

BWWC 2025

Eighteenth- & Nineteenth-Century
British Women Writers Conference



Transformations

Sioux Falls, South Dakota
May 15–17, 2025



BWWC 2025

Eighteenth- & Nineteenth-Century
British Women Writers Conference

Transformations

Sioux Falls, South Dakota
May 15–17, 2025

Hosted by:

South Dakota State University
University of South Dakota



South Dakota State University in Brookings, South Dakota, the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, South Dakota, and the BWWC 2025 conference site in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, occupy the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Oceti Sakowin (oh-CHEH-tee shaw-KOH-we), meaning Seven Council Fires. The nine sovereign Native Nations in South Dakota are the Cheyenne River, Crow Creek, Flandreau Santee, Lower Brule, Oglala, Rosebud, Sisseton-Wahpeton, Standing Rock, and Yankton Sioux Tribes.

Welcome and Acknowledgements

On behalf of South Dakota State University and the University of South Dakota, we welcome you to the 33rd annual Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century British Women Writers Conference, or BWWC 2025! We are glad you're here.

The theme of this year's conference is "Transformations." The many wonderful presentations included in the conference program explore the ways in which eighteenth- and nineteenth-century women and nonbinary writers represented, documented, envisioned, and created transformation within global and transatlantic contexts. We look forward to the engaging conversations these presentations are sure to inspire, including conversations about how the texts produced by these writers might shed light on the present moment and even contribute to strategies for transforming it—institutionally, locally, nationally, globally.

We would be unable to bring this conference to you without the generous financial support of our sponsors. We extend our gratitude to the South Dakota Humanities Council (Christina Oey, Director); South Dakota State University Office of Academic Affairs (Dennis Hedge, Provost and Vice President); South Dakota State University College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (David Earnest, Dean); South Dakota State University Griffith Foundation Awards; South Dakota State University School of English and Interdisciplinary Studies (Jason McEntee, Director); University of South Dakota Office of Academic Affairs (Kurt Hackemer, Provost and Vice President); University of South Dakota College of Arts and Sciences (John Dudley, Dean); and University of South Dakota Department of English (Darlene Farabee, Chair).

We also thank the board of the British Women Writers Association (BWWA) for entrusting the conference to us and providing invaluable support along the way.

We would like to acknowledge the many individuals who, each in their own way, made this conference possible: Melinda Berdanier, Alex Breitzkreutz, Stacey Breitzkreutz, Emma Darbyshire, Makenzie Delaney, Anna Feuerstein, Chris Francis, Brooklin Olsen, Frank Merkt, Ashley Northern, Janet Peterson, Tiffani Pirner, Shannon Richarz, Ada Smith, ShyAnn Springer, Erin Staniszewski, and Jason Zimmerman. A special thank you to our keynotes Lisa Hager, Megan Peiser, and Kerry Sinanan for so graciously sharing their time and work with us.

And we thank you for helping us make this year's conference possible. If there is anything we can do to offer assistance or support during the conference, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Sincerely,

The BWWC 2025 Organizing Committee

bwwc2025@gmail.com

Jessica Berg, South Dakota State University

jessica.berg@sdstate.edu

Katherine Malone, South Dakota State University

katherine.malone@sdstate.edu

Lisa Ann Robertson, University of South Dakota

lisaann.robertson@usd.edu

Taya Sazama, University of South Dakota

taya.sazama@coyotes.usd.edu

Sharon Smith, South Dakota State University

sharon.smith@sdstate.edu



**SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE UNIVERSITY**



**UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH DAKOTA**



BWWC 2025 Supports the Mission and Vision of the South Dakota Humanities Council

We are grateful to one of our major sponsors, the South Dakota Humanities Council (SDHC), for helping to make BWWC 2025 possible. Created in 1972, the SDHC provides financial support for public humanities programming. A nonprofit organization and the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the SDHC offers a variety of educational and literary programs, including the annual South Dakota Book Festival, and houses the South Dakota Center for the Book.

SDHC Mission: The SDHC celebrates literature, promotes civil conversation, and tells the stories that define our state.

SDHC Vision: The SDHC will lead statewide advocacy for the humanities, working with other partners to foster literary and civic engagement.

BWWC 2025 encourages civil conversation through its emphasis on open discussion, collegiality, mentorship, and transformative education. Though the conference does not focus explicitly on the “stories that define our state,” it offers opportunities to trace the connections between the stories of the past and present, recognizing that the conditions that shape life in South Dakota are the direct result of actions taken in the past. By demonstrating how the past has shaped the present, literature may help individuals work toward a more just, equitable, and compassionate future. In other words, engagement with literature, including literature from the seemingly distant past, can create more meaningful—and transformational—civic engagement in the present.

The SDHC has long stood at the center of the humanities in our state and has touched the lives of countless South Dakotans. Like other state humanities councils traditionally supported through national funding, the SDHC currently faces unprecedented challenges. We encourage you to support the humanities council in your state.

**For more information about the SDHC,
visit www.sdhumanities.org.**

Program at a Glance

Thursday, May 15

- 8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast (River Pre-Function Area)
- 8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Check-In at Registration Table (Front of Ballroom Pre-Function Area)
- 9:00–10:30 a.m. Paper Session 1 (Four Winds E, W, N, S)
- 10:45 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Paper Session 2 (Four Winds E, W, N, S)
- 12:00–2:00 p.m. Break (Lunch on Your Own and Optional Mentorship Meetings)
- 2:00–3:30 p.m. Special Session: BWWA-Sponsored Panels (Four Winds E, N)
- 3:45–5:00 p.m. Keynote Address: Kerry Sinanan (Four Winds E)
- 5:00–5:15 p.m. BWWA Chairs' Remarks (Four Winds E)
- 5:15–6:15 p.m. Welcome Reception (Four Winds W)
- Dinner on Your Own

Friday, May 16

- 8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast (River Pre-Function Area)
- 8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Check-In at Registration Table (Front of Ballroom Pre-Function Area)
- 9:00–10:15 a.m. Paper Session 3 (Four Winds E, W, N)
- 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Paper Session 4 (Four Winds E, W, N, S)
- 12:00–2:00 p.m. Break (Lunch on Your Own and Optional Mentorship Meetings)
- 2:00 p.m.–3:15 p.m. Plenary Pedagogy Workshop: Kerry Sinanan (Four Winds E)
- 3:30–4:45 p.m. Keynote Address: Megan Peiser (Four Winds E)
- 5:00–6:30 p.m. Special Session: BWWA- and BWWC 2025-Sponsored Roundtables (Four Winds E, W)
- 6:30–8:30 p.m. Cash Bar (River Pre-Function Area) and Banquet (Four Winds N/S)

Saturday, May 17

- 8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast (River Pre-Function Area)
- 8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Check-In at Registration Table (Front of Ballroom Pre-Function Area)
- 9:00–10:30 a.m. Paper Session 5 (Four Winds E, W, N)

- 10:45 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Paper Session 6 (Four Winds E, W, N, S)
- 12:00–2:00 p.m. Break (Lunch on Your Own and Optional Mentorship Meetings)
- 12:00–1:00 p.m. BWWA Board Luncheon (Bar Clara)
- 2:00–3:15 p.m. Paper Session 7 (Four Winds E, W, N, S)
- 3:30–4:45 p.m. Keynote Address: Lisa Hager (Four Winds E)
- 4:45–6:15 p.m. Cash Bar and Closing Reception (River Pre-Function Area)
- Dinner on Your Own

BWWC 2025

Conference Schedule

Thursday, May 15

8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast, River Pre-Function Area

8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Check-In at Registration Table, Front of Ballroom Pre-Function Area

9:00–10:30 a.m. Paper Session 1

1A: Transformation in/and the Domestic Sphere

Moderator: Cameron Dodworth, Methodist University

Room: Four Winds W

1. Alivia Ragsdale, Sam Houston State University, “‘I also am subject to the same laws’: Examining the Consequences of the Cult of Domesticity and Gender in Mary Shelley’s *The Last Man*”
2. Livia Arndal Woods, University of Illinois at Springfield, “Transformations in Eliza Acton’s *Modern Cookery*”
3. Emily D. Wicktor, Valley City State University, “*Every Woman’s Book*: When Richard Carlile Met Mrs. Edith Sperling ...”
4. Katie Sagal, Cornell College, “‘Old Ocean’s Flowrs’: Marine Ecology and Material Culture”

1B: Transformative Pedagogies

Moderator: Amy Gates, Missouri Southern State University

Room: Four Winds E

1. Lisa Ann Robertson, University of South Dakota, “Pedagogy as Scientific Practice: Children’s Literature”
2. Taya Sazama, University of South Dakota, “Rules for How to Marry a Gentleman: Reading Austen’s Novels as Conduct Manuals”
3. Katie Piper, University of South Dakota, “Film Lens: A Translating Practice for Eighteenth-Century Literature”

1C: Religious and Spiritual Transformations

Moderator: Hannah Blanning, The University of Colorado Boulder

Room: Four Winds N

1. Frank Zhong, Indiana University Bloomington, "Turning Marble: Texture and Phenomenology in *Jane Eyre*"
2. Meagan Anthony, Auburn University, "'Face to Face': The Transformation of Nature into a Female Trinity in Charlotte Bronte's *Shirley*"
3. Jayne Hildebrand, Barnard College, "Plural Worlds, Marie Corelli, and the Birth of Modern Spirituality"
4. Paige Kemp, Sam Houston State University, "Letting Loose: Transforming the Fear of Vampires in 'Let Loose'"

1D: Relational Transformations/Transformative Relations

Moderator: Eleanor Reeds, Hastings College

Room: Four Winds S

1. Rachael Lynch, George Washington University, "'Infusing Life into an Inanimate Body': Autistic Rage, Able-Bodied-mindedness, and Relational Transformation in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*"
2. Reilly Fitzpatrick Vines, Baylor University, "Female Friendship and the Transformation of Wollstonecraft's Feminism in *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*"
3. Ada Smith, South Dakota State University, "'Quis Custodet Custodiem'? Meaningful Connections and Amy Levy's New Woman"
4. Mary Mac Trammell, Indiana University Bloomington, "Tribal Feeling: Community Affect and Gender in Amy Levy's *Reuben Sachs*"

Thursday, May 15

10:45 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Paper Session 2

2A: Queer Transformations

Moderator: Jennifer Frangos, University of Missouri–Kansas City

Room: Four Winds E

1. Daniel Spangler, South Dakota State University, South Dakota State University, “Vernon Lee and the Snake Lady: The Hypertextual Aesthetics of Queer Identity in Victorian Literature”
2. Caitlin Anderson, Georgia Institute of Technology, “Transforming Gender: Plants and Uprooting the Gender Binary”
3. Linda Hughes, Texas Christian University, “Amy Levy’s Transgender Imagination and Suicidal Ideation”

2B: Colonial/Postcolonial Transformations

Moderator: Nicole Reynolds, Ohio University

Room: Four Winds W

1. Prabal Das Gupta, Michigan State University, “Domestic Space and Female Subjectivity in Flora Annie Steel’s *On the Face of the Waters: A Study of Historical Novel in Context*”
2. Gunja Nandi, Texas Christian University, “The Oriental Dancer in Transformation: Postcolonial Afterlives of Decadent Poetry”
3. Mark Lounibos, Michigan Technological University, “Transforming English Poetry: Jane Johnston Schoolcraft and Great Lakes Romanticism”

2C: The Transformative Poetry of Charlotte Smith

Moderator: Katie Sagal, Cornell College

Room: Four Winds N

1. Sarah Bliss, Florida State University, “‘Being exhibited in magazines’: Volume II of *Elegiac Sonnets* and the Periodical Press”
2. Kandi Tayebi, Sam Houston State University, “The Transformation of Sorrow: Charlotte Smith’s Poetry”
3. Rachel Kelley, Texas Tech University, “She Who Paints Sorrow Best: Charlotte Smith’s Petrarchan Envy”

Thursday, May 15

2D: Transformative Desires

Moderator: Reilly Fitzpatrick Vines, Baylor University

Room: Four Winds S

1. Hannah Blanning, The University of Colorado Boulder, “Haywood’s Ethics of Curiosity: The Coherence of ‘Incoherent’ Desire in *Life’s Progress Through the Passions* and *Fantomina, or Love in a Maze*”
2. Haley Keith, Sam Houston State University, “The Transformative Corruption of Dacre’s *Libertine*”
3. Crescent Rainwater, Mercer University, “Brontë’s Independent Womanhood and Beardsley’s Erotic Artifice: A Feminist Revision of Decadence in Netta Syrett’s *The Child of Promise*”

12:00–2:00 p.m. Break: Lunch on your own and optional mentorship meetings.

Visit the BWWC 2025 Shopping & Dining Guide for suggestions!
See the QR code on the back cover of the program.

2:00–3:30 p.m. Special Session: Career Transitions and Transformations

BWWA-Sponsored Panel: Alternative Academic Careers

Co-chairs: Doreen Thierauf, North Carolina Wesleyan University, and Livia Arndal Woods, University of Illinois at Springfield

Moderator: Livia Arndal Woods, University of Illinois at Springfield

Room: Four Winds E

1. Julie Fuller, Digital Humanities Educational Technologist, Bard Graduate Center
2. Elizabeth A. Shand, Digital Collections Librarian, Dartmouth Libraries
3. Colleen Cusick Endick, Teacher of English, Academy for Global Logistics, Union County Vocational–Technical Schools

Thursday, May 15

BWWA-Sponsored Panel: Remaining a Human(ist) While in an Administrative Role

Moderator: Alicia Carroll, Department Chair, Auburn University

Room: Four Winds N

1. Andrea Rehn, Undergraduate Dean and Dean of Arts and Sciences, Russell Sage College
2. Donelle Ruwe, Associate Dean of the College of Education and Professional Education Program, Northern Arizona University
3. Laura Thomason, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Stevenson University
4. Cheryl Wilson, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, SUNY Old Westbury

3:45–5:00 p.m. Keynote Address, Four Winds E

Kerry Sinanan, University of Winnipeg, “Mary Prince, Jane Austen, and the Chain of Being”

5:00–5:15 p.m. BWWA Chairs’ Remarks, Four Winds E

Alicia Carroll, Auburn University, and Nicole Reynolds, Ohio University

5:15–6:15 p.m. Welcome Reception, Four Winds W

Dinner on your own.

Visit the BWWC 2025 Shopping & Dining Guide for suggestions!
See the QR code on the back cover of the program.



Thursday, May 15, 3:45 to 5:00 p.m., Four Winds E

Keynote Address

Kerry Sinanan
University of Winnipeg

**Mary Prince, Jane Austen,
and the Chain of Being**

Dr. Kerry Sinanan is Associate Professor in Global Pre-1800 Literature and Culture at the University of Winnipeg. She specializes in the Black Atlantic, Caribbean slavery and race, and the global dimensions of Black resistance and abolition up to the present. Her monograph, *Myths of Mastery: Traders, Planters and Colonial Agents, 1750–1834*, examines the writings in various genres by slave traders and slave owners from the mid-eighteenth century up to British emancipation. She is under contract with Broadview Press to produce a new edition of *The History of Mary Prince* (1831). As an antiracist pedagogy practitioner, she runs regular teach-ins and workshops on undisciplining eighteenth- and nineteenth-century studies and on decolonial curricula.



Friday, May 16

8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast, River Pre-Function Area

8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Check-In at Registration Desk, Front of Ballroom Pre-Function Area

9:00–10:15 a.m. Paper Session 3

3A: Colonialism and Empire

Moderator: Megan Burke Witzleben, Hilbert College

Room: Four Winds E

1. Jahyeon Kwon, The Graduate Center, City University of New York, “The Old World’s Aesthetics in the New World’s Violence in *Oroonoko*”
2. Megan Burke Witzleben, Hilbert College, “Heathcliff’s Ghost and the Specter of Imperialism at Home”
3. Madhukari Guha, Texas Christian University, “Transformation of the White Hetero-Patriarchal Family in Anglo-Indian Society: Revisiting the Short Stories of Memsahib Writer Alice Perrin”

3B: Constructions of Selfhood: Transforming Modes, Genres, and Traditions

Moderator: Mark Lounibos, Michigan Technological University

Room: Four Winds W

1. Jennifer Frangos, University of Missouri–Kansas City, “‘What a comfort this journal’: Anne Lister, Georgiana Craven, Jane Austen”
2. Helen Luu, Royal Military College of Canada, “Transformations of the Dramatic Monologue: Transecting Gender, Race, and Class”
3. Clare Brinkman, Indiana University Bloomington, “‘The fallen woman ... lift(s) up herself’: Bodily Transgressions and Spiritual Transformations in Augusta Webster’s ‘A Castaway’”

3C: Transformational Landscapes

Moderator: Lana Dalley, California State University, Fullerton

Room: Four Winds N

1. Christel Woods, Washington State University, “Flowers Buried Beneath the Bog”

2. Kristen Pond, Baylor University, “‘Free to wander at her will’: The Transformative Importance of Walking in George Eliot’s Letters, Journals, and *Mill on the Floss*”
3. Kristyn Drew Woytkewicz, Baylor University, “‘Unromantic as a Monday Morning’: Transforming Romanticism in Charlotte Brontë’s *Shirley*”

10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Paper Session 4

4A: Transformative Approaches to Teaching and Studying Mode, Plot, and Genre

Moderator: Susan Wood, Midland University

Room: Four Winds E

1. Sharon Smith, South Dakota State University, “From Sicily to South Dakota: A Presentist Approach to Teaching the Gothic”
2. Elizabeth Tasker Davis, Stephen F. Austin State University, “Teaching Jane Collier’s Toadeater Narrative in *Emma* and *Mansfield Park*”
3. Lana Dalley, California State University, Fullerton, “Transforming the Marriage Plot/Transformative Marriage Plots in the Victorian Studies Classroom”
4. Kelsey Brazil, Murray State University, “Reading Nineteenth-Century Periodicals as Short Story Anthologies”

4B: Catching up with “The Boys”: News About Women’s Education in the Romantic and Early Victorian Periods

Moderator: Lisa Ann Robertson, University of South Dakota

Room: Four Winds W

1. Cherish Vandygrift, The University of Texas at Tyler, “Eighteenth-Century Girls’ Grammars and Female Virtue”
2. Mikahl Doll, The University of Texas at Tyler, “The Parker Sisters’ School, a Feminist Adaptation of Erasmus Darwin’s *A Plan for the Conduct of Female Education, in Boarding Schools, Private Families, and Public Seminaries*”
3. Catherine Ross, The University of Texas at Tyler, “A Father’s Lessons: Reevaluating the Early Education of the Brontë Sisters”

Friday, May 16

4C: Social and Political Transformation

Moderator: Kandi Tayebi, Sam Houston State University

Room: Four Winds N

1. Henna Messina, Eastern New Mexico University, “Elizabeth Heyrick’s Political Transformations”
2. Courtney Simpkins, Illinois College, “Dismantling Class Hierarchy Through Plague and Rumor in Mary Shelley’s *The Last Man*”
3. Kelsey Rall, Vanderbilt University, “Transformative Autonomy: Fugitive Singleness and Women’s Slave Narratives”

4D: George Eliot’s Transformations

Moderator: Charlotte Fiehn, Yeshiva University, Stern College for Women

Room: Four Winds S

1. Charlotte Fiehn, Yeshiva University, Stern College for Women, “George Eliot and the Transformation of Biblical Narratives”
2. Olivia Glubok, Independent Scholar/Barnard College, “Material Transformations in George Eliot’s *Middlemarch*”

12:00–2:00 p.m. Break: Lunch on your own and optional mentorship meetings.

Visit the BWWC 2025 Shopping & Dining Guide for suggestions!
See the QR code on the back cover of the program.

2:00–3:15 p.m. Plenary Pedagogy Workshop, Four Winds E

Kerry Sinanan, University of Winnipeg, “Teaching Against the Chain of Being”

3:30–4:45 p.m. Keynote Address, Four Winds E

Megan Peiser, Oakland University, “Place and Self in the Archives: Transformative Stories of Choctaw Women from the Removal Era and Today”



Friday, May 16, 2:00 to 3:15 p.m., Four Winds E

Plenary Pedagogy Workshop

Kerry Sinanan
University of Winnipeg

Teaching Against the Chain of Being

This workshop, which supplements Dr. Sinanan's keynote address, makes more visible the ways in which Chain of Being hierarchies of humanity, popularized by Oliver Goldsmith in his *History of the Earth, and Animated Nature* (1774), persist in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century studies today. Raced and gendered orders of being that were normalized in the eighteenth century continue to be promulgated in many of the categories that our disciplines assume, such as "women" and "British." Beyond inclusion, this workshop considers ways to unmake the very formations that often comprise our curricula and disciplines. Participants are invited to read Dr. Sinanan's chapter "Goldsmith and Race" as preparation (optional). The chapter will be circulated to conference participants via email prior to the conference and is available on the BWWC 2025 website via the "Program" link (see QR code on the back cover of this program).





Friday, May 16, 3:30 to 4:45 p.m., Four Winds E

Keynote Address

Megan Peiser
Oakland University

Place and Self in the Archives: Transformative Stories of Choctaw Women from the Removal Era and Today

Dr. Megan Peiser is an enrolled citizen of Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. She is Associate Professor of English at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. Her work centers on telling stories of historically and currently marginalized women using archival research, oral history, and lived traditions. Her monograph, *The Review Periodical and British Women Novelists, 1790–1820*, and accompanying database are forthcoming from Johns Hopkins University Press, and she is the co-manager with Emily Spunaugle of the Marguerite Hicks Project. Peiser's recent work on Indigenous perspectives in/of the eighteenth century can be found in *Eighteenth-Century Fiction*, *Eighteenth-Century Theory and Interpretation*, and *The Los Angeles Review of Books*. Peiser is active in the Indigenous food sovereignty movement and serves the intertribal community of Metro-Detroit as co-chair of Oakland University's Native American Advisory Committee. She lives and works on the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Anishinaabe peoples in what is currently called Detroit, Michigan.



5:00–6:30 p.m. Special Session

BWWA-Sponsored Roundtable: Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Literature Classroom

Co-Chairs: Marissa Bolin, Longwood University, and Doreen Thierauf, North Carolina Wesleyan University

Moderator: Doreen Thierauf, North Carolina Wesleyan University

Room: Four Winds E

1. Marissa Bolin, Longwood University, “Analyzing Literature Through Legal and Historical Contexts”
2. Lauren Pinkerton, California State University, Fullerton, “Thinking About Reading, Reading About Thinking: Teaching the Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century ‘Novel of Ideas’”
3. Livia Arndal Woods, University of Illinois, Springfield, “Literature and the Medical/Health Humanities”
4. Doreen Thierauf, North Carolina Wesleyan University, “Too Much Discipline: The Hostile Pedagogy of the Conference Talk”

BWWC 2025 Roundtable: Academic Editing and Publishing

Moderator: Katherine Malone, South Dakota State University

Room: Four Winds W

1. Jennifer Frangos, University of Missouri–Kansas City, Editor, *The Eighteenth-Century: Theory and Interpretation*
2. Pamela Gilbert, University of Florida, Editor, *Nineteenth-Century Literature in Transition: The 1860s* (Cambridge UP, 2024); Series Editor, *Studies in the Long Nineteenth Century* (SUNY Press)
3. Katherine Malone, South Dakota State University, Editor, *Victorian Periodicals Review*
4. Melissa Purdue, Minnesota State University, Mankato, Editor, *Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies*
5. Elizabeth Tasker Davis, Stephen F. Austin State University, Co-Editor, *British Women Satirists in the Long Eighteenth Century* (Cambridge UP, 2022)

6:30–8:30 p.m. Cash Bar and Banquet, River Pre-Function Area and Four Winds N/S

Saturday, May 17

8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast, River Pre-Function Area

8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Check-In at Registration Desk, Front of Ballroom Pre-Function Area

9:00–10:30 a.m. Paper Session 5

5A: Transgressions and Transformations

Moderator: Anna Feuerstein, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Room: Four Winds E

1. Kenzington Covey, University of South Dakota, “Masks of Desire: Identity, Power, and Gender Performativity in Eliza Haywood’s *Fantomina*”
2. Anna Van Holland, University of South Dakota, “Compassionate Visibility: Reimagining Disability in Sarah Scott’s *Millenium Hall*”
3. Addison Jensen, University of South Dakota, “Men, Marriage, and Misfortune in Sarah Scott’s *Millenium Hall*”
4. Lara Carlson McGoey, University of South Dakota, “Transformative Ties and Class Divide in Elizabeth Gaskell’s *North and South*”

5B: Gothic Transformations

Moderator: Amanda Himes, John Brown University

Room: Four Winds W

1. Cameron Dodworth, Methodist University, “The Darkness of Realism: Gothic Transformations in Nineteenth-Century Literature and Art”
2. Jessica Berg, South Dakota State University, “Radcliffe and Austen: Gothic Doubles”
3. Kirsten Boswell, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, “The Gothic Veil in *Northanger Abbey*; Lifting the Cover of Ignorance”
4. Melissa Purdue, Minnesota State University, Mankato, “Vegetal Transformations: Female Botanical Monsters”

5C: Transformations and/of the Maternal

Moderator: Kelsey Rall, Vanderbilt University

Room: Four Winds N

1. Michaela George, University of New Hampshire, "Transforming a Daughter's Future: Reading Maternal Death in *A Simple Story* and *Adeline Mowbray*"
2. Sydney Feldhake, Indiana State University, "Lover Mother: Gender, Sexuality, and Underlying Incest in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein or, The Modern Prometheus*"
3. Kristin Kuhns, Seton Hill University, "Vocation and Transformation Through Illness in Brontë's *Shirley*"

10:45 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Paper Session 6

6A: Transforming the Classroom, Transforming the Discipline

Moderator: Sharon Smith, South Dakota State University

Room: Four Winds E

1. Anna Feuerstein, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, "Undisciplining Jane Austen in Hawai'i"
2. Eleanor Reeds, Hastings College, "Defining Literary Studies: Articulating and Teaching Our Disciplinary Methods in the Classroom"
3. Amanda Himes, John Brown University, "Does Contract Grading Help Students?"

6B: Feminine Agency: Marginalization, Adaptation, and Defiance

Moderator: Catherine Ross, The University of Texas at Tyler

Room: Four Winds W

1. Brooke Woodall, Sam Houston State University, "A Monster Silenced: *Frankenstein* and the Erasure of Feminine Spaces"
2. Renissa Gannie, Indiana University Bloomington "The Lace-Doily Revolution: Genteel Defiance in Elizabeth Gaskell's *Cranford*"
3. ShyAnn Springer, South Dakota State University, "Consequent New Women: A Study of Amy Levy's *The Romance of a Shop*"

Saturday, May 17

6C: Sensation Fiction

Moderator: Jessica Berg, South Dakota State University

Room: Four Winds N

1. Erica Haugtvedt, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, "George Eliot's 'Anxiety of Assimilation' Through *The Lifted Veil*"
2. Ashni Clayton, Washington University in St. Louis, "Sense, Sensibility, and Sensation: Diseased Reading and Mary Elizabeth Braddon's *Lady Audley's Secret*"
3. Emma Horst, Loyola University Chicago, "Transatlantic Ties: Portraits, Portrait Viewing, and the Sensationalization of Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Mary Elizabeth Braddon's *Lady Audley's Secret* and Julia C. Collins' *The Curse of Caste*"

6D: Children's Literature

Moderator: Donelle Ruwe, Northern Arizona University

Room: Four Winds S

1. Risako Nomura, Oregon State University, "From Enlightenment to Romanticism: Wollstonecraft's Changing View of Emotion in Her Children's Literature"
2. Amy Gates, Missouri Southern State University, "Translation and Transformation: Death in Wollstonecraft's *Original Stories from Real Life*"
3. Janna Chance, Union University, "Mary Martha Sherwood's *Infant's Progress*: Transforming Bunyan to Transform Child Readers"

12:00–2:00 p.m. Break: Lunch on your own and optional mentorship meetings.

Visit the BWWC 2025 Shopping & Dining Guide for suggestions!
See the QR code on the back cover of the program.

12:00–1:00 p.m. BWBA Board Business Luncheon, Bar Clara

2:00–3:15 p.m. Paper Session 7

7A: Dangerous Domesticity

Moderator: Taya Sazama, University of South Dakota

Room: Four Winds E

1. Effie Harrington, Duke University, “‘A Sacred Horror ... Unfit for Utterance’: Rape, Testimony, and Silence in Mary Shelley’s *Mathilda*”
2. Marissa Bolin, Longwood University, “‘A fact taken from real life’: Transforming Caroline Norton’s Advocacy for Marriage Law Reform from Fact to Fiction”
3. Heather Nelson, Western Colorado University, “‘How Could I Know What Would Come?’: Consent, Abuse, and ‘Janet’s Repentance’”

7B: Transformations of Body and Mind in Charlotte Brontë’s *Villette*

Moderator: Ashni Clayton, Washington University in St. Louis

Room: Four Winds W

1. Melissa Merte, Lyon College, “‘Pain and Peril’: *Villette* and the Tortured Relationship Between Knowledge and Childbirth”
2. Makayla Banton, Texas State University, “Seeking Sameness and Empathy in *Villette*’s Psychological Transformations”
3. Emma Johnson, Indiana University Bloomington, “*Villette*, Cryptology, and the Burial of Lucy Snowe”

7C: Madness, Mystery, and Matrophobia

Moderator: Henna Messina, Eastern New Mexico University

Room: Four Winds N

1. Ezekiel Olufayo, University of South Dakota, “The Desecrated Recess and the Mad Woman Motif: Gothicizing History in Sophia Lee’s *The Recess*”
2. Uroosa Khan, University of South Dakota, “Empowering Spaces: Aesthetic Reimaginings of Julia’s Journey in Ann Radcliffe’s *A Sicilian Romance*”
3. Ethan Stone, University of South Dakota, “The Road to a Daughter’s Independence: Examining Matrophobia in *The Recess* and *A Sicilian Romance*”

Saturday, May 17

7D: Historical Transformations/Transforming History

Moderator: Sydney Feldhake, Indiana State University

Room: Four Winds S

1. Elijah Walters, United States Military Academy, West Point, “‘Amusing you with an old world story’: Reforming the Literary Past in *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*”
2. Susan Wood, Midland University, “From Historical Figures to Legendary Characters: Elizabeth Gaskell’s *Sylvia’s Lovers*”

3:30–4:45 p.m. Keynote Address, Four Winds E

Lisa Hager, St. Catherine University, “*Transforming the Woman Question: Transgender Identities and the Fiction of the Gender Binary in Victorian Literary Culture*”

4:45–6:15 p.m. Cash Bar and Closing Reception, River Pre-Function Area



Saturday, May 17, 3:30 to 4:45 p.m., Four Winds E

Keynote Address

Lisa Hager
St. Catherine University

Transforming the Woman Question:

**Transgender Identities
and the Fiction of the Gender Binary
in Victorian Literary Culture**

Dr. Lisa Hager is Associate Professor and Muellerleile Endowed Chair in English at St. Catherine University in St. Paul, Minnesota. Dr. Hager also edits, along with their colleague Dr. Anna Maria Jones, the academic journal *Prose Studies: History, Theory, Criticism*. Their current book project looks at the intersections of trans studies and Victorian studies, and they have published articles on Victorian sexology, the New Woman, aestheticism and decadence, steampunk, digital humanities, and trans and queer studies. Their article on “female husbands,” which will be part of their monograph, was awarded the Surridge Prize for Best Article Published in *Victorian Review* and the North American Victorian Studies Association Donald Gray Prize for the Best Essay Published in the Field of Victorian Studies in 2021.



BWWC 2025 Organizing Committee

Jessica Berg, South Dakota State University
Katherine Malone, South Dakota State University
Lisa Ann Robertson, University of South Dakota
Taya Sazama, University of South Dakota
Sharon Smith, South Dakota State University

BWWA 2025 Volunteers

Tiffani Pirner, South Dakota State University
Ada Smith, South Dakota State University
ShyAnn Springer, South Dakota State University

BWWA Executive Committee

Co-Chairs:

Alicia Carroll, Auburn University
Nicole Reynolds, Ohio University

Chairs Emeriti:

Roxanne Eberle, University of Georgia
Donelle Ruwe, Northern Arizona University

Co-Secretary/Treasurers and Co-Web/Media Managers:

Doreen Thierauf, North Carolina Wesleyan University
Caitlin Anderson, Georgia Institute of Technology

Communications Director:

Henna Messina, Eastern New Mexico University

Mentorship Program Coordinator:

Lauren Pinkerton, University of California, Fullerton

BWWA Elected Association Board

Pamela Buck, Sacred Heart University
Kimberly Cox, Chadron State College
Lana Dalley, California State University, Fullerton
Cameron Dodworth, Methodist University
Benjamin Hudson, Rollins College
Melissa Purdue, Minnesota State University, Mankato
Cheryl Wilson, SUNY Old Westbury

BWWA Advisory Board

Susan Brown, University of Guelph
Paula Feldman, University of South Carolina
Pamela Gilbert, University of Florida
Linda Hughes, Texas Christian University
Kirstyn Leuner (Emerita Web/Media Manager), Santa Clara University
Harriet Kramer Linkin, New Mexico State University
Tricia Lootens, University of Georgia
Laura Mandell, Texas A&M University
Patricia Matthew, Montclair State University
Carol McKay, University of Texas, Austin
Donelle Ruwe (Emerita Chair), Northern Arizona University
Beverly Taylor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Cover Image

Barbara Regina Dietzsch (1706–83), *Primula auricula*. Courtesy of the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

NOTES



BWWC 2025

Connect
with us!

Visit Our
Website



View Our Shopping
& Dining Guide



Message Us
for Assistance

