

BWWC 2026: Collections and Collectives

Auburn University

May 7-9th, 2026



“How I pity all the other girls at the archery meeting!”

Daniel Deronda, George Eliot (1876)

Pegram, Frederick (1870-1937), ““How I pity all the other girls at the archery meeting!”” *George Eliot Archive*, accessed March 27, 2026, <https://georgeeliotarchive.org/items/show/2495>.

Image Gallery, [George Eliot Archive](https://georgeeliotarchive.org), edited by Beverley Park Rilett

Schedule in Brief

Unless otherwise noted, events are held in the Mell Classroom Building.

Thursday, May 7th

- 8:30-1:00 Check-in/Breakfast
- 10:00-11:00 Mentor/Mentee Coffee Hour
- 11:00-1:00 Lunch on your own
- 1:00-2:30 Panel 1-A-D
- 2:45-4:15 Panel 2 A-D
- 4:15- 4:30 Coffee Break
- 4:30-5:30 [Julian S. Whitney](#), Byron K. Trippet Assistant Professor of English, Wabash College, Plenary
- 6:00-8:00 Opening Reception [Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities, Pebble Hill](#)

Friday, May 8th

- 8:30 Breakfast and Coffee
- 9:00-10:30 Panel 3A-C
- 10:40-12:10 Panel 4 A-C
- 12:15-1:15 Lunch on your own; mentor/mentees meeting
- 1:15-2:20 Staying Sane While Planning Pedagogy: Teaching Roundtable with Caitlin Anderson, Michaela George, and Doreen Thierauf
- 2:30-3:30 Physical and Digital Archives: Introducing the Constance Fulmer Papers on Edith Simcox and George Eliot's Letters Online; Special Collections RBD Library with Beverley Park Rilett and Yue Cui
- 3:45-5:15 Paths to Publication: Advice from the Editor's Desk: Chaired by Nicole Reynolds and featuring Sharon Smith, Elizabeth Miller, Pamela Gilbert, and Doreen Thierauf
- 5:30-6:30 [Julie Park](#), Paterno Family Librarian for Literature and Professor of English, Penn State, Plenary
- 6:30-8:00 Banquet at the [Auburn Hotel and Conference Center](#)

Saturday, May 9

- 8:00 Breakfast and Coffee
- 8:30-10:00 Panel 5A-C
- 10:30-12:00 Dance Workshop with [Brenna Sumner](#): Learn a Late-18th-Century Country Dance. 🌸 Prize for Identifying a Fictional Dance Scene 🌸
- 12:00-1:30 Lunch on your own. Board Lunch.
- 1:30-2:45 Panel 6A-C Location TBA
- 3:00-4:30 Panel 7 A-C Location TBA
- 4:45-5:00 Coffee Break Langdon Hall
- 5:00-6:15 [Elizabeth Carolyn Miller](#), Professor and Gwendolyn Bridges Needham Chair in English Literature, UC Davis, Plenary, Langdon Hall
- 6:30 Closing Reception: [Walt's on the Roof](#)

Detailed Schedule

Thursday, May 7th

8:30-1:00 Check-in/Breakfast

10-11:00 Mentor/Mentee Coffee Hour

Lunch on your own

1:00-2:30 **Panel 1A-D**

A) Mobility, Modernity, and Money:

- Lana L. Dalley (CSU Fullerton), “The New Economic Woman: Olive Schreiner, Work, and the Feminist Collective”
- Munique Martins Bonet (University of Alabama), “Economic Collection: Jane Austen and the Management of Literary Earnings”
- Razan A. Naseb (UT Knoxville), “Staying Put: Women’s Stillness and Moral Labor in Victorian Women’s Fiction”

B) Abolition and Anticolonization:

- Kirsten Lee (Auburn University), “Anti-Slavery’s Anti-Colonization Feminists: Harriet Martineau and the African American Case Against Liberia”
- Henna Messina (Eastern New Mexico University), “Elizabeth Heyrick and Susanna Watts: Collaborative Political Domesticity”
- Brett D. Wilson (William & Mary), “I might have been a queen: Figuring Governance in *The Female American* (1767)”

C) Legacies: Literary and Landscape

- Hanna LeClair (Appalachian State University), “Collecting and Recollecting: Picturing Social Collectivity in *Adam Bede*”
- Kim Manganelli (Clemson), “Welcome Back Heathcliff: *Wuthering Heights* and the Collective of Antiheroes in Contemporary Dark Romance”
- Elizabeth Burrows (Auburn University), “*Wuthering Heights* as Meta-Archive”
- Justin Paxson (Auburn University), “Reconsidering the Alkali Acts and the Coal Smoke Abatement Society through Archival Scrapbooks, Diaries, and Correspondence”

2:45-4:15 **Panel 2A-D**

A) Crossing Boundaries and Collective Becomings

- Lisa Hager (St. Catherine University), “British Woman Writer? Fiona Macleod, William Sharp, and the Trans-Authorial Persona”
- Carly Newton Nations (UT Austin), “The Voice(s) of Michael Field: A Model for Collaboration and Collective Action in the Academy”
- Elizabeth Lazzari (University of Washington), “Crimea Collectives of British Female Heroism”
- Cas Lisko, “(Be)coming/(Re)Turning: Motifs of Jewishness in Harrington and *Daniel Deronda*”

B) The Two Marys and...

- Scott Caddy (Wayne State University), “Collecting Influence: George Eliot and Mary Wollstonecraft”
- Virginia H. Cope (Ohio State University), “Mary Wollstonecraft and Place”
- Meg McDougal (Mississippi State University), “Dreams and Transformations: Mary Shelley’s Short Stories Featured in *The Keepsake*”
- Mahmud (University of Delhi), “Stitching the Social: Cabinets of Feeling and Feminine Collectives in Jane Austen and Mary Shelley”

C) Collective Embodiments:

- Abra Gibson (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University), “Gaskell and the Semiotic: Affective Disconnections Beyond the Symbolic”
- Anila Shree (Georgia Institute of Technology), “Collecting and Figuring a Body: Stitching Embodiment in Woolf’s *Mrs. Dalloway*”
- Angela Blumberg (Auburn University), “Pernicious Pairs: Gloves and Gothic Modernisms in Butts and Bowen”
- Tiffany Oharriz (University of Miami), “Madness and the Violence of Colonial Knowledge in *Wide Sargasso Sea*”

D) Collecting Inheritances

- Michaela George (Georgia College & State University), “Emily St. Aubert’s Pathway to Inheritance: Tracing a Female Line of Inheritance in *The Mysteries of Udolpho*”
- Elizabeth Drummey (Independent Scholar), “‘You are now collecting your People delightfully’: The Literary Inheritance of Anna Austen Lefroy”
- Rachael Nebraska Lynch (George Washington University), “Excessive Bodyminds: The Collection of ‘Bad Genes’ in Florence Marryat’s *The Blood of the Vampire*”

4:15-4:30 Coffee Break

- 4:30-5:30 [Julian S. Whitney](#), Byron K. Trippet Assistant Professor of English, Wabash College, Plenary
- 6:00-8:00 Opening Reception at the [Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities, Pebble Hill](#)

Friday, May 8th

8:30 Breakfast and Coffee

9:00-10:30 **Panel 3A-C**

A) Collecting Things

- Nira Gupta-Casale (Kean University), “Curiosities, Collectibles, or Loot? Lady Henrietta Clive’s Collection of Indian Artifacts”
- Gina Xinyuan Qiu (Sul Ross State University), “Reading *Mansfield Park* vis-a-vis 18th-Century Navigational Instrument Collections”
- Jennifer Geer (University of Louisiana-Lafayette), “Coming of Age with Imperial Décor in Mary Molesworth’s *The Cuckoo Clock*”
- Sara Rodia (University of Delaware), “Traces of Remembering: Mourning and Memory in Nineteenth-Century Women’s Funeral Ephemera”

B) Collectively Teaching George Eliot

- Jayda Coons (UT Chattanooga), “Slowly Reading *Middlemarch*: A Case Study”
- Ashley Campbell (Georgia Highlands College), “Teaching George Eliot’s *Romola* in the Twenty-First Century”
- Chris Keirstead (Auburn University), “Teaching and Debating Greatness: *Bleak House* and *Middlemarch*”

C) Recovered Collections:

- Serenah Minasian and Alexis Minasian (Carl Sandberg College and Western Illinois University), “Lister’s Library: From Personal to Public”
- Victoria Bik (UNC Chapel Hill), “Recovered, Mostly Retrievable, but Relevant? Victorian Women Writers at Fales Library”

10:40-12:10 **Panel 4 A-D**

A) Conspiracy and Collective Resistance

- Nicole Reynolds (Ohio University), “Correspondence, Conspiracy, and Collective Resistance: Revolutions of Thought in Phebe Gibbe’s *Friendship in a Nunnery; or, the American Fugitive* (1778)”
- Noushin, Ahdoot (Johns Hopkins University), “Between the Beautiful Soul and the Mob: Social Collectivity, Female Friendship, and Alienation in Sarah Fielding and Jane Collier’s *The Cry*”
- Courtney Hoffman (Georgia Institute of Technology), “The Ancient Spirit: Jane Porter’s *The Scottish Chiefs* Defines a Collective Scottish Identity”
- Gina Qinaerduolai Bao (Ohio University), “Border Crossing in Charlotte Smith’s *The Emigrants*”

B) Archival Collections and Exclusions:

- Madeline Davis (Brigham Young University), “Ethel M. Dell’s *Bars of Iron*: Emotional Maximalism and Wartime Reading and Reception”
- Crescent Rainwater (Mercer University), “[S]omething dreadful that was happening in London’: Representing Oscar Wilde’s Trials in Dorothy Richardson’s *Honeycomb*”
- Kelsey Rall (Lamar University), “Excessive Collections: Marianne North and the Legacy of the Vocational Singlewoman”
- Jac Rusher (Georgetown University), “What the Queen Says: Reimagining the Archive in Zanele Muholi’s Photography”

C) Evolutions of the Gothic:

- Alexander Hart (Sam Houston State University), “Ownership of the Other: A Comparative Look at *Oroonoko* and *Wuthering Heights*”
- Caitlin Jones (Louisiana State University), “Real Hot Stuff”: *Northanger Abbey*’s Troubled Gothic Displacement”
- Ellen Campbell (Auburn University), “A Collective Fear of Longevity: Aging Women and Vampirism in Nineteenth-Century Gothic Literature”
- Sharon Smith (South Dakota State University), “An Unearthly Sphere of Powerful Mischief: Confronting Gothic Masculinity in the Novels of Ann Radcliffe”

12:15-1:15 Lunch on your own; mentor/mentees meeting

1:15- 2:20 Staying Sane While Planning Pedagogy: Teaching Roundtable with Caitlin Anderson, Michaela George, and Doreen Thierauf

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- 5:30-6:30 [Julie Park](#), Paterno Family Librarian for Literature and Professor of English, Penn State, Plenary
- 6:30-8:00 Banquet at the [Auburn Hotel and Conference Center](#)

Saturday, May 9

8:00 Breakfast and Coffee

8:30-10:00 Panel 5A-C

A) Victorian Aesthetics and Collective Medievalisms

- Lydia Ezell Cooper (Georgia Southern), “Collecting Women: Pre-Raphaelite Ideals in *Aurora Leigh* and *Jane Eyre*”
- Kathleen McCormack (Florida International University), “George Eliot’s Salon: Pre-Raphaelites at the Priory”
- Christian Cotton-Dixen (Georgia Southern University), “‘By mind bequeathed to mind’: Historiography and Poetic Form in Ann Hawkshaw’s *Sonnets on Anglo-Saxon History*”
- Joe Sweeney (Vanderbilt), “Of Pathetic Fallacies, Subjectivities, and Seeing Things Clearly in George Eliot’s *Adam Bede*”

B) Green Phantasms

- Avery-Claire Galloway (Clemson), “Finding Fantasy in a Pomegranate Tree: Sara Coleridge’s Foundation for a New Literary Genre”
- Mamuna Ahmed (Ashoke University), “Exhibited Collectors: Women, Botanical Imperialism, and Postcolonial Redress in the Nineteenth Century”
- Norah Alsubaie (Auburn University), “The Plant-Like Villain: Decentralized Power and Passive Resistance in *The Sorceress of the Strand*”
- Sarah Lennox (Massachusetts Maritime Academy), “‘White Petals Spotted Now with Flecks of Scarlet’: The Femme Fatale Plant in Nineteenth- and Early-Twentieth-Century Botanical Horror Stories”

C) Gendered Mediums

- Emilee Brown (Auburn University), “‘Supposing You Man’: Victorian Masculinity and Epistolary Authority in the Stowe-Eliot Letters”
- Riya Das (Prairie View A&M University), “Strategic Collectives: Feminine Epistemologies in *Cranford* and ‘Goblin Market’”
- Lindsey N. Chappell (Georgia Southern University), “The Aesthetics of Women’s Activist Life Writing”
- Lauren Pinkerton (CSU Fullerton), “‘Alone Like an Idol in an Empty Church’: Resisting Fantasies of Scholarship in British Women’s Writing”

D) Cookbooks and Recipe Collections

- Livia Woods (University of Illinois-Springfield), “Health and Illness in Domestic Cookbooks, 1615-1861”
- Bonnie Shishko (Queens University of Charlotte), “Culinary Collectives: Coalitional Disability Care in Isabella Beeton’s *Book of Household Management* (1861)”
- Cameron Dodworth (Methodist University), “The Restorative Powers of ... Jelly? Collecting and Developing Recipes for Invalids and the Sick Room”

10:30-12:00 Dance Workshop: Learning a Late-18th-Century Country Dance. Prize for Identifying a Fictional Dance Scene.

12:00-1:30 Lunch on your own. Board Lunch.

1:30-2:45 **Panel 6A-C**

A) Collecting India:

- Margaret Hageman (University of Southern Mississippi), “‘A perfect Noah’s Ark of wild beasts’: The Nawab’s Menagerie in Flora Annie Steel’s *On the Face of the Waters*”
- Arpit Kumar (Georgia Institute of Technology), “Caste(ing) Power in Mariana Starke’s *Widow of Malabar*”
- Prabal Gupta (Michigan State University), “Victorian Imagination and Pictorial *Punch*: The 1857 Uprising and Its Aftermath in British Periodicals”

B) Collective Tales:

- Ariane Campbell (Clemson), “The Gothic Victorian: Mary Shelley’s Adaptation of the Brothers Grimm’s ‘Cinderella’”
- Laura M. White (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), “Weaving and the Fairy Tale Collection in Frances Browne’s *Granny’s Wonderful Chair* (1856)”
- Chase Adair (Abilene Christian University), “Countries in Crisis: Adaptive Leadership in Mary Shelley’s *The Last Man*”

C) Practices and Play:

- Laura Miller (University of West Georgia), “Reading for Self-Care in the Eighteenth-Century Spa Town”
- Daniel Siegel (University of Alabama-Birmingham), “The Love Match: Chess and Courtship in the Victorian Magazines”
- Emma Johnson (Indiana University), “Playing with Austen: The Good, the Bad, and the Tchotchkes”
- Megha Mazumdar (Shiv Nadar University), “Séances, Soirées, and Salons: Women’s Spiritualist Circles as Collective Knowledge-Making in Victorian Britain”

3:00-4:30 **Panel 7 A-D**

A) Rape and Reproductive Violence:

- Doreen Thierauf (North Carolina Wesleyan University), “Uneasy Collectives: Reading Sexual Threat in Fanny Burney’s *The Wanderer* alongside *The History of Mary Prince*”
- Grace Gibson (Duke University), “The ‘...immovable imitation’ of a Woman: Books and Bodies in *Middlemarch*”
- Dani Hilliard (Auburn University), “George Eliot and Elizabeth Gaskell’s Fallen Women Collective: Infanticide, Illegitimacy, and the Various Consequences”
- Heather Nelson (Independent Scholar), “Writing Literature as Collecting Evidence: George Egerton, Consent, and the Marital Rape Exemption”

B) Collecting Plants and Animals:

- Thomas Bullington (Mercer University), “The Shattered Greenhouse: Botany, Exile, & Sensibility in Charlotte Turner Smith’s *Marchmont* (1796)”
- Kandi Tayebi Sam Houston State University), “Collective Archive of Care: Charlotte Smith’s Botanical, Archival, and Poetic Practice”
- Gretchen Braun (Furman University), “A High-Bred Filly”: *Aurora Floyd* and the Husbandry of Nations”

C) A Collection of Theological Perspectives and Practices:

- Laura Stevens (Auburn University), “Mrs. Sanger’s Book of Days: Collecting Intimates through Annotation of a Devotional Calendar”
- Janna Smartt-Chance (Union University), “Evangelical Conversation and Spiritual Abuse in Mary Ann Kelty’s *The Story of Isabel*”
- Makayla B. Jenkins (Louisiana State University), “‘To fix my hopes upon a surer stay!’ Dorothy Wordsworth’s Collective Poetic Process”
- Quineth Buisch, “Sacred Spaces and Sacred Roles: An Ecotheological Reading of Jane Austen’s Early Works”

4:45-5:00 Coffee Break Langdon Hall

5:00 Elizabeth Miller, Keynote Langdon Hall

6:00 Closing Reception: [Walt’s on the Roof](#)