BARS 2017
ROMANTIC IMPROVEMENT
27TH – 30TH JULY 2017
KING’S MANOR,
UNIVERSITY OF YORK

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME
## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

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<tr>
<th>THU 27 JULY</th>
<th>FRI 28 JULY</th>
<th>SAT 29 JULY</th>
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</table>
| **9am – 2pm**  
**Registration**  
King’s Manor | **9:30am – 11am**  
**Parallel Panels D**  
King’s Manor | **9:30am – 11am**  
**Parallel Panels G**  
King’s Manor | **9:30am – 11am**  
**Parallel Panels H**  
King’s Manor |
| **11am – 11:15am**  
**Welcome**  
Bootham School | **11am – 11:30am**  
**Tea / Coffee**  
King’s Manor | **11am – 11:30am**  
**Tea / Coffee**  
King’s Manor | **11am – 11:30am**  
**Tea / Coffee**  
King’s Manor |
| **11:15am – 12:30pm**  
**Plenary 1: Catherine Hall**  
Bootham School | **11:45am – 1pm**  
**Plenary 2: Jane Rendall**  
Bootham School | **11:45am – 1pm**  
**Plenary 3: Nigel Leask**  
Bootham School | **11:30am – 1pm**  
**Parallel Panels I**  
King’s Manor |
| **12:30pm – 1:30pm**  
**Lunch**  
De Grey Rooms | **1pm – 1:45pm**  
**Lunch**  
De Grey Rooms | **1pm – 1:45pm**  
**Brown Bag Lunch**  
King’s Manor | **1pm – 2pm**  
**Lunch**  
King’s Manor |
| **1:30pm – 3pm**  
**Parallel Panels A**  
King’s Manor | **1:45pm – 2:45pm**  
**BARS AGM**  
K/133 | | **Short walk to Bootham** |
| **3pm – 3:30pm**  
**Tea / Coffee**  
King’s Manor | **2:45pm – 4:15pm**  
**Parallel Panels E**  
King’s Manor | |  |
| **3:30pm – 5pm**  
**Parallel Panels B**  
King’s Manor | **4:15pm – 4:45pm**  
**Tea / Coffee**  
King’s Manor | **1:45pm – 6pm**  
**Excursions**  
Castle Howard  
Fairfax House  
Walking tour of York | **Short walk to Bootham** |
| **5pm – 5:10pm**  
**Comfort Break** | | **5:10pm – 6:15pm**  
**Parallel Panels F**  
King’s Manor | |
| **6:40pm – 9pm**  
**Wine Reception**  
King’s Manor | | **7pm**  
**Postgraduate Social**  
Walmgate Ale House | **7:30pm – 11:30pm**  
**Conference Banquet**  
Merchant Adventurers’ Hall |

**Excursions**
- **Castle Howard**
- **Fairfax House**
- Walking tour of York
– THURSDAY 27TH JULY –

Registration
9am – 2pm, King’s Manor K/123 (Huntingdon Room anteroom)

_The registration desk will remain open for enquiries and day registrations throughout the conference._

Welcome
11am – 11:15am, Bootham School

PLENARY 1
11:15am – 12:30pm, Bootham School

Catherine Hall (University College London)
‘The Taste for Improvement: Colonial Jamaica in the Late Eighteenth Century’

Chair: Joanna de Groot (University of York)

Lunch
12:30pm – 1:30pm, De Grey Rooms

PARALLEL PANELS SESSION A
1:30pm – 3pm, various rooms in King’s Manor

**A1: Improvement in Austen’s Novels I**
Room: K/133
Convenors: Ivan Ortiz (University of San Diego) & Emily Rohrbach (University of Manchester)
Chair: Ivan Ortiz

Joe Morrissey (Coventry University)  
‘Needlework in _Mansfield Park_: Narrative Style and Domestic Improvement’

Emma Clery (University of Southampton)  
“The state of alteration, perhaps of improvement”: Jane Austen’s England after the war”

Rita J. Dashwood (University of Warwick)  
‘Creators of Spaces: Single Women and Decoration in Jane Austen’s _Sense and Sensibility_’
## A2: Mines, Mills, and Mountains: Productive Landscapes in Romantic-era Tours of Scotland and Wales
Room: K/159
Chair: Nigel Leask (University of Glasgow)

Kirsty McHugh (University of Wales)  
“A wild and solitary spot”: The Marshalls, the Wordsworths and home tourism

Alex Deans (University of Glasgow)  
“A Botanist would surely make some discoveries in this place, which abounds with shady dens”: soft landscapes and local knowledge in the Highland tour

Mary-Ann Constantine (University of Wales)  
“Baneful influence” & “mineral favours”: metal, slate and coal mining in Romantic-era Welsh tours

## A3: Wordsworth, Coleridge, and the Environment
Room: K/122
Chair: Tess Somervell (University of Leeds)

Jacob Lloyd (University of Oxford)  
“Reflections such as meliorate the heart”: Nature as Morally Improving in Cowper and Coleridge

Carl McKeating (University of Leeds)  
‘Coleridge, Napoleon and Mont Blanc – A Search for Political, Physical and Emotional Improvement’

Alexandra Hankinson (University of Sydney)  
‘A Darwinian Flight: Coleridge and the Transition from Vegetable to Insect Life’

Matthew Ward (University of Birmingham)  
‘Sound Improvements: Wordsworth’s Listening to the Environment’

## A4: Labouring-Class Poetry
Room: K/111
Chair: Tim Fulford (De Montfort University)

Bridget Keegan (Creighton University)  
‘The poet as bookseller: labouring-class poets in the print trade’

Steve Van-Hagen (Coventry University)  
‘James Woodhouse’s The Life and Lucubrations of Crispinus Scriblerus and the Im/Possibility of Improvement’

Josefina Tuominen-Pope (University of Zürich)  
‘John Clare, Education, and the Improvement of Genius’

Christy Edwall (University of Oxford)  
‘Clare's Improvements’
A5: Improving the Colonial Mind: Literary Culture in Colonial Australia, South Africa and the Straits Settlements
Room: K/G33
Convenor: Porscha Fermanis (University College Dublin)
Chair: Honor Rieley (University of Oxford)

Sarah Comyn (University College Dublin) ‘The Diffusion of Useful Knowledge in the Colonies: Victorian Mechanics’ Institutes, 1854-1870’

Nathan Garvey (University College Dublin) ‘Judicious Improvement: Literary Patronage, Philanthropy, and the Legal Fraternity in Colonial New South Wales’

Porscha Fermanis (University College Dublin) ‘The Pleasures of the Text: Improvement and Literary Appreciation in Colonial Singapore, 1820-1860’

Lara Atkin (University College Dublin) ‘No longer a disunited, wavering and temporary assemblage of adventurers: Settler Newspaper Poetry and the Making of Colonial Identity in 1820s South Africa’

A6: Illustrated Books
Room: K/G07
Chair: Anthony Mandal (Cardiff University)

Maximiliaan van Woudenberg (Sheridan Institute of Technology) ‘Improving the Romantic Text? The Visual Afterlives of Romantic Works in Victorian Illustrated Books’

Helen Stark (Queen Mary University of London) ‘An Illustrated Afterlife: William Godwin’s Essay on Sepulchres’

Naomi Billingsley (University of Manchester) ‘The ambition of the Macklin Bible (1800)’

Rachael King (University of California, Santa Barbara) ‘No idea of improvement’: Landscape Gardening in Manuscript and Print’

A7: Mediating the French Revolution
Room: K/157
Convenor: Koenraad Claes (Ghent University)
Chair: Ian Haywood (University of Roehampton)

Koenraad Claes (Ghent University) ‘A Reassuring Picture’?: The French Revolution in the Lady’s Magazine and the Lady’s Monthly Museum’

Tielke Uvin (Ghent University) ‘More(‘s) Watts: Watts’s Divine Songs (1715) as a Cheap Repository Tract (1795)’

Jasper Schelstraete (Ghent University) ‘The Bullion Report in the Edinburgh and Quarterly Review’
**A8: Imagining the City**  
Room K/155  
Convenor: Alison O’Byrne (University of York)  
Chair: Catriona Kennedy (University of York)  

Alison O’Byrne (University of York)  
‘Cities of Culture and Commerce’  

Maria Kalinowska (University of Warsaw)  
‘The Great Cities of East and West Europe in the Eyes of Polish Romantics’  

Jennifer Orr (Newcastle University)  
‘Enlightened Ulster, Romantic Ulster: Print Journals in Early Union-Era Belfast’  

**Tea / Coffee**  
3pm – 3:30pm, King’s Manor  

**PARALLEL PANELS SESSION B**  
3:30pm – 5pm, various rooms in King’s Manor  

**B1: Improvement in Austen’s Novels II**  
Room: K/133  
Convenors: Ivan Ortiz (University of San Diego) & Emily Rohrbach (University of Manchester)  
Chair: Rita Dashwood (University of Warwick)  

Mark Canuel (University of Illinois at Chicago)  
‘The Quandaries of Pleasure in *Emma*’  

Emily Rohrbach (University of Manchester)  
‘Ideas of Improvement and the Counterfactual Imagination in *Emma*’  

Andrew McInnes (Edge Hill University)  
‘How to Teach Girls to Resist Being Taught a Lesson: Countering Improvement in *Emma* and *Clueless*’  

Ivan Ortiz (University of San Diego)  
‘Selfies with Emma: Jane Austen’s Social Media’  

**B2: Global Burneys I**  
Room: K/159  
Chair: Francesca Saggini (University of Tuscia)  

Ruth Scobie (University of Sheffield)  
‘“And Jemm to Otahieta”: The Burney family in the South Pacific’  

Dan Waterfield (University of Cambridge)  
‘“A fixed and most prejudiced hatred of whatever is not English.” Captain Mirvan, Madame Duval, and the limits of Britishness in Frances Burney’s *Evelina*’
**B3: Cultures of Improvement in Scottish Romanticism**  
Room: K/122  
Chair: Nigel Leask (University of Glasgow)

- Alex Benchimol (University of Glasgow): ‘Scottish Constitutional Improvement and the National Public Sphere: Discourses of Reform in the *Caledonian Mercury*, 1782-83’
- Gerard Lee McKeever (University of Glasgow): ‘“The great moral object”: Dramatic Improvement in Joanna Baillie’s *Plays on the Passions*’
- Michael Morris (Liverpool John Moores University): ‘The “Problem of Slavery” in the Age of Improvement: Robert Owen, New Lanark and the Cotton Connections’

**B4: Wordsworth, Coleridge, and the 1790s**  
Room: K/111  
Chair: Matthew Ward (University of Birmingham)

- Angus Ledingham (Yale University): ‘Tragic Utopianism in Wordsworth’s *Borderers*’
- Sharon Tai (Durham University): ‘“by brief wrong / Making Truth lovely”: Progress from “Religious Musings” to *Christabel*’
- Christopher Stokes (University of Exeter): ‘Unquiet prayers: Disquieting Unitarianism in Coleridge’s Poetry’

**B5: Biography and Life-Writing**  
Room: K/G33  
Chair: Emma Major (University of York)

- Nick Mason (Brigham Young University): ‘Moral Improvement, Textual Desecration, and Repurposing the Spiritual Diary of Wordsworth’s Niece in Pioneer-Era Utah’
- Alexis Wolf (Birkbeck, University of London): ‘Forms of improvement: reading the “Original journals of ‘Kitty’ Wilmot”’
- Sarah Faulkner (University of Washington): ‘Printed Personas: Improving Romantic Women Writers’
- Susan Civale (Canterbury Christ Church University): ‘The “Form” of Improvement in Mary Hays’s *Female Biography* (1803)’
**B6: Reading Architectural Improvements in Romantic Britain**
Room: K/G07  
Convenor: Dale Townshend (Manchester Metropolitan University)  
Chair: Jim Watt (University of York)

- Peter Lindfield (University of Stirling)  
  ‘Romantic Improvement: The Extension, Elaboration and Gothicisation of Eaton Hall, Cheshire’
- Amy Frost (Beckford’s Tower Archives and Library)  
- Dale Townshend (Manchester Metropolitan University)  
  ‘Architectural Improvement and Romantic-Era Literature, 1790–1820’

**B7: Manufacturing, Commerce, and Economic Improvement**
Room: K/157  
Chair: Simon Kövesi (Oxford Brookes University)

- Patrick Vincent (University of Neuchâtel)  
  ‘Common Sense and Ale: Cobbett, Clare and the 1830 Beer Act’
- Paul Stephens (University of Oxford)  
  ‘Coleridge and the Ethics of Indebtedness’

**B8: Literary Circles, Useful Knowledge and Networks of Improvement**
Room: K/155  
Convenor: Carmen Casaliggi (Cardiff Metropolitan University)  
Chair: Emily Bowles (University of York)

- Carmen Casaliggi (Cardiff Metropolitan University)  
  Networks of Improvement and transnational Sociability in ‘the House of All Europe’
- Susan Matthews (University of Roehampton)  
  ‘“Useful Knowledge Gossip” and the “Spirit of Improvement”: Arthur Malkin’s Gallery of Portraits’
- Kyle Grimes (University of Alabama at Birmingham)  
  ‘From Division to Debate: Percy Shelley, William Hone, and the Ideological Function of Literary Circles’

**Comfort Break**  
5pm – 5:15pm, King’s Manor
PARALLEL PANELS SESSION C
5:15pm – 6:45pm, various rooms in King’s Manor

C1: The Dialectic of Improvement
Room: K/133
Convenor: Anthony Jarrells (University of South Carolina)
Chair: Jon Mee (University of York)

Christina Lupton (University of Warwick) ‘Time for Improvement’
Anthony Jarrells (University of South Carolina) ‘The Value of Improvement’
Alexander Dick (University of British Colombia) ‘Ideas of Improvement’

C2: Global Burneys II
Room: K/159
Chair: Francesca Saggini (University of Tuscia)

Stephen Ace Willier (Temple University) ‘The Burneys, Pacchierotti, and the Gordon Riots of 1780’
Barbara Witucki (Utica College) ‘Madame Frances Burney d’Arblay in France: Two Perspectives’
Eugenia Zuroski (McMaster University) ‘“Amphibious Females”: Cosmopolitan Changeability in the Novels of Frances Burney’

C3: The Mechanic, the Labourer, the Peasant: Literature & the Improvement of the Labouring Classes
Room: K/122
Convenor: Simon Kövesi (Oxford Brookes University)
Chair: Steve Van-Hagen (Coventry University)

Simon Kövesi (Oxford Brookes University) ‘The illumination of the peasant mind”: what to do with the Romantic peasant?’
John Gardner (Anglia Ruskin University) ‘Conundrums of the Workshops, 1823’
Meiko O’Halloran (Newcastle University) ‘Labouring in Other Worlds: The Ettrick Shepherd and the Epic’
David Stewart (Northumbria University) ‘Allan Cunningham between the Fine and the Coarse Arts’
Thursday 27th July

**C4: Improving Books**
Room: K/111
Chair: Alex Watson (Nagoya University)

Casie LeGette (University of Georgia)  
‘Pruning Poems: Quotation, Co-operation, and Improved Romanticism’

Francesca Kavanagh (University of Melbourne)  
‘Spoiling the Book: Annotation and Appropriation as Improvement’

Beatrice Turner (University of Roehampton)  
‘[W]e translate words into things, and books into men’: Biography, relational feeling, and the limits of poetry in Hazlitt’s criticism'

**C5: Animal and Human Bodies**
Room: K/G33
Chair: Ruth Scobie (University of Sheffield)

Richard De Ritter (University of Leeds)  
‘Exhibiting “the Various Wonders of our Globe”: Improvement and Bemusement in the Leverian Museum’

Kerry Sinanan (National University of Ireland, Galway)  
‘Improving Plantations? Representations of Breastfeeding and Maternity in Slavery’

Julia Carlson (University of Cincinnati)  
‘Sensory Improvement: Tactile Maps and Blind Travelers’

**C6: The (twenty-first-century) Lives of Hester Thrale Piozzi: Recovery, Form, Improvement**
Room: K/G07
Convenor: Elizabeth Edwards (University of Wales)
Chair: Cassie Ulph (Bishop Grosseteste University)

Elizabeth Edwards (University of Wales)  
‘Mixing Misery … with Magnificence: Hester Piozzi’s home tourism’

Emily Friedman (Auburn University)  
‘Piozzi Among the Unpublished: Contextualizing “Una and Duessa” as manuscript fiction’

Mascha Hansen (University of Greifswald)  
‘Improving the Manuscript of “To the Ladies”: H.L. Piozzi’s Struggles with the Voice of Authority’
C7: Fiction, Improvement, and Empire
Room: K/157
Chair: Jim Watt (University of York)

Daniel Roberts (Queen’s University Belfast)  ‘From the Ruins of Empire: Improvement and Decay in Charles Johnston’s *The History of Arsaces* (1774)’

Dana Van Kooy (Michigan Technological University)  ‘The Diminishing Returns of Modern Improvements: Sanctioning Slavery and Depreciating Nature in the New World’

Christopher Ewers  ‘Thomas Love Peacock and Headlong Hall’

C8: Improving Performances
Room: K/155
Convenor: James Grande (King’s College London)
Chair: David Fallon (University of Roehampton)

Jonathan Hicks (Newcastle University)  ‘The Resounding Fame of Fingal’s Cave’

Oskar Cox Jensen (Queen Mary University of London)  ‘Of Sight and Sound, or, Realising The Enraged Musician’

James Grande (King’s College London)  ‘Radical Haydn: Improving Music in the 1790s’

Wine Reception
6:45pm – 9pm, King’s Manor K/123 (Huntingdon Room anteroom)

Le Strange & Maxim: Lyrical (Power) Ballads

BARS Book Prize 2017 (Chair: Nigel Leask)

Shortlist:
*Romantic Marks and Measures: Wordsworth’s Poetry in Fields of Print*, Julia S. Carlson
*An Empire of Air and Water: Uncolonizable Space in the British Imagination, 1750-1850*, Siobhan Carroll
*The Age of Analogy: Science and Literature Between the Darwins*, Devin Griffiths

BARS 2017 Bursary awards

Le Strange & Maxim: Now That's What I Call Coleridge! 1983
PARALLEL PANELS SESSION D
9:30am – 11am, various rooms in King’s Manor

D1: Illegitimate Theatre I: Context, Performance and Material Culture. A Tribute to Jane Moody
Room: K/133
Chair: Greg Kucich (University of Notre Dame)

Serena Baiesi (University of Bologna) ‘Theatre is “a pleasure for most social kind”: illegitimate performances as personal enjoyment and social improvement in Leigh Hunt’s reviews’

Lilla Maria Crisafulli (University of Bologna) ‘Elizabeth Inchbald’s The Mogul Tale: or how to deflate discourses of nationalism’

Carlotta Farese (University of Bologna) ‘Illegitimate Theatricals: Comedy and/as novel from Inchbald to Austen’

D2: Ecocriticism I
Room: K/159
Convenors: Jeremy Davies (University of Leeds) & David Higgins (University of Leeds)
Chair: Jeremy Davies (University of Leeds)

Joanna Wharton (University of York) ‘“Living waters”: Christianity and Materialism in Priestley and Barbauld’

Susan Oliver (University of Essex) ‘Rocks and Hard Places: Romanticism and the Agency of Stone’

David Higgins (University of Leeds) ‘Colonial Improvement and the Catastrophic Assemblage: Writing Tambora’

D3: Mutual Improvements: Form, Fashion, Fiction, the Female Reader and The Lady’s Magazine
Room: K/122
Convenor: Jennie Batchelor (University of Kent)
Chair: Gillian Dow (University of Southampton)

Chloe Wigston Smith (University of York) ‘The Lady’s Magazine and DIY Fashion’

Jennie Batchelor (University of Kent) ‘Improving forms: Improvements in/and The Lady’s Magazine’

Jenny DiPlacidi (University of Kent) ‘Improving Fictions: The Lady’s Magazine and the Culture of Literary Improvement’
D4: Shelley the Improver/ Improving Shelley
Room: K/111
Chair: Anna Mercer (University of York)

Jon Quayle (Newcastle University) ‘Writing a “poetical Pisgah”: Percy Shelley’s Utopian Poetry’
Maddy Callaghan (University of Sheffield) ‘“The seeds are sleeping in the soil”: Laon and Cythna and the Poet’s “Improvement” of the Reader’
Tom Mole (University of Edinburgh) ‘Improving Shelley in Victorian Sermons’

D5: Postgraduate and Early Career Workshop
Room: K/G33

Roundtable discussion: ‘Taking the Next Step: Getting Published and Getting a Job’

The workshop should be of interest to anyone at the early stages of their career – whether in the first year of their PhD or a few years post-viva – and particularly to those who want a job in the educational sector. We will explore how to look beyond the academy; job applications; the roles and publications that employers value; the REF and TEF.

Contributors will include:
James Grande (King’s College London)
Simon Kövesi (Oxford Brookes University)
Matthew Sangster (University of Glasgow)
Tess Somervell (University of Leeds)
Helen Stark (Queen Mary, University of London)
Joanna Taylor (Lancaster University)
Beatrice Turner (University of Roehampton)
Matthew Ward (University of Birmingham)

D6: Scott and Galt
Room: K/G07
Chair: Emma Major (University of York)

James Morris (University of Glasgow) ‘The “Cosmopolitan Border” in Walter Scott’s Saint Ronan’s Well (1823)’
Kazumi Kanatsu (Doshisha University) ‘Illusion and Disillusionment of Improvement in John Galt’s The Member and The Radical’
Nicky Lloyd (Bath Spa University) ‘Sympathy, History and the “progress of civilisation” in Walter Scott’s The Bride of Lammermoor’
**D7: The Novel and Mis/Education**  
Room: K/157  
Chair: Emma Clery (University of Southampton)

Li-ching Chen (National University of Kaohsiung)  
‘“A Knowledge of the Useful”: Economy in Mary Hays’s *Family Annals, or the Sisters*’

Olivia Loksing Moy (City University of New York)  
‘Miseducation and Improvement in the Gothic Works of “Mother Radcliffe” and Matthew “Monk” Lewis’

Tomoko Nakagawa  
(University of the Sacred Heart, Tokyo)  
‘Beauty of “Mind” and Beauty in “Person”: Self-Education and Improvement in *Mansfield Park* and *Frankenstein*’

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**D8: Crime and Punishment**  
Room: K/155  
Chair: Jon Mee (University of York)

Allison Turner (University of Chicago)  
‘General Population: John Howard's Prison Reform’

Rachel Sulich (University of Leeds)  
‘The Language of Reform and Rebuke: The Anti-Suicide Debate of the 1790s’

Fiona Milne (University of York)  
‘Stories of progress: literary and legal character in the Scottish sedition trials of 1793-4’

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**Tea / Coffee**  
11am – 11:30am, King’s Manor

*Short walk to Bootham School*

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**PLENARY 2: The Stephen Copley Lecture**  
11:45am – 1pm, Bootham School

Jane Rendall (University of York)  
‘Female Improvers: Women, Philanthropy and Border Crossings’

Chair: Catriona Kennedy (University of York)
Lunch
1pm – 1:45pm, De Grey Rooms

BARS BGM
1:45pm – 2:45pm, King’s Manor (Room K/133)

PARALLEL PANELS SESSION E
2:45pm – 4:15pm, various rooms in King’s Manor

E1: Illegitimate theatre II: Context, Performance and Material Culture. A Tribute to Jane Moody
Room: K/133
Chair: Keir Douglas Elam (University of Bologna)

Fabio Liberto (University of Bologna)  “‘The dramatist & physician are closely, almost inseparably, allied’: Shakespeare and the Romantic improvement of science’

Diego Saglia (University of Parma)  ‘London Things: materiality, the city and modernity in Charles Dibdin’s illegitimate theatre’

Franca Dellarosa (University of Bari)  ‘Envisioning the Illegitimate: A London Street Scene’

E2: Ecocriticism II
Room: K/159
Convenors: Jeremy Davies (University of Leeds) & David Higgins (University of Leeds)
Chair: Kate Rigby (Bath Spa University)

Kate Scarth (Dalhousie University)  ‘London’s Green Geographies: The Case of John Thelwall’s The Peripatetic’

Tess Somervell (University of Leeds)  ‘The Illimitable Waste”: Wordsworth’s Dreams of Deluge’

Erin Lafford (University of Oxford)  ‘Clare's Fenland Airs'

E3: Women, Writing, and Moral Reform
Room: K/122
Chair: Kevin Gilmartin (California Institute of Technology)

Juliet Shields (University of Washington)  ‘Mary Brunton’s Improving Fictions’

Kerri Andrews (Edge Hill University)  ‘Hannah More's Improvements’

Jessica Lim (University of Cambridge)  ‘Governing children and (in)famous gibbets: Mary Martha Sherwood and the Evangelical “correction” of children’s books’
**E4: Mary Shelley**
Room: K/111  
Chair: Deborah Russell (University of York)

Pauline Liang (Chinese University of Hong Kong)  
‘“Political Euthanasia” in Mary Shelley’s *Valperga*’

Anna Mercer (University of York)  
‘Mary Shelley’s role in the construction of Percy Bysshe Shelley’s prose 1814-1817: *The Assassins* and *History of a Six Weeks’ Tour*’

Cesar Soto (University of Notre Dame)  
‘Deism, Perfectibility, and Redemption in Mary Shelley’s *The Last Man* (1826)’

Catherine Redford (University of Oxford)  
‘Revisions and Revisitings: Mary Shelley as Editor’

**E5: Apology for the Literary Pursuits of Physicians**
Room: K/G33  
Chair: Jon Mee (University of York)

Fuson Wang (University of California, Riverside)  
‘Wordsworth, Jenner, and the Medico-Literary Case Study’

Christine Woody (University of Pennsylvania)  
‘“Such a crazy body as mine”: Performing the infirm body in Blackwood’s *Edinburgh Magazine* and the *London Magazine*’

Clark Lawlor (Northumbria University)  
‘“The history of fashions in physic would be almost the history of physic itself”: representing medical progress in Henry Southern’s *London Magazine*, 1825-26’

**E6: Gothic Innovations**
Room: K/G07  
Chair: Olivia Loksing Moy (City University of New York)

Rayna Rosenova (University of Sofia)  
‘Gothic Aesthetics in Mary Robinson's *Lyrical Tales*’

Corrina Readioff (University of Liverpool)  
‘“[A] kind of slumber”: Epigraphs, Sleep, and Sublimity in Ann Radcliffe’s *The Mysteries of Udolpho* (1794)’

Luciana Colucci (UFTM, Brazil)  
‘The Visionary Horace Walpole: Man of Letters, Tastes and Ideas’

Yael Shapira (Bar-Ilan University)  
‘In the Footsteps of the Minerva Novelist’
**E7: The Circulation of James Hogg in the Nineteenth-Century World**
Room: K/157
Convenor: Suzanne Gilbert (University of Stirling)
Chair: James Morris (University of Glasgow)

Suzanne Gilbert (University of Stirling)  ‘James Hogg: Contributions to International Periodicals’
Adrian Hunter (University of Stirling)  ‘Hogg and Transatlantic Reprinting’
Barbara Leonardi (University of Stirling)  ‘The Reception of James Hogg around the World in the Romantic Period’
Duncan Hotchkiss (University of Stirling)  ‘Innovating the short story: Hogg, the periodical press and the cultural circuit of Empire’

**E8: Classical learning, Educational Reforms and Educational Improvement**
Room: K/155
Chair: Carmen Casaliggi (Cardiff Metropolitan University)

Maria Schoina (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)  ‘“Happy while studying Greek”: The Shelleys and Classical Learning’
Robert A. Davis (University of Glasgow)  ‘Perfect Cities of Production: Romantic Responses to the Educational Reforms of Robert Owen’
Maximiliaan van Woudenberg (Sheridan Institute of Technology)  ‘Educational Improvement and transcultural Networks: British Coteries and the University of Göttingen’

**Tea / Coffee**
4:15pm – 4:45pm, King’s Manor

**PARALLEL PANELS SESSION F**
4:45pm – 6:15pm, various rooms in King’s Manor

**F1: Use-Values**
Room: K/133
Chair: Jon Klancher (Carnegie Mellon)

Jonathan Sachs (Concordia University)  ‘Useless Rocks’
Paul Keen (Carleton University)  ‘“Glad Enlightenment”: Leigh Hunt's Radical Humanism’
Kevin Gilmartin (California Institute of Technology)  ‘Hazlitt’s Uses’
F2: Air/Clouds/Water
Room: K/159
Chair: Susan Oliver (University of Essex)

Elsa Hammond (University of Bristol)  ‘Of the Improvement of Air: Wordsworth, Coleridge and Erasmus Darwin’
Emily Senior (Birkbeck, University of London)  ‘Romantic Clouds: Events, Objects, Phenomena’
Daniel Eltringham (Birkbeck, University of London)  ‘Water as Common Nature in the Landscape of Agrarian Improvement’

F3: Byron
Room: K/122
Chair: Matthew Sangster (University of Glasgow)

Michael Simpson (Goldsmiths, University of London)  ‘Bringing the Book to Market; Bringing the Market to Book: Wordsworth and Byron, recto and verso’
Marcin Leszczyński (University of Warsaw)  ‘Improvement and Degeneration in Byron’s Poetry’
Michael Falk (University of Kent)  ‘How Not to Improve: “Moral Derangement” in Tom Moore’s Life of Byron’

F4: Wollstonecraft
Room: K/111
Chair: Jane Moore (Cardiff University)

Laura Kirkley (Newcastle University)  ‘Rousseauvian Alter-Egos: The Politics of Pedagogical Improvement in the works of Félicité de Genlis and Mary Wollstonecraft’
Shirley Tung (Kansas State University)  ‘Wollstonecraftian Progress: A Maternal Ethic of Care in the Scandinavian Wilderness’
Eliza O’Brien (Newcastle University)  ‘Mary Wollstonecraft and the Prisoner of “Progress”’
**F5: Theatres of Improvement**  
Room: K/G33  
Chair: Franca Dellarosa (University of Bari)

Yasser Khan (University of Oxford)  
‘“Am I Not A Brother and a Man”: The Humanitarian Revolution and Slavery in British Sentimental Drama in the Late Eighteenth Century’

Orianne Smith (University of Maryland, Baltimore County)  
‘Improving Upon Adam Smith: Joanna Baillie’s Witchcraft and the Demonization of Domesticity’

Sarah Burdett (University of Warwick)  
‘Improving by Removing: Neutralising the Threat of the Martial Woman in John Philip Kemble’s Love in Many Masks (1790) and Elizabeth Inchbald’s Next Door Neighbours (1791)’

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**F6: Poetry/ Performance/ Protest**  
Room: K/G07  
Chair: James Grande (King’s College London)

Caitlin Kitchener (University of York)  
‘“See the Conquering Hero Comes”: The Radical Landscapes of Henry Hunt and Improvement’

Alison Morgan (University of Warwick)  
‘“Song of the Slaughter”: the Poetry and Music of Peterloo’

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**F7: Improvement and Genre**  
Room: K/157  
Chair: Marianne Brooker (Birkbeck, University of London)

Tim Milnes (University of Edinburgh)  
‘Happy Nonentities: The Romantic Essay and the Progress of Sentiments’

Bill Hughes (University of Sheffield)  
‘“Base and degenerate language”: genre and the rational voice in John Thelwall’s The Daughter of Adoption’

Sabina Akram (Anglia Ruskin University)  
‘A reflective swansong: the use of genre in Robert Southey’s The Doctor, &c (1834)’
**F8: Scottish Innovation**  
Room: K/155  
Chair: Daniel Cook (University of Dundee)

Julie Watt (independent scholar)  
‘Susan Edmonstone Ferrier: The “Scottish Austen”’

John Owen Havard (Binghamton University)  
‘Improving Boswell’

Duncan Hotchkiss (University of Stirling)  
‘James Hogg, Blackwood’s Edinburgh Magazine and the counter-reformist politics of Romantic print culture’

**Friday Evening**  
Informal social events including:

**Postgraduate social at Walmgate Ale House from 7pm**
PARALLEL PANELS SESSION G
9:30am – 11am, various rooms in King’s Manor

G1: NASSR panel – Affect, Effect, and Romantic Improvement
Room: K/133
Convenor: Mark Lussier (Arizona State University)
Chair: Mary Fairclough (University of York)

Mark Lussier (Arizona State University) ‘Affective Textualities: Blake’s *Marriage* and the Re/formation of Subjectivity’
Kate Rigby (Bath Spa University) ‘“Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness”: Affective Improvement, Improving Affect’
Angela Esterhammer (University of Toronto) ‘Education and Textual Experiment in John Galt’s Fiction’

G2: War, Revolution and Progress
Room: K/159
Convenor: Ian Haywood (University of Roehampton)
Chair: Catriona Kennedy (University of York)

Ian Haywood (University of Roehampton) ‘The virtuous mob: picturing the second French revolution’
Emma Butcher (Manchester Metropolitan University) ‘Reading War Trauma in post-Napoleonic Military Memoirs’
Neil Ramsey (University of New South Wales, Canberra) ‘War and the nationalist romance: The *United Service Journal* and the Military Tale’

G3: Shelleyan Improvements: Morals, Poetics, Science, and Reception
Room: K/122
Convenor: Ross Wilson (University of Cambridge)
Chair: Anna Mercer (University of York)

Alex Freer (University of Cambridge) ‘Shelley’s “experiments in morals”’
Ross Wilson (University of Cambridge) ‘Shelley in the Overgrowth’
Rowan Boyson (King’s College London) ‘Shelley and the Perfection of the Air’
Michael Rossington (Newcastle University) ‘Richard Monckton Milnes’s Contribution to the Improved Understanding of P. B. Shelley’s Writings in the Nineteenth Century’
**G4: Outlook Uncertain: Reconceptualising the Past and Progress in the Romantic Period**
Room: K/111
Convenor: Andrew Rudd (University of Exeter)
Chair: Deborah Russell (University of York)

Andrew Rudd (University of Exeter)  
‘Charitable Pasts, Uncharitable Presents: Medieval Charity and the Thomas Chatterton-Horace Walpole Controversy’

Nick Groom (University of Exeter)  
‘Thinking with Vampires: Medicine, Theology, and the Gothic’

Joseph Crawford (University of Exeter)  
“‘Come, Bow Your Souls Before the Bard!’ The Imperiously Improving Romanticism of Chauncey Hare Townshend”

Daisy Hay (University of Exeter)  
‘Living with The Nightmare: Fragmented Histories in the Johnson Circle’

**G5: Print Culture and Knowledge**
Room: K/G33
Chair: Chloe Wigston Smith (University of York)

Anthony Mandal (Cardiff University)  
‘From Lost Labyrinths to Rediscovered Networks: Gothic Fiction and the Romantic Book Trade’

Marianne Brooker (Birkbeck, University of London)  
“The first butterfly theory”: Apprehension and Fugitive Knowledge in the Romanic “antilibrary”

Gillian Russell (University of Melbourne)  
‘Ballooning and ephemeral mediality in Enlightenment Britain: improving the ”stock of knowledge”’

**G6: Early-Nineteenth-Century Canadian Literature**
Room: K/G07
Chair: Paul Keen (Carleton University)

Honor Rieley (University of Oxford)  
‘Romanticism in the Backwoods: Canadian Settler Narratives and the Transatlantic Time Lag’

Gabriel Cervantes (University of North Texas)  
‘Property and Print: Stephen Burroughs in Georgia and Lower Canada’

Cynthia Sugars (University of Ottawa) and Paul Keen (Carleton University)  
‘Home Improvements: Authors and Agency in Early Nineteenth-Century Canada’
G7: Sunny Spots of Greenery? Gardens Inspired and Inspiring
Room: K/157
Chair: Alex Watson (Nagoya University)
Kantaro Ohashi (Kobe University) ‘Imagination Improved: Buffon’s Implicit Influences on British Romanticism’
Waka Ishikura (University of Hyogo) ‘J. C. Loudon, Green Spaces, and Social Improvement’
Hiroko Washizu (University of Tsukuba) ‘Death in the Garden’

G8: Anglo-Spanish Improvements
Room: K/155
Convenor: Jonatan González (University of La Rioja)
Chair: Cesar Soto (University of Notre Dame)
Jonatan González (University of La Rioja) ‘“All modern theatres are indebted to him”: Lope de Vega and the Anglo-Spanish Network of Improvement of Holland House’
Sara Medina Calzada (University of Valladolid) ‘Adapting the British Literary Annual to the Spanish-Speaking Audience: Possibilities of Improvement in José Joaquin de Mora’s No me olvides (1824-1827)’
Cristina Flores Moreno (University of La Rioja) ‘“Our walk was far among the ancient trees”: The Legacy of British Romantic Pedestrian Poetry in Early Twentieth-Century Spanish Verse’

Tea / Coffee
11am – 11:30am, King’s Manor
Short walk to Bootham School

PLENARY 3: The Marilyn Butler Lecture
11:45am – 1pm, Bootham School
Nigel Leask (University of Glasgow) ‘Philosophical Vagabonds: Pedestrianism, Politics and Improvement on the Scottish Tour’
Chair: Ian Haywood (University of Roehampton)
Saturday 29th July

Lunch
1pm – 1:45pm, King’s Manor (Brown bag lunch)

Excursions
1:45pm – 6pm

Castle Howard: bus leaves 1:45pm; meet in King’s Manor courtyard at 1:30pm

Fairfax House: tour group meets at King’s Manor lodge, 1:45pm

Walking tour: tour group meets at King’s Manor gates, 1:45pm

Conference Dinner
7:30pm – 11:30pm, Merchant Adventurers’ Hall

Quiz compère: Jon Mee (University of York)
– SUNDAY 30TH JULY –

PARALLEL PANELS SESSION H
9:30am – 11am, various rooms in King’s Manor

**H1: Digital Romanticism: New and/or Improved?**
Room: K/133
Convenor and chair: Francesca Benatti (Open University)

- Francesca Benatti and David King (Open University)
  ‘Algorithmic Criticism, Distant Reading and the *Edinburgh Review*’

- Matthew Sangster (University of Glasgow)
  ‘Revivifying Romantic London: Digital Transformations as Ambivalent Improvements’

- Joanna Taylor (Lancaster University)
  ‘Romantic Maps and Digital Cartographies’

- Justin Tonra (National University of Ireland, Galway)
  ‘Room for Improvement: the Digital Romantic Scholarly Edition’

**H2: Ballad/Song/Nation**
Room: K/159
Chair: Jim Watt (University of York)

- Jeff Strabone (Connecticut College)
  ‘Wordsworth’s Bardic History of England’

- Daniel Cook (University of Dundee)
  ‘*The Lay of the Last Minstrel* and Bardic Improvement’

- Gena McNutt (University of Edinburgh)
  ‘“It is really a noble poem”: Medieval English Metrical Romance in the Romantic Period’

- Jane Moore (Cardiff University)
  ‘National improvement and Thomas Moore’s *Sacred Songs* (1816-24)’

**H3: “Wiser, better, and happier”: Pursuing Wordsworth’s Hopes for Improvement through Museum and University Partnerships**
Room: K/122
Chair: Jeff Cowton (Wordsworth Trust)

- Simon Bainbridge (Lancaster University)
  ‘Romantic Improvement through Collaboration? Reflecting on the Partnership between the Wordsworth Trust and Lancaster University’

- Anna Fleming (University of Leeds)
  ‘Creative Communities: Wordsworth in Grasmere and Leeds’

- James Illingworth (Queen’s University, Belfast / Northern Bridge)
  ‘Wordsworth Crossing the “Northern Bridge”: The Re-Imagining Ireland with Wordsworth Project’
**H4: Jane Austen's Romantic ‘Improvement’: Her Relationship with Wertherism, D. H. Lawrence, and Modern Illustration**  
*Room: K/111*  
*Chair: Nora Crook (Anglia Ruskin University)*  

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<th>Speaker</th>
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<tr>
<td>Okamoto Yoshie (Yasuda Women's University)</td>
<td>‘Austen and Wertherism: Is Giving Way to Bad Moods a Crime?’</td>
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<td>Yamanouchi Rie (Kobe City College of Nursing)</td>
<td>‘D. H. Lawrence’s “Daughter of the Vicar”: A Parody of Pride and Prejudice’</td>
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<td>Hisamori Kazuko (Ferris University)</td>
<td>‘Listening to what “the word evokes”: Juliet McMaster's Illustration of The Beautiful Cassandra’</td>
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**H5: Keats**  
*Room: K/G33*  
*Chair: Dana Van Kooy (Michigan Technological University)*  

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<tr>
<td>Greg Kucich (University of Notre Dame)</td>
<td>‘Keats, the Hyperion Poems, and the Gendered Problem of Progress’</td>
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<td>Andrea Timár (Eötvös Loránd University)</td>
<td>‘Increasing store with loss, and loss with store”: Keats, Shakespeare, and the Elgin Marbles’</td>
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<td>Alex Broadhead (University of Liverpool)</td>
<td>‘Improving on Biography? Keats as Liberal Humanist Messiah in Contemporary Fiction’</td>
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**H6: Translation/ Mediation/ Retrospect**  
*Room: K/G07*  
*Chair: Mary Fairclough (University of York)*  

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<tr>
<td>Melanie Hacke (University of Leuven)</td>
<td>‘What We Understand by Translation”: The Reception of Ancient Greek Oratory in the Edinburgh Review and the Quarterly Review’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glen Brewster (Westfield State University)</td>
<td>‘On the rack of pleasure and offense”: Henry Crabb Robinson on Coleridge's Lectures’</td>
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**Tea / Coffee**  
11am – 11:30am, King’s Manor
PARALLEL PANELS SESSION I
11:30am – 1pm, various rooms in King’s Manor

I1: Time and the End of Time
Room: K/133
Convenor: Stephen Bygrave (University of Southampton)
Chair: Joanna Wharton (University of York)

Laura Davies (University of Cambridge) ‘Ordering and Shaping Time in the Long Eighteenth Century’

Stephen Bygrave (University of Southampton) ‘“Symbolic”, “Literal” and Temporal: Some Kinds of Prophecy’

Emma Major (University of York) ‘“Respecting the dragon: James Bicheno, Prophecy and Progress

I2: Travels in India and Persia
Room: K/159
Chair: Daniel Roberts (Queen’s University Belfast)

Alex Watson (Nagoya University) ‘Imperial Ruins: Indian Ruins in British Romantic-Period Travel Writing’

Máire ní Fhlathúin (University of Nottingham) ‘The ruin writing of the East India Company’

Joanna De Groot (University of York) ‘Iranian-European Contact Zones, c.1780-1830’

I3: Reading for Improvement
Room: K/122
Chair: Anthony Mandal (Cardiff University)

Jill Dye (University of Stirling) ‘Reading Religion: Books and borrowers from the Library of Innerpeffray 1762-1854’

Philipp Hunkeuhl (University of Hamburg) ‘Informal improvement: Crabb Robinson’s autodidacticism and its influence’

David Fallon (University of Roehampton) ‘Mary Robinson and the Improving Environment of Hookham’s Bookshop and Library’
I4: Legacies and Afterlives  
Room: K/111  
Chair: Alex Broadhead (University of Liverpool)

Tom Toremans (University of Leuven)  ‘Spectres of Scott: the Pseudotranslational Afterlife of the Great Unknown’

Emily Bowles (University of York)  ‘Improving on the Romantics in The Life of Charles Dickens’

Michelle O’Connell (University College Dublin)  ‘“Heroine Worship” After Death: Hemans in the Press’

I5: David Bowie as Romantic Improvement  
Room: K/G33  
Convenor: Matthew Sangster (University of Glasgow)  
Chair: Helen Stark (Queen Mary University of London)

Beatrice Turner (University of Roehampton)  ‘“They’re quite aware of what they’re going through”: Hunky Dory’s “Pretty Things” and rejecting Romantic childhood’

Emily Bernhard Jackson (University of Exeter)  ‘The Return of the Thin White Duke: David Bowie as Descendant of Lord Byron’

Joanna Taylor (Lancaster University)  ‘Space Oddities: Romantic Spatialities and David Bowie’s Contained Expansions’

Matthew Sangster (University of Glasgow)  ‘“I Can’t Give Everything Away”: David Bowie and Post-Romantic Artistic Identity’

I6: William Blake  
Room: K/G07  
Chair: Jon Mee (University of York)

Lucy Cogan (University College Dublin)  ‘Improvement, Prophecy and Futurity in the Poetry of William Blake’

Joshua Schouten de Jel (Plymouth University)  ‘William Blake’s Millenarianism: the Progress towards a Personal Apocalypse’

Lunch
1pm – 2pm, King’s Manor K/123 (Huntingdon Room anteroom)
**Please note the venue**

Short walk to Bootham School

PLENARY 4
2pm – 3:15pm, Bootham School

Jon Klancher (Carnegie Mellon)
'Scales of Improvement'

Chair: Mary Fairclough (University of York)

Closing Remarks
3:15pm – 3:30pm, Bootham School
Conference organisers
Mary Fairclough, Jon Mee, Deborah Russell, Jim Watt, Joanna Wharton.

The organisers offer our grateful thanks to:
The British Association for Romantic Studies; the Department of English and Related Literature at the University of York, the Centre for Eighteenth Century Studies at the University of York, and the York Georgian Society for their generous funding support for the conference; the BARS executive committee, especially Anthony Mandal; and Clare Bond, Brittany Scowcroft, Cathy Moore, Catriona Kennedy, Phil Roberts, Matt Jenkins, Ian Small, Charlie Iffans and the King's Manor porters, Joy Bilbrough and Luke Gilliver at Bootham School, Ben Doyle at Palgrave Macmillan, and Emily Felton and Heather Gallagher at Liverpool University Press.

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