

# *British Association of Nineteenth-Century Americanists*

**BrANCA**

1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023

## **REFUSE/REFUSAL**

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*6<sup>th</sup> Biennial Symposium  
University of Bristol*

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Register [here](https://shop.bris.ac.uk/conferences-and-events/departments-of-history/conferences/branca-biennial-symposium-2023-refuserefusall): <https://shop.bris.ac.uk/conferences-and-events/departments-of-history/conferences/branca-biennial-symposium-2023-refuserefusall>

# DAY 1 – FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023

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*Arts and Humanities Complex*

*enter at*

*7 Woodland Road*

*Clifton BS8 1 TB*

**11.00-11.30: Registration and Coffee**  
**Research Space, Humanities Complex**

**11.30-1:00: 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Roundtable**  
**Lecture Theatre 2 (LT2), Arts Complex**  
***Reflections on 10 Years of BrANCA***

J. Michelle Coghlan (University of Manchester)

Hilary Emmett (University of East Anglia)

Michael Jonik (University of Sussex)

Hannah Murray (University of Melbourne) (online)

Matthew Pethers (University of Nottingham)

Mark Storey (University of Warwick)

Chair, Bridget Bennett (University of Leeds)

**1.00-2.00: Lunch break**

**Research Space, Humanities Complex**

Light lunch provided

## **2.00-3.30: Panel 1 and Pedagogy Session Discussion**

### **Panel 1: Lecture Theatre 2 (LT2), Arts Complex**

#### ***Rubbish Books***

Thomas Howard (Bilkent University, Ankara, Türkiye), “Thoreau’s *Sudelbücher*: His *Journal* as Waste Book”

Matthew Pethers (University of Nottingham), “Nathaniel Hawthorne, Contemporaneous Literary Fragments, and the Waste of Textual Overproduction”

Ed Sugden (Kings College London), “*Moby-Dick*: A Rubbish Book”

Georgia Walton (University of Lancaster), “Narrative Waste in *The Education of Henry Adams*”

Chair, Darius Wainwright (University of Bristol)

### **Pedagogy Session: Research Space, Humanities Complex**

#### ***Open Discussion: Pedagogy, AI & the Americanist Classroom***

Co-chairs, Erin Forbes (University of Bristol) and Gordon Fraser (University of Manchester)

## **3.30-3.45: Coffee**

### **Research Space, Humanities Complex**

## **3.45-5.15: Panels 2 and 3**

### **Panel 2: Lecture Theatre 2 (LT2), Arts Complex**

#### ***Individual Resistance, Collective Stakes: Reform through Refusal***

Souad Baghli Berbar (University of Tlemcen, Algeria), “Refusal and Refuse in the Rhetoric of Frederick Douglass” (online)

Aïcha Bouchelaghem (Université de Genève), “Caveat Emptor: Consumer Ethics in Narrative Works by Hannah Crafts and Frederick Douglass” (online)

Caroline Hildebrandt (ENS Lyon, Institute of History of Representations and Ideas in Modernities), “Silent refusal(s): mute speech and political reconfiguration in Herman Melville’s “Benito Cereno” (online)

Caroline Martin (Université de Genève), “Conservative Rebels: The Politics of Mary Wilkins Freeman’s Regionalist Portraits” (online)

Chair, Anna Diamandoulis (The American College of Greece)

### **Panel 3: Research Space, Humanities Complex**

#### ***Romantic Refusals Across Time and Space***

Genevieve Johnson-Smith (Newcastle University) “The Many Refusals of Moses Roper”

Matthew Redmond (L'Université de Lille), “The Long, Inconvenient Life of Natty Bumppo”

François Specq (Université de Lyon), “‘I would prefer not to’ (be ‘the wasted Bartleby’): Melville and the Power of Refusal”

Chair: Cécile Roudeau (Université Paris Cité)

### **5:30-7:00: Wine reception**

#### **Research Space, Humanities Complex**

### **7:00: Self-funded conference dinner**

Jumboraj Indian Restaurant, 37B Cotham Hill, BS6 6JY

# DAY 2 – SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2023

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*Arts and Humanities Complex*

*enter at*

*7 Woodland Road*

*Clifton BS8 1 TB*

**8:30-9.00 Coffee & Pastries and Registration**  
**Research Space, Humanities Complex**

**9:00-10:15 Keynote**

**Humanities Complex, Cinema Room G.H01**

“Radical Circles and Archival Gaps: Rethinking Emma Goldman’s Louise Michel”

J. Michelle Coghlan (University of Manchester)

Chair, Ed Sugden (Kings College London)

**10:15-10:30 Coffee**

**Research Space, Humanities Complex**

**10:30-12:00 – Panels 4 and 5**

**Panel 4: Humanities Complex, Cinema Room G.H01**

***Renegotiating Economic Life: Women’s Intellectualism and Activism in the Long Nineteenth Century***

Gordon Fraser (University of Manchester), “The Starvation Weapon: Liberalism, New England Women, and the Birth of Economic Sanctions”

Alice de Galzain (University of Sussex), “‘This Wide Waste of the World’: Vices, Virtue, and Transcendentalist Feminist Resistance”

Rachel Elin Nolan (Manchester Metropolitan University), "Virginia Penny's Economic Horizons: Fact and Futurity in Nineteenth-Century Women's Economic Writing"

Chair, Gordon Fraser (University of Manchester)

### **Panel 5: Research Space, Humanities Complex**

#### ***The Archive of Alternative Endings: Disruptive Temporalities and Unfinished Reading***

Bridget Bennett (University of Leeds), "Public Intimacies Beyond the White Envelope: The Letters of Rynar and Thomas H. Jones"

Clare Elliot (Northumbria University), "Using/Refusing Phillis Wheatley Peters's Poems in the Nineteenth-Century US"

Cécile Roudeau (Université Paris Cité), "Forgotten, or Refused? Black Thinking before Du Bois – a Recovered Tradition in the French and Transatlantic Context"

Fionnghuala Sweeney (Newcastle University), "Whose Freedom? Moses Roper's Fugitive Family and the Practices of Emancipation" (online)

Chair, J. Michelle Coghlan (University of Manchester)

### **12-12:30 – Business Meeting**

**Humanities Complex, Cinema Room G.H01**

### **12:30-1:30 – Lunch break**

#### **Research Space, Humanities Complex**

Light lunch provided, or head off site to either Cotham Hill/Whiteladies Road or St Michaels Hill

### **1:15-2:45 - Panels 6 and 7**

### **Panel 6: Research Space, Humanities Complex**

#### ***Refusal, Waste, and Decomposition: Race and Environment in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century American Literature I***

Marika Ceschia (University of Leeds and University of Edinburgh), "Unsettling the Ecological Archive: Refusing Charles Lyell's Motherless Imaginary"

Erin Forbes (University of Bristol), “Wasting Time: Charles Chesnutt, Environment, and the Politics of Care”

Sammy Moriarty (Kings College London), “‘*Death recruit her pale armies*’: Climatic Residues and White Death as Ecological Resurrection in 19<sup>th</sup>-century Louisiana”

Emma Thiébaud (Université Paris Cité), “Jewett Against Ecofeminism? Animals as Refuse and the Refusal of Environmental Readings of Jewett”

Chair, Peter Riley (University of Exeter)

### **Panel 7: Humanities Complex, Cinema Room G.H01**

#### ***Indigenous Refusals: Decolonising Knowledges***

Chris Bates (University of Sussex), “James Fenimore Cooper's *The Pioneers* and the Settler-Colonial Political Economy of Potash”

Sophie Chauhan (Sarah Parker Remond Centre at University College London), “The instrumental ‘Asiatic’: Chinese Exclusion and White Liberal Subjectivity”

Michael Jonik (University of Sussex), “‘this refuse of humanity’: Thoreau, Indigenous Dispossession, and Bio-history”

Tom Wright (University of Sussex), “Refusing the Ghost Dance, Refusing ‘Orenda’”

Chair, Tom Wright

### **2:45-3 – Coffee**

### **Research Space, Humanities Complex**

### **3:00-4:30 - Panels 8 and 9**

### **Panel 8: Research Space, Humanities Complex**

#### ***Refusal, Waste, and Decomposition: Race and Environment in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century American Literature II***

Mara Curechian (University of St. Andrews), “Sterility, Race and Performance in *Mary Chesnut's Civil War*”

Peter Riley (University of Exeter), "Decomposing Empire: *Moby-Dick* and the Political Ecology of the Stranded Whale"

Timothy E. Stroud (Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg), "Deconstruction Value: Questions of the Human in Octavia Butler's *Kindred*"

Chair, Erin Forbes (University of Bristol)

### **Panel 9: Humanities Complex, Cinema Room G.H01**

#### ***Radicalism in Time: Revisionism and Change in Nineteenth-Century Literary Studies***

Simone Blandford (University of Warwick), "Chicago and the Afterlives of the Paris Commune"

Tomos Hughes (University of Warwick), "Reconstruction and the Refusal(s) of Literary History"

Andrew Wildermuth (University of Erlangen–Nuremberg), "Pamphlets of a Very Seditious & Inflammatory Character": Inflammation and Injury in Walker's *Appeal*"

Chair, Craig Savage (University of Bristol)

### **4:30-6: Reading Group – Queer Souths**

#### **Research Space, Humanities Complex**

#### ***'A very queer place dis New Orleans': Sexual Dissidence and Antebellum Louisiana's Multilingual Fictions***

Combining readings of under-researched nineteenth century fiction and historical documents from the 'Deep South', we hope to create a space in which to not only reconsider and recover queer life in the South both before and after the Civil War, but also to question what such an endeavour might reveal about our understandings of queerness, or indeed southernness itself.

Readings will include chapters from Ludwig von Reizenstein's *Mysteries of New Orleans* and selected additional texts.

Email the organisers at [queersouths@gmail.com](mailto:queersouths@gmail.com) for circulation of readings in advance, or if you have any questions.

Co-Chairs, Mara Curechian (University of St. Andrews) and Sammy Moriarty (Kings College London)