



Collections & Collectives

34th Annual Conference
of the
British Women Writers Association

Auburn University
Auburn, Alabama
May 7-9, 2026

COVER IMAGE: Frederick Pegram (1870-1937), “How I Pity All the Other Girls at the Archery Meeting!” for George Eliot’s *Daniel Deronda* (1876). *George Eliot Archive*, ed. Beverley Park Rilett, <https://georgeeliotarchive.org/items/show/2495>.

ONLINE: Find the latest conference updates at [https://https://britishwomenwriters.org/conference](https://britishwomenwriters.org/conference). Our hashtag for live-tweeting is #BWWC2026. Follow us on Instagram @bwwa_bwwc.

PROGRAM ART DESIGN: Doreen Thierauf, BWWA Web Coordinator



"Collections & Collectives"
34th Annual Conference

of the

British Women Writers Association

Hosted by Auburn University, May 7-9, 2026

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

Special Events at a Glance

CONFERENCE CHECK-IN, BREAKFAST, & RECONNECTING WITH FRIENDS,
Thursday, 8:30-1:00, Room 3510A

KEYNOTE BY JULIAN S. WHITNEY, Thursday, 4:30-5:30, Room 2550

OPENING RECEPTION, Thursday, 6:00-8:00, Caroline Marshall Draughton Center
for the Arts and Humanities, Pebble Hill

STAYING SANE WHILE PLANNING PEDAGOGY: TEACHING ROUNDTABLE, Friday,
1:00-2:00, Room 3546

PHYSICAL AND DIGITAL ARCHIVES: INTRODUCING THE CONSTANCE FULMER PAPERS
ON EDITH SIMCOX AND GEORGE ELIOT'S LETTERS ONLINE,
Friday, 2:15-3:15, Special Collections RBD Library

PATHS TO PUBLICATION: ADVICE FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK, Friday, 3:30-4:30,
Room 3546

KEYNOTE BY JULIE PARK, Friday, 4:45-5:45, Room 2550

BANQUET AT THE AUBURN HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER, Friday, 6:00-8:00,
Terrace Room

DANCE WORKSHOP, Saturday, 10:30-12:00, Room 3546

KEYNOTE BY ELIZABETH CAROLYN MILLER, Saturday, 5:00-6:15, Langdon Hall

CLOSING RECEPTION AT WALT'S ON THE ROOF, Saturday, 6:30

Schedule in Brief

THURSDAY, MAY 7TH

- 8:30-1:00 Check-in/Breakfast, Room 3510A
10:00-11:00 Mentor/Mentee Coffee Hour, , Rooms 3510A & 3510B
11:00-1:00 Lunch on your own
1:00-2:30 Panels 1 A-C, Rooms 3546, 3520, 3510B
2:45-4:15 Panels 2 A-D, Rooms 3546, 3520, 3510B, Library 3133
4:15- 4:30 Coffee Break, Room 3510A
4:30-5:30 Keynote by Julian S. Whitney, Room 2550
6:00-8:00 Opening Reception at the Caroline Marshall Draughton Center for the Arts and Humanities, Pebble Hill

FRIDAY, MAY 8TH

- 8:00 Breakfast and Coffee, Room 3510A
8:30-10:00 Panels 3 A-C, Rooms 3546, 3520, 3510B
10:15-11:45 Panels 4 A-C, Rooms 3546, 3520, 3510B
11:45-12:45 Lunch on your own; mentor/mentees meeting
1:00-2:00 Staying Sane While Planning Pedagogy: Teaching Roundtable, Room 3546
2:15-3:15 Physical and Digital Archives: Introducing the Constance Fulmer Papers on Edith Simcox and George Eliot's Letters Online; Special Collections RBD Library
3:30-4:30 Paths to Publication: Advice from the Editor's Desk, Room 3546
4:45-5:45 Keynote by Julie Park, Room 2550
6:00-8:00 Banquet at the Auburn Hotel and Conference Center, Terrace Room

SATURDAY, MAY 9

- 8:00 Breakfast and Coffee, Room 3510A
8:30-10:00 Panels 5A-C, Rooms 3546, 3520, 3510B
10:30-12:00 Dance Workshop, Room 3546
12:00-1:30 Lunch on your own & Board Lunch
1:30-2:45 Panels 6A-C, **Location TBA**
3:00-4:30 Panels 7 A-C, **Location TBA**
4:30-5:00 Coffee Break, Langdon Hall
5:00-6:15 Keynote by Elizabeth Carolyn Miller, Langdon Hall
6:30 Closing Reception at Walt's on the Roof

Thursday, May 7th

8:30-1:00	CHECK-IN/BREAKFAST, ROOM 3510A
10:00 -11:00	MENTOR/MENTEE COFFEE HOUR, ROOM 3510A
	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN
1:00-2:30	SESSION I: CONCURRENT PANELS (A-C)
IA ROOM 3546	MOBILITY, MODERNITY, AND MONEY Moderator: TBA LANA L. DALLEY (California State University, Fullerton) “The New Economic Woman: Olive Schreiner, Work, and the Feminist Collective” MUNIKE MARTINS BONET (University of Alabama), “Economic Collection: Jane Austen and the Management of Literary Earnings” RAZAN A. NASEB (University of Tennessee at Knoxville), “Staying Put: Women’s Stillness and Moral Labor in Victorian Women’s Fiction”
IB ROOM 3520	ABOLITION AND ANTICOLONIZATION Moderator: TBA 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 <i>The Female American</i> (1767)”
IC ROOM 3510B	LEGACIES: LITERARY AND LANDSCAPE Moderator: TBA HANNA LECLAIR (Appalachian State University) “Collecting and Recollecting: Picturing Social Collectivity in <i>Adam Bede</i> ” KIM MANGANELLI (Clemson University) “Welcome Back Heathcliff: <i>Wuthering Heights</i> and the Collective of Antiheroes in Contemporary Dark Romance” ELIZABETH BURROWS (Auburn University) “ <i>Wuthering Heights</i> as Meta-Archive” JUSTIN PAXSON (Auburn University) “Reconsidering the Alkali Acts and the Coal Smoke Abatement Society through Archival Scrapbooks, Diaries, and Correspondence”

Thursday, May 7th

2:30-2:45	BREAK
2:45-4:15	SESSION 2: CONCURRENT PANELS (A-D)
2A ROOM 3546	<p>CROSSING BOUNDARIES AND COLLECTIVE BECOMINGS Moderator: TBA</p> <p>LISA HAGER (St. Catherine University) “British Woman Writer? Fiona Macleod, William Sharp, and the Trans-Authorial Persona”</p> <p>CARLY NEWTON NATIONS (University of Texas at Austin) “The Voice(s) of Michael Field: A Model for Collaboration and Collective Action in the Academy”</p> <p>ELIZABETH LAZZARI (University of Washington) “Crimea Collectives of British Female Heroism”</p> <p>CAS LISKO (University of Alabama) “I will call myself a Jew’: Jewish (Be)coming and (Re)turning in <i>Daniel Deronda</i> and <i>Harrington</i>”</p>
2B ROOM 3520	<p>THE TWO MARYS AND... Moderator: TBA</p> <p>SCOTT CADDY (Wayne State University) “Collecting Influence: George Eliot and Mary Wollstonecraft”</p> <p>VIRGINIA H. COPE (Ohio State University) “Mary Wollstonecraft and Place”</p> <p>MEG McDUGAL (Mississippi State University) “Dreams and Transformations: Mary Shelley’s Short Stories Featured in <i>The Keepsake</i>”</p> <p>Z. I. MAHMUD (University of Delhi) “Stitching the Social: Cabinets of Feeling and Feminine Collectives in Jane Austen and Mary Shelley”</p>
2C ROOM 3510B	<p>COLLECTIVE EMBODIMENTS Moderator: TBA</p> <p>ABRA GIBSON (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University) “Gaskell and the Semiotic: Affective Disconnections Beyond the Symbolic”</p> <p>ANILA SHREE (Georgia Institute of Technology) “Collecting and Figuring a Body: Stitching Embodiment in Woolf’s <i>Mrs. Dalloway</i>”</p> <p>ANGELA BLUMBERG (Auburn University) “Pernicious Pairs: Gloves and Gothic Modernisms in Butts and Bowen”</p> <p>TIFFANY OHARRIZ (University of Miami) “Madness and the Violence of Colonial Knowledge in <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>”</p>

Thursday, May 7th

2D
LIBRARY 3133

COLLECTING INHERITANCES

Moderator: TBA

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
Room 3510A

COFFEE BREAK

4:30-5:30
Room 2550

Keynote by JULIAN S. WHITNEY, Byron K. Trippet Assistant Professor of English, Wabash College

6:00-8:00

Opening Reception at the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities, Pebble Hill

Friday, May 8th

8:00	BREAKFAST & COFFEE, ROOM 3510A
8:30-10:00	SESSION 3: CONCURRENT PANELS (A-C)
3A ROOM 3546	COLLECTING THINGS Moderator: TBA 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 <i>Mansfield Park</i> vis-a-vis 18 th -Century Navigational Instrument Collections” JENNIFER GEER (University of Louisiana-Lafayette) “Coming of Age with Imperial Décor in Mary Molesworth’s <i>The Cuckoo Clock</i> ” SARA RODIA (University of Delaware) “Traces of Remembering: Mourning and Memory in Nineteenth-Century Women’s Funeral Ephemera”
3B ROOM 3520	COLLECTIVELY TEACHING GEORGE ELIOT Moderator: TBA JAYDA COONS (UT Chattanooga) “Slowly Reading <i>Middlemarch</i> : A Case Study” ASHLEY CAMPBELL (Georgia Highlands College) “Teaching George Eliot’s <i>Romola</i> in the Twenty-First Century” CHRIS KEIRSTEAD (Auburn University) “Teaching and Debating Greatness: <i>Bleak House</i> and <i>Middlemarch</i> ” DANI HILLIARD (Auburn University) “George Eliot and Elizabeth Gaskell’s Fallen Women Collective: Infanticide, Illegitimacy, and the Various Consequences”
3C ROOM 3510B	RECOVERED COLLECTIONS & COLLECTIVES Moderator: TBA SERENAH MINASIAN & ALEXIS MINASIAN (Carl Sandberg College and Western Illinois University) “Lister’s Library: From Personal to Public” VICTORIA BIK (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) “Recovered, Mostly Retrievable, but Relevant? Victorian Women Writers at Fales Library” MEAGAN ANTHONY (Auburn University) “Dangerous Benevolence: Women’s Philanthropic Collectives in Brontë and Gaskell”

Friday, May 8th

10:15-11:45

SESSION 4: CONCURRENT PANELS (A-D)

4A
ROOM 3546

CONSPIRACY AND COLLECTIVE RESISTANCE

Moderator: TBA

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*”

4B
ROOM 3520

ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS AND EXCLUSIONS

Moderator: TBA

MADÉLINE 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”

4C
ROOM 3510B

EVOLUTIONS OF THE GOTHIC

Moderator: TBA

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”

Friday, May 8th

11:45-12:45	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN & MENTOR/MENTEES MEETING
1:00-2:00 ROOM 3546	STAYING SANE WHILE PLANNING PEDAGOGY: TEACHING ROUNDTABLE CAITLIN ANDERSON (Georgia Institute of Technology) MICHAELA GEORGE (Georgia College & State University) DOREEN THIERAUF (North Carolina Wesleyan University)
2:15-3:15 SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RBD LIBRARY	PHYSICAL AND DIGITAL ARCHIVES: INTRODUCING THE CONSTANCE FULMER PAPERS ON EDITH SIMCOX AND GEORGE ELIOT'S LETTERS ONLINE BEVERLEY PARK RILETT (Auburn University) YUE CUI (Auburn University)
3:15-3:30 ROOM 3510A	COFFEE BREAK
3:30-4:30 ROOM 3546	PATHS TO PUBLICATION: ADVICE FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK Moderator: NICOLE REYNOLDS SHARON SMITH (South Dakota State University) ELIZABETH MILLER (University of California, Davis) PAMELA GILBERT (Auburn University) DOREEN THIERAUF (North Carolina Wesleyan University)
4:45-5:45 ROOM 2550	Keynote by JULIE PARK, Paterno Family Librarian for Literature and Professor of English, Pennsylvania State University
6:00-8:00 TERRACE ROOM	Banquet at the Auburn Hotel and Conference Center

Saturday, May 9th

8:00	BREAKFAST, ROOM 3510A
8:30-10:00	SESSION 5: CONCURRENT PANELS (A-D)
5A ROOM 3546	VICTORIAN AESTHETICS AND COLLECTIVE MEDIEVALISMS Moderator: TBA LYDIA EZELL COOPER (Georgia Southern) “Collecting Women: Pre-Raphaelite Ideals in <i>Aurora Leigh</i> and <i>Jane Eyre</i> ” KATHLEEN McCORMACK (Florida International University) “George Eliot’s Salon: Pre-Raphaelites at the Priory” CHRISTIAN COTTEN-DIXON (Georgia Southern University) “‘By mind bequeathed to mind’: Historiography and Poetic Form in Ann Hawkshaw’s <i>Sonnets on Anglo-Saxon History</i> ” JOE SWEENEY (Vanderbilt University) “Of Pathetic Fallacies, Subjectivities, and Seeing Things Clearly in George Eliot’s <i>Adam Bede</i> ”
5B ROOM 3520	GREEN PHANTASMS Moderator: TBA 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 <i>The Sorceress of the Strand</i> ” 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”
5C ROOM 3510B	GENDERED MEDIUMS Moderator: TBA 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 <i>Cranford</i> and ‘Goblin Market’” LINDSEY N. CHAPPELL (Georgia Southern University) “The Aesthetics of Women’s Activist Life Writing” LAUREN PINKERTON (California State University, Fullerton) “‘Alone Like an Idol in an Empty Church’: Resisting Fantasies of Scholarship in British Women’s Writing”

Saturday, May 9th

5D
LIBRARY 3133

COOKBOOKS AND RECIPE COLLECTIONS

Moderator: TBA

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
ROOM 3546

DANCE WORKSHOP: LEARNING A LATE-18TH-CENTURY COUNTRY DANCE
Win a Prize for Identifying a Fictional Dance Scene!

12:00-1:30

Lunch on Your Own & Board Lunch, Location

1:30-2:45

SESSION 6: CONCURRENT PANELS (A-C)

6A
TBA

COLLECTING INDIA

Moderator: TBA

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”

6B
TBA

COLLECTIVE TALES

Moderator: TBA

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*”

Saturday, May 9th

6C

TBA

PRACTICES AND PLAY

Moderator: TBA

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”

2:45-3:00

BREAK

1:30-2:45

SESSION 7: CONCURRENT PANELS (A-D)

7A

TBA

RAPE AND REPRODUCTIVE VIOLENCE:

Moderator: TBA

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*”

HEATHER NELSON (Independent Scholar)

“Writing Literature as Collecting Evidence: George Egerton, Consent, the Marital Rape Exemption, and Homicidal Ideation”

7B

TBA

COLLECTING PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Moderator: TBA

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”

Saturday, May 9th

7C
TBA

A COLLECTION OF THEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES AND PRACTICES

Moderator: TBA

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 (Independent Scholar)

“Sacred Spaces and Sacred Roles: An Ecotheological Reading of Jane Austen’s Early Works”

4:45-5:00

LANGDON HALL

COFFEE BREAK

5:00-6:00

LANGDON HALL

Keynote by ELIZABETH C. MILLER, Professor and Gwendolyn Bridges Needham Chair in English Literature at the University of California, Davis

6:00

Closing Reception at Walt’s on the Roof
