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UNIVERSITÀ DI MACERATA

DIPARTIMENTO DI
STUDI UMANISTICI
Lingue, mediazione,
storia, lettere, filosofia



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

l'umanesimo che innova



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Graduate Seminar

DIGGING IN THE ARCHIVE OF VICTORIAN NOVELS:

An experiment in literary archaeology

30 November – 1 December 2021

Aula Confucio & Aula Shakespeare

Polo didattico Tucci | MACERATA

PROGRAMME

What Margaret Cohen has termed 'the great unread' is daunting in its vastness. Thousands of novels, produced in the nineteenth century, fall into this underexplored category. The graduate seminar *Digging in the archive of Victorian novels* presents the results of an experiment in literary archaeology conducted by MA students, over the course of the Fall semester 2021. Using Troy Bassett's website *At the Circulating Library* as a springboard, the students were asked to select novels that have not yet been re-discovered, or re-published in modern editions, according to the genre or theme that most captured their imagination. The resources of digital libraries (*Internet Archives*, *Hathi Trust*, *Europeana*) helped restrict the selection to texts available in electronic format. The experiment relies on the creative and critical thinking skills students have deployed to decide what to select, how to 'curate' the recovered text and formulate their own hypotheses as to why a given novel is – or is not – deserving of attention.

Tuesday, 30 November 2021

Aula Confucio

12.30-4.00 pm - Registration

1.15-1.30 pm – Welcoming remarks (John McCourt, Head of Department; Silvana Colella)

1.30-2.30 – Panel 1 Chair: Silvana Colella

- Mylena C. De Azevedo & Giovanna Montefusco: "The Vital Importance of Governesses and Other Female Figures in Victorian Society: Miss Ross's *The Governess; or Politics in Private Life* (1836)"
- Fabrizio Fabi & Edoardo Burattini: "'All your fault, Ponsford': the Domestic Tyranny of the Servant, Male Sensibility and Nervousness in Harriet Anne Scott's *The Skeleton in the Cupboard* (1860)"
- Ana Beiu & Sofia Pallotta: The Duality of Victorian Society Between Faith and Science: William Francis Barry's *The Place of Dreams* (1901)

2.30-3.30 – Panel 2 Chair: Maria Paola Svampa

- Cecilia Cofanelli & El Hamri Joarah: "Going Beyond Victorian Hypocrisy: Prostitution and Morality in Felicia Skene's *Hidden Depths* (1866)"
- Andrea Dalila Notarini & Mariapaola Burrelli: "A View on Marriage and Incest in the Victorian Era: Felicia Mary Frances Skene's, *The Inheritance of Evil, or the Consequences of Marrying a Deceased Wife's Sister* (1849)"
- Chiara Di Lorenzo & Silvia Capriotti: "Exploring the Dark Side of Religion: *Outrageous Fortunes: Being the Story of Evelyn Grey, Hospital Nurse* (Anonymous, 1900)"

3.30-4.00 Coffee Break

4.00-5.00 – Panel 3 Chair: Francesco Fratini

- Giulia Montenovo & Alessandra Artone: "New Woman and marriage in *A Husband of No Importance* (1894) by 'Rita'"
- Elisabetta Tommarelli & Lucia Compagnucci: "*Confessions of a Publisher* (1888): by John Strange Winter: Literary Business in the Victorian Era"
- Silvia Liberati & Jessica Ceresoli: "Mary Bramston's *A Woman of Business* (1885): Love and Social Anxiety"

5.00-6.00 – Panel 4 chair: Maria Paola Svampa

- Barbara Salvucci & Sara Iachini: "Fighting Against a 'Hell-Fired' Morality: Annie E. Holdsworth, *Joanna Trull, Spinster* (1894)"
- Sophia Scarpeccio, Elena Trasacco & Sara Montanari: "The Sociopolitical and Entertaining Function of Narrative in John Edward Jenkins's *Little Hodge* (1873) and *The Captain's Cabin* (1877)"
- Maria Grazia Morinelli & Diana Camaioni: "Bene Bonis, Male Malis: Arranged Marriage and Mental Illness in Shirley Brooks's *The Gordian Knot: A Story of Good and of Evil* (1860)"

Wednesday, 1 December 2021

Aula Shakespeare

9.00-10.00 – Panel 5 Chair: Silvana Colella

- Elisabetta Pignotti & Eleonora Giudici: "The (Im)perfect Governess: Mary Elizabeth Hawker's *Mademoiselle Ixe* (1890)"
- Nicolò Roso & Emanuele Strano: "Nationalism, Treason and Moral Ambiguity in James Grant's *The Secret Dispatch or the Adventures of Captain Balgonie*" (1869)"
- Virginia Luzi & Alice Mattioli: "A Prison Inside the Prison in Arthur George Frederick Griffiths's *A Prison Princess: A Romance of Millbank Penitentiary* (1893)"

10.00-11.00 – Panel 6 Chair: Silvana Colella

- Lucrezia Bonfili & Alessia Ricci: "The Love Story of a Disabled Artist: James Baker's *Idyllic Summer in By the Western Sea* (1889)"
- Margherita di Fabio: "Narrative Duality in Frances Eleanor Trollope's *Veronica, a Novel* (1870)"
- Rosa Carlucci & Francesca Ilaria Sagripanti: "Tom Hood's *The Lost Link* (1869): Sorrow, Madness and Insanity"

11.00-11.30 – Coffee Break

11.30-12.30 – Panel 7 Chair: Silvana Colella

- Chiara Rubino & Paola Cassano: "Honour and Justice: The Dream of a Lifelong Love Story in Zack's *The White Cottage* (1901)"
- Annalisa Reali: "Women's Metamorphosis Through the Satirical Lens of Mary Cholmondeley's *A Devotee: An Episode in the Life of a Butterfly* (1897)"

12.30 – 12.45 Concluding remarks (S. Colella)