Cambridge University Press, 2016). He completed his doctorate at Duke University after being awarded a Fulbright Scholarship. He is also the recipient of a Marsden Fund Fast-Start Grant from the Royal Society of New Zealand.

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Nineteenth-century British literature and culture have been rich fields for interdisciplinary studies. Since the turn of the twentieth century, scholars and critics have tracked the intersections and tensions between Victorian literature and the visual arts, politics, social organization, economic life, technical innovations, scientific thought – in short, culture in its broadest sense. In recent years, theoretical challenges and historiographical shifts have unsettled the assumptions of previous scholarly synthesis and called into question the terms of older debates. Whereas the tendency in much past literary critical interpretation was to use the metaphor of culture as “background,” feminist, Foucauldian, and other analyses have employed more dynamic models that raise questions of power and of circulation. Such developments have reanimated the field. This series aims to accommodate and promote the most interesting work being undertaken on the frontiers of the field of nineteenth-century literary studies: work that intersects fruitfully with other fields of study such as history, or literary theory, or the history of science. Comparative as well as interdisciplinary approaches are welcomed.

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SETTLER COLONIALISM IN VICTORIAN LITERATURE

*Economics and Political Identity in
the Networks of Empire*

PHILIP STEER

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*For Sarah
and Esther
and Silas
and Joseph
and Amos*

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