

NINETEENTH-CENTURY LITERATURE IN TRANSITION: THE 1890s

The 1890s were once seen as marginal within the larger field of Victorian studies, which tended to privilege the realist novel and the authors of the mid-century. In recent decades, the *fin de siècle* has come to be regarded as one of the most dynamic decades of the Victorian era. Viewed by writers and artists of the period as a moment of opportunity, transition, and urgency, the 1890s are pivotal for understanding the parameters of the field of Victorian studies itself. This volume makes a case for why the decade continues to be an area of perennial fascination, focusing on transnational connections, gender and sexuality, ecological concerns, technological innovations, and other current critical trends. This collection both calls attention to the diverse range of literature and art being produced during this period and foregrounds the relevance of the Victorian era's final years to issues and crises that face us today.

DUSTIN FRIEDMAN is an associate professor in the Department of Literature at American University. He is the author of *Before Queer Theory: Victorian Aestheticism and the Self* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2019). His other writings have appeared in the journals *Victorian Literature and Culture*, *Modernism/modernity*, *Victorian Studies*, *Feminist Modernist Studies*, *Journal of Modern Literature*, *ELH*, and elsewhere.

KRISTIN MAHONEY is an associate professor in the Department of English at Michigan State University. She is the author of *Literature and the Politics of Post-Victorian Decadence* (Cambridge University Press, 2015) and *Queer Kinship after Wilde: Transnational Decadence and the Family* (Cambridge University Press, 2022). Along with Kate Hext and Alex Murray, she edits the journal *Cusp: Late 19th-/Early 20th-Century Cultures*.

NINETEENTH-CENTURY LITERATURE IN TRANSITION

General Editors:

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This series aims to move beyond existing preconceptions of the British literature of each decade of the nineteenth century ('the reforming thirties', the 'hungry forties', and the 'naughty nineties') in favour of a mode of characterization that considers each ten-year period as a dynamic field of synchronic and diachronic forces, and as sites of energetic tension between what came before and what followed. Viewing the decade as a vivid and relational concept will reinvigorate critical understanding of British literary production and consumption in a century in which unprecedented historical self-reflexivity ensured concepts of a 'century' and a 'decade' became important structures for lived experience.

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This series represents a unique and innovative approach to the nineteenth century. It acknowledges the enormity of the changes witnessed by that period, and investigates the ways in which literature colludes with and contests the century's shifting contours.

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LITERATURE IN
TRANSITION: THE 1890s

EDITED BY
DUSTIN FRIEDMAN
American University
KRISTIN MAHONEY
Michigan State University



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Contributors

ADAM ALSTON is Senior Lecturer in Modern and Contemporary Theatre at Goldsmiths, University of London. He is the author of *Beyond Immersive Theatre: Aesthetics, Politics and Productive Participation* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016), coeditor of *Theatre in the Dark: Shadow, Gloom and Blackout in Contemporary Theatre* (Bloomsbury, 2017), and coeditor of a special issue of *Volupté: Interdisciplinary Journal of Decadence Studies* on “Decadence and Performance” (Winter 2021). He runs the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)-funded Staging Decadence project (www.stagingdecadence.com), and is currently working on a new monograph: *Staging Decadence: Theatre, Performance and the End(s) of Capitalism* (Bloomsbury, 2023).

ZARENA ASLAMI is Associate Professor in the Department of English at Michigan State University. She is the author of *The Dream Life of Citizens: Late Victorian Novels and the Fantasy of the State* (Fordham University Press, 2012). Her current book project, *Sovereign Anxieties: Victorian Afghanistan and the Literatures of Empire*, gathers an imperial archive of Victorian representations of Afghanistan and pays particular attention to how the British imagined Afghan political authority.

SUKANYA BANERJEE is Associate Professor of English at the University of California, Berkeley. She is the author of *Becoming Imperial Citizens: Indians in the Late-Victorian Empire* (Duke University Press, 2010), which was awarded the Northeast Victorian Studies Association (NVSA) Sonya Rudikoff Prize (2012). She is an editor of *New Routes in Diaspora Studies* (Indiana University Press, 2012), and her essays and articles have appeared in journals such as *Victorian Studies*, *Victorian Literature and Culture*, and *Nineteenth-Century Literature*. She is currently working on a book on the relation between loyalty and modernity in nineteenth-century Britain and its empire.

DENNIS DENISOFF is the McFarlin Chair of Victorian Literature and Culture at the University of Tulsa. In 2022, he was a Distinguished Visiting Research Fellow at Queen Mary – University of London. Recent publications include *Decadent Ecology in British Literature and Art, 1860–1910: Decay, Desire, and the Pagan Revival* (Cambridge University Press, 2022), *Arthur Machen: Decadent and Occult Works* (MHRA, 2018), and he has guest-edited issues on “Global Decadence” for the journal *Feminist Modernist Studies* (2021) and “Scales of Decadence” for the journal *Victorian Literature and Culture* (2021).

STEFANO EVANGELISTA is Professor of English and a Fellow of Trinity College, Oxford. He works on nineteenth-century English and comparative literature and is especially interested in aestheticism and decadence, the reception of the classics, gender, and the relationship between literary and visual cultures. He is the author of *British Aestheticism and Ancient Greece: Hellenism, Reception, Gods in Exile* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009) and *Literary Cosmopolitanism in the English Fin de Siècle: Citizens of Nowhere* (Oxford, 2021).

EMILY HARRINGTON is Associate Professor of English at the University of Colorado, Boulder. She is the author of *Second Person Singular: Late Victorian Women Poets and the Bonds of Verse* (University of Virginia Press, 2014). Her essays on various Victorian poets have appeared in the journals *Victorian Studies*, *Victorian Poetry*, *Nineteenth-Century Literature*, and *Victorian Literature and Culture*. She is currently working on a book project entitled *Ripe Time Pending: Waiting in Victorian Poetry*.

LORRAINE JANZEN KOOISTRA is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and Emerita Professor of English at Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU). A Senior Research Fellow at TMU’s Centre for Digital Humanities, her research interests include Victorian illustration studies, little magazines, digital humanities, and digital editing.

SIMON JOYCE is the Sara and Jess Cloud Professor of English at William and Mary (Virginia, USA). He is the author of *Capital Offenses: The Geography of Class and Crime in Victorian London* (University of Virginia Press, 2003), *The Victorians in the Rearview Mirror* (Ohio University Press, 2007), *Modernism and Naturalism in British and Irish Fiction, 1880–1930* (Cambridge University Press, 2014), and, most recently, *LGBT Victorians: Sexuality and Gender in the Nineteenth-Century Archives* (Oxford University Press, 2022).

List of Contributors

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SEBASTIAN LECOURT is an associate professor in the Department of English at the University of Houston. His research focuses on Victorian literature and questions of secularization, colonialism, and comparativism. He is the author of *Cultivating Belief: Victorian Anthropology, Liberal Aesthetics, and the Secular Imagination* (Oxford University Press, 2018), and his essays have appeared in the journals *PMLA*, *Representations*, *Victorian Studies*, *ELH*, and *Victorian Literature and Culture*. He is currently working on a book entitled *The Genres of Comparative Religion, 1783–1927*.

DIANA MALTZ is Professor of English at Southern Oregon University. She is the author of *British Aestheticism and the Urban Working Classes, 1870–1900: Beauty for the People* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2006) and the editor of *Critical Essays on Arthur Morrison and the East End* (Routledge, 2022). She has also produced critical editions of Arthur Morrison's *A Child of the Jago* (Broadview, 2013) and W. Somerset Maugham's *Liza of Lambeth* (Broadview, 2022). She is presently completing a monograph on socialist-feminist writers associated with the utopian Fellowship of the New Life. She is Past President of the Victorian Interdisciplinary Studies Association of the Western United States.

ELIZABETH CAROLYN MILLER is Professor of English and Environmental Humanities at the University of California, Davis, and the author of *Extraction Ecologies and the Literature of the Long Exhaustion* (Princeton, 2021), which was recently awarded Honorable Mention for the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment book prize. Her previous books are *Slow Print: Literary Radicalism and Late Victorian Print Culture* (Stanford, 2013), which was named Best Book of the Year by the North American Victorian Studies Association and received Honorable Mention for the Modernist Studies Association book prize, and *Framed: The New Woman Criminal in British Culture at the Fin de Siècle* (Michigan, 2008).

REBECCA N. MITCHELL is Professor of Victorian Literature and Culture at the University of Birmingham and has published widely on Oscar Wilde, Victorian fashion, print culture, realism, and George Meredith. Her books include *Victorian Lessons in Empathy and Difference* (Ohio State University Press, 2011), *Fashioning the Victorians* (Bloomsbury, 2018), and, with Joseph Bristow, *Oscar Wilde's Chatterton: Literary History, Romanticism, and the Art of Forgery* (Yale University Press, 2015).

ALEX MURRAY is Reader in Modern Literature at Queen's University Belfast. His fourth monograph, *Decadent Conservatism: Aesthetics, Politics, and the Past*, will be published by Oxford University Press in 2023. He is currently coediting *The Oxford Handbook of Oscar Wilde* and is a founding editor of the journal *Cusp: Late 19th-/Early 20th-Century Cultures*, published by Johns Hopkins University Press.

ANNE STILES is Professor of English and Coordinator of Medical Humanities at Saint Louis University. She is the author of *Children's Literature and the Rise of "Mind Cure": Positive Thinking and Pseudo-Science at the Fin de Siècle* (Cambridge University Press, 2020) and *Popular Fiction and Brain Science in the Late Nineteenth Century* (Cambridge University Press, 2012). She has held long-term grants from the Institute for Research in the Humanities at the University of Wisconsin, Madison (AY 2016–20), the Huntington Library (AY 2009–10), and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AY 2006–07).

ANA PAREJO VADILLO is Assistant Dean at the School of Arts, Birkbeck, University of London. She is the General Editor of the journal *19: Interdisciplinary Studies in the Nineteenth Century*. She has published widely on decadence, cosmopolitanism, poetry, and the arts. Her books include *Women Poets and Urban Aestheticism: Passengers of Modernity* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2005), *Michael Field, The Poet: Published and Unpublished Materials* (Broadview Press, 2009) and *Victorian Literature* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011). Her most recent book is *Michael Field, Decadent Moderns* (Ohio University Press, 2019). She is currently writing a monograph entitled *Poetry in Polygamy* for Oxford University Press. She is also preparing a collection of essays on Michael Field's poetic dramas.

LINDSAY WILHELM is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English at Oklahoma State University. Her research interests include late nineteenth-century literature and science, aestheticism and decadence, and the global nineteenth century. She has published articles on these and related topics in the journals *Victorian Studies*, *Victorian Literature and Culture*, and *Nineteenth-Century Literature*, and she is currently working on a book project on the intersections of British aestheticism and post-Darwinian science.

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