Ph.D. Program Highlights

Six faculty members working in Romanticism and Victorian Studies: **Tracy Davis**, **Christopher Herbert**, **Christopher Lane**, **Jules Law**, **Vivasvan Soni**, and **Tristram Wolff**.

Excellent field coverage in 19th-century literature and culture, with particular strengths in the novel and drama, cultural and intellectual history, gender and sexuality, colonialism and imperialism, psychoanalysis, religion, and Dickens

Strong links to modernist and 18th-century faculty.

Interdisciplinary study with Northwestern 19th-century specialists in Anthropology (**Matthew Johnson**), Art History (**S. Hollis Clayson**, **Stephen Eisenman**), German (**Peter Fenves**, **Samuel Weber**), History (**Deborah Cohen**), Philosophy (**Mark Alznauer**), and Religious Studies (**Christine Helmer**), as well as faculty in cognate fields such as American Studies, Critical Theory, Gender Studies, Performance Studies, and Science in Human Culture.

Our students have secured fellowships, seminar enrollment, and funding for research travel to major archives in the U.S. and Britain, including the Huntington and British Libraries.

Colloquia and speaker series, including the British Studies Cluster and the Long Nineteenth-Century Colloquium, co-sponsored by Northwestern's Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, with affiliations to Art History, English, History, and Theatre.

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Studies in 19th-Century British Literature and Culture at Northwestern University

Faculty

Tracy C. Davis, Barber Professor of Performing Arts and Professor of Theatre and English, specializes in 19th-century British theatre history, gender and theatre, and performance theory. She regularly teaches courses on 19th-century culture, theatre history, and historiography. Her current work is on mid-19th-century liberalism. Her books and edited collections include *Uncle Tom's Cabins: the Transnational History of America's Most Mutable Book* (2018); the 6-volume *The Cultural History of Theatre* (2017); *The Broadview Anthology of Nineteenth-Century British Performance* (2012); *The Performing Century: Nineteenth-Century Theatre's History* (2007); *Theatricality* (2003); *The Economics of the British Stage, 1800-1914* (2000);); *Playwriting and Nineteenth-Century British Women* (1999);); *George Bernard Shaw and the Socialist Theatre* (1994); and *Actresses as Working Women: Their Social Identity in Victorian Culture* (1991).

Christopher Herbert*, Professor of English, specializes in the Victorian novel and in 19th-century cultural and intellectual history, with a particular interest in science studies (and a taste for offbeat literary materials). His published books include *Trollope and Comic Pleasure* (1987), *Culture and Anomie: Ethnographic Imagination in the Nineteenth Century* (1991), *Victorian Relativity: Radical Thought and Scientific Discovery* (2001), and *War of No Pity: The Indian Mutiny and Victorian Trauma* (2008). Currently he is studying 19th-century literary repercussions of Evangelicalism. His most recent graduate seminar offerings include "Varieties of Victorian Religious Experience," "Dickens and Mayhew," and "Victorian Novel and Society."

*Professor Emeritus as of 2020-21

Christopher Lane, Professor of English, teaches and writes about Victorian literature and culture, with a particular focus on 19th-century psychology, psychiatry, and intellectual history. His books include *The Ruling Passion* (1995), *The Burdens of Intimacy* (1999), *Hatred and Civility: The Antisocial Life in Victorian England* (2004), and *Shyness: How Normal Behavior Became a Sickness* (2007). His latest books are *The Age of Doubt: Tracing the Roots of Our Religious Uncertainty* (Yale, 2011) and *Surge of Piety* (Yale, 2016). His recent graduate seminars include "George Eliot: Fiction, Ethics, and the Riddle of Fellow-Feeling," "Hatred and Dissent in 19th-century British Literature," "Introduction to Graduate Studies," and "Psychoanalytic Theory and the Art of Interpretation."

Jules Law is Professor of English and Comparative Literature. His essays on various literary and theoretical topics have appeared in *PMLA, Critical Inquiry, SIGNS, NLH, Victorian Studies*, and other journals. He is the author of *The Rhetoric of Empiricism* (1993) and *The Social Life of Fluids: Blood, Milk, and Water in the Victorian Novel* (2010). Portions of his current book project, *Being There: Technologies of Immediation in the Nineteenth-Century Novel*, have appeared recently in *ELH*, *Novel*, and *Nineteenth-Century Literature*. Recent graduate seminar offerings include "Virtuality in the Nineteenth Century Novel," "Victorian Fluids," and "Triangles and Mirrors: Identity in the Victorian Novel."

Vivasvan Soni, Associate Professor of English, studies Romanticism and 18th-century British literature. His book, *Mourning Happiness: Narrative and the Politics of Modernity*, won the MLA prize for a first book in 2010. He has published essays on Wordsworth and Jane Austen, and is currently working on a project on judgment and aesthetics in the long 18th-century. He teaches classes on aesthetic theory, the rise of the novel, theories of tragedy, utopian theory and the politics of Romanticism.

Tristram Wolff, Assistant Professor of English, writes and teaches on 18th- and 19th-century British literature, comparative and transatlantic Romanticisms, critical theory, and the environmental humanities. His current book project, *Frail Bonds: Romantic Etymology and Language Ecology,* gives an account of the poetry and politics of romanticism's "roots." He has published essays on Herder, Thoreau, Keats, and romanticism's "inorganic" poetics. A newer book project aims to show how Romantic-era writing on the passions has shaped contemporary debates about affect and critical reading. He has taught classes on comedy and gender, poetry and geology, and representations of resource extraction in fiction and film.

19th-Century British Literature and Culture

With six faculty specialists in Victorian and Romantic literature, Northwestern's English department offers superb graduate training in the full range of genres, topics, methods, and approaches in 19th-century British literature and culture. In addition to a highly visible and productive faculty, the program features a wide range of interdisciplinary opportunities in a variety of related departments and programs at Northwestern, including a graduate cluster in British Studies, a good record of job placement, a lively colloquium on the Long Nineteenth Century, and more.

Job Placement

Specialists in 19th-century British literature have recently secured tenure track positions at Sewanee: The University of the South and Wheaton College in Massachusetts. Other graduates of our program have accepted tenure track positions at numerous universities and colleges, including Yale University, SUNY Albany, Temple, University of Washington in Seattle, Washington University in St Louis, UNC Chapel Hill, University of Pittsburgh, and Cornell University.

Our students have also been awarded post-doctoral positions with Emory University, the Michigan Society of Fellows, the University of Pennsylvania, the Public Theater in New York, Oxford University, the Stanford University Humanities Center, and UCLA.

Publications

During their time in our program, Northwestern students have placed articles on Victorian and Romantic topics in such major journals as *ELH*, *Novel*, *Mosaic*, *Victorian Literature and Culture*, *English Literature in Transition*, *ELN*, *Nineteenth Century Theatre and Film,* and *Intertexts*.