



THE 29TH ANNUAL DICKENS SOCIETY SYMPOSIUM

University of Birmingham

July 15 – 18, 2024

MONDAY 15TH JULY

13.00 Registration (Arts Building), registration desk will close at 17.45

14.30 – 17.00 Digital Dickens Workshop (Arts Building, LR4 - 101)

14.30 – 15.00 Joel J. Brattin & Arthur Carlson: A Demonstration of WPI's new Dickens Portal

15.00 – 15.30 Peter J. Capuano: Mutuality of Method and Evidentiary Sufficiency

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee break

16.00 – 16.30 Claire Wood: Hands-on Dickens Code

16.30 – 17.00 Michaela Mahlberg: Hands-on CLiC

18.00 – 19.30 Exhibition: 'Dickens and Collins' & drinks reception (Main Library Atrium)

All panels will take place in the Arts Building

TUESDAY 16TH JULY

8.00: Registration (Arts Building)

9.00: Welcome and Opening of the Symposium (LR1 – 125)

9.15 – 10.45: **PANEL SESSION 1**

. Panel 1A: (LR1 – 125)

Dickens and Performance – Chair: Carolyn Vellenga Berman

- 'Performing Authorship: The Dickens Reenactment' – Michelle Allen-Emerson
- 'Reviewing the Situation: Examining Dickens Through the Context of Musical Theatre' – Michael Mazur
- '*A Christmas Carol's* Sci-Fi Theatrical Reboot' – Marty Gould

. **Panel 1B:** (LR 2 – 126)

Dickens' Imperial Contexts Chair: Mark Cronin

- “‘You seem perfectly civilised to me’”: Imperial Relations in Tanika Gupta’s *Great Expectations*’ – Catherine Quirk
- ‘Australia and the British Empire: from Dickens’s *Great Expectations* to Peter Carey’s *Jack Maggs*’ – Caterina Colomba
- ‘Dickens Reset’ – Sophia C. Jochem

. **Panel 1C:** (LR3 – 127)

Dickens, Society, and Community Chair: Christian Lehmann

- ‘Decoding Social Dynamics: *Great Expectations* Unveiled through Distant Reading’ – Tess Stepakoff
- “‘Tell the Wind and the Fire where to stop; not me!’: Hysteria and Incendiarism in *A Tale of Two Cities*’ – Ahmed Diaa Dardir
- “‘tied to a stake and innocent’”: Dickens’s *Martydrom*’ - Sara Malton

10.45 – 11.15 Coffee Break

11.15 – 12.45: **PANEL SESSION 2**

. **Panel 2A:** (LR 2 – 126)

Dickens on Screen (Television) Chair: Dominic Rainsford

- “‘Playing in the Dark’”: Reading Charles Dickens’ *Great Expectations* in the Context of Steven Knight’s BBC *Great Expectations* TV Series’ – Jude Chudi Okpala
- ‘Reviewing the Situation: Dickens, Dodger, and Transforming *Oliver Twist* for Children’s TV’ – Chris Louttit

. **Panel 2B:** (LR3 – 127)

Dickens in International Contexts Chair: Rebecca Easler

- ‘Versions of familiar tales, as if he had heard it from a Dervish..as if he had lived them himself: Myth, Violence, Death and Incest in Dickens’s and Pamuk’s ‘Coming of Age’ Works. – Gillian Piggot
- ‘Dickens in Bengal’ – Shantanu Majee

. **Panel 2C:** (LR4 – 101)

Politics, Religion, and Science in Dickens Chair: Ben Moore

- ‘Dickens and the 14th Earl of Derby in the Context of Victorian Politics’ – Jeanie Grant Moore
- ‘A Sheep Without a Flock? Dickens’ Religious Contexts’ – Christian Dickinson
- ‘The Trope of the Murderous Malfunctioning Machine in *Our Mutual Friend*’ – Magdalena Pypec

. **Panel 2D:** (LR1 – 125)

Digital Dickens Chair: Meaghan Cronin

- ‘Bridging Epochs: Exploring the Confluence of Dickensian Creativity and Artificial Intelligence in a Techno-Literary Landscape’ – Dean J. Hill
- ‘The Dickens Portal’ – Joel J. Brattin & Arthur Carlson

- 'Keywords in Context: Liberty and Oppression in Charles Dickens's Novels' – Eleonora Gallitelli

12.45 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.30: **PANEL SESSION 3**

. **Panel 3A:** (LR 2 – 126)

Transatlantic Dickens Chair: Gillian Piggot

- 'Dis-Union Across the Atlantic: *Our Mutual Friend* and the American Civil War' – Jennifer MacLure
- 'The Deeper Wrong in *Great Expectations*: Transatlantic Publication in 1861' – Carolyn Vellenga Berman
- 'Emily's Dickens: Engagement and Reuse' – Christian Lehmann

. **Panel 3B:** (LR3 – 127)

Memory, Recollection, and Trauma in Dickens Chair: Eleonora Gallitelli

- 'Dickens and Bergson: Temporality, Memory and Coexistence' – Céleste Callen
- 'Mrs Beadnell Rejects Dickens: Recollecting Welsh Dynastic Ambitions in *Bleak House* and *Great Expectations*' – Lydia Craig
- "'You May File a Strong Man's Heart Away for a Good Many Years", or: the Fall of the Military Mentor' – Douglas Scully

. **Panel 3C:** (LR4 – 101)

Dickens' Afterlives Chair Lillian Nayder

- 'On Killing Dickens: Zadie Smith and the Historical Novel' – Marcela Santos Brigida
- 'Fellow Travelers: Dickens, Orwell, Wilson, Trilling' – Annette Federico
- 'The Shadow of Dickens: The Influence of Dickens in Disney's Theme Parks' – Megumi Kumagai

. **Panel 3D:** (LR1 – 125)

Dickens on Screen (Film) Chair: Natalie McKnight

- "'Now you're going full Dickens on me?'" *Spirited* (2022) and *A Christmas Carol*: Meta-textual Adaptation and the Exploitation of Intellectual Property' – Rob Jacklosky
- 'Lens Affect-ing Cells: Embodied Response and Critical Surcharge in Christine Edzard's Film Adaptation of Dickens's *Little Dorrit*' – Melanie Lewis
- 'Mapping the Relevance of Dickens to Hindi Cinema – A Study of the Indian Cinematic Adaptation of *Great Expectations*' – M. G. Prasuna

15.30 – 16.00: Coffee Break

16.00 – 17.30: **PANEL SESSION 4**

. **Panel 4A:** (LR 2 – 126)

Dickens' European Contexts Chair: Mark Cronin

- 'Dickens as a Channel Pilot: Floundering and Knocking About' – Claire Woods

- 'The Swiss Context of *Dombey and Son*' – Michael Hollington
- 'Charles Dickens and Vesuvius: the Sublime Tourist and the "kolossal" Spectator' – Francesca Orestano

. **Panel 4B:** (LR3 – 127)

Reading Dickens Chair: Jeremy Parrott

- "[G]reat pains to conceal": Dickens and the Literary Spoiler' – Clayton Tarr
- 'The Dickens We Keep Quoting: Excerpts in Changing Contexts' – Milan Terlunen
- 'Dickens, Scott, and the Peculiar Narrator' – Dominic Rainsford

. **Panel 4C:** (LR4 – 101)

Welfare and Economy in Dickens Chair: Anita Fernandez

- 'From Mutual Aid to Solidarity Economics: Charles Dickens's Premonitory Economic Insights' – Georges Letissier
- 'Suspended Circulation and Affective Economies in the Pawnbroker's Shop and the Debtor's Prison' – Ben Moore
- "'Christmas, Class, and Welfare on Film: or, Adaptations of *A Christmas Carol* and the Rise and Fall of the Welfare State' – Michael D. Lewis

. **Panel 4D:** (LR1 – 125)

Dickens' Women Chair: Deborah Siddoway

- 'The Lady, the Lens, and the Layer: Dickens and Gender Contexts' – Natalie McKnight
- 'Nest Making and Nest Breaking: Strategies for Survival and the Working Woman' – Clair Schwarz
- 'Agnes Wickfield's Temporary Entrepreneurship and the Boom of Home Schools in the Mid-Victorian Period' – Akiko Takei

17.30: Walk over to Barber Institute

18.00: Evening Performance with Miss Sylvia Sceptre in the Barber Institute and after-show reception

WEDNESDAY 17TH JULY

9.00 – 10.45: **Roundtable (LR1 – 125)** 'Exploring Dickensian Contexts: New and Future Trends'- Moderator: Peter J. Capuano
Panelists: Joel J. Brattin, Lillian Nayder, Annette Federico, Jeremy Tambling

10.45 – 11.15: Coffee Break

11.15 – 12.45: **PANEL SESSION 5**

. **Panel 5A:** (LR 2 – 126)

Naming, Identity, and Disguise in Dickens Chair: Akiko Takei

- 'Repression and Revelation: Lewd Naming in Dickens' – Jeremy Parrott

- 'Dickens and Disguise: from Datchery to Dedlock' – Leah Dillon-Sloan
- 'Dickensian Rewriting of "The Angel in the House" and the Matrimonial Causes Act of 1857' – Adrienne A. Wojcik

. Panel 5B: (LR3 – 127)

Dickens' Intertextual Contexts Chair: Angelika Zirker

- "My Lot has been a Very Hard One": George Eliot and *Hard Times*' – Deborah Siddoway
- 'Similar in Appearance, but "not so much Alike in any Particular": A Trace of Carlyle in *A Tale of Two Cities*' – Aika Satori
- 'Context and Intertextuality in *Our Mutual Friend*' – Anita Fernandez

. Panel 5C: (LR1 – 125)

Dickens, Drama, and Poetry Chair: Matthias Bauer

- 'The Plays of Charles Dickens' – Peter Orford & Joanna Hofer-Robinson
- 'Dickens's Defensive Theory in Context: the Victorian Affiliation to the Legacy of Defences of Poetry' – Dana Pines
- "If I may say Shakespearianly express myself": Shakespeare's Afterlife in Dickens' – Jeremy Tambling

12.45 – 13.30: Lunch

13.30 – 14.30: Travel to Birmingham & Midland Institute (BMI), 9 Margaret St, B3 3BS

14.30 – 16.45: Talk at BMI & Coffee Break & a surprise

17.00 – 18.30: Walking Tour of Birmingham – to the venue of the Dickens Dinner

18.45: Dickens Dinner (Revolución de Cuba Birmingham, 8 Temple St, B2 5BN)

THURSDAY 18TH JULY

9.00 – 10.30: **PANEL SESSION 6**

. Panel 6A: (LR 2 – 126)

Dickens and Spectrality Chair: Clair Schwarz

- '*Dombey and Son* Out of Context: Reading Dickens Ecologically in the Capitalocene, or Why the Spectral Should Redefine What We Mean by Context' – Alexander Bove
- "More of gravy than of grave": Dickens's Corporal Ghosts' – Jennifer Heine
- "[G]liding noiselessly about and whispering": Preternatural Blacks and the Spectre of Slavery in *American Notes*' – Jude V. Nixon

. Panel 6B: (LR3 – 127)

Dickens and Childhood Chair: Claire Wood

- “Visible and Governable Things”: Perspectives of Childhood in David Copperfield and Ruskin’s Travel Writing’ – Emily Paige Anderson
- ‘Dickens’s American Children: The Darley Illustrations in the Dickens’ Little Folks Series’ – Meaghan Cronin
- ‘The “great origin and purpose” of Baptism in *Dombey and Son*’ – Rebecca Easler

. Panel 6C: (LR1 – 125)

Dickens, Characterisation, and the Body Chair: Sara Malton

- ‘Contextualising Body Meaning: Dickensian Body Expressiveness and the Case of *Great Expectations*’ – Léa Fourure-Reynaud
- ‘Deaf and Mute Heroines: Collins, Dickens, and the (Un)Conventional Representation of Disabled Characters in Victorian Fiction’ – Esther Reilly
- ‘*Oliver Twist* and the Survival of the (a)Cutest’ – Kamilla Elliott

10.30 – 11.00: Coffee Break

11.00 – 12.00: Business Meeting (All Society members welcome)

12.00 – 13.00: Lunch

13.00 – 14.30: **PANEL SESSION 7**

. Panel 7A: (LR 2 – 126)

Dickens’ Vocabularies and Verbal Strategies Chair: Catherine Quirk

- “An Old Fashioned Boy”: Recontextualisation and Co-Occurrence as Verbal Strategies in Dickens’ – Matthias Bauer & Angelika Zirker
- ‘Dickens’s Idiomatic Contexts’ – Peter J. Capuano

. Panel 7B: (LR3 – 127)

Masculinity and Fatherhood in Dickens Chair: Lydia Craig

- ‘Dickens, paterfamilias – Responses to Fatherhood in *The Chimes*’ – Jo Marshall-Collins
- ‘The Unexplored Depths of Dickensian Identity: a Multifaceted Analysis of Masculinity in Dickens’ Lesser-Known Characters’ – Ioana Constandache
- ‘Dickens and the “Curse of Limpness”: *Our Mutual Friend* and *The Gad’s Hill Gazette* in the Context of Filial Resemblance’ – Lillian Nayder

. Panel 7C: (LR1 – 125)

Dickens’ Journalism and Letters Chair: Chris Louttit

- ‘Editors (up) in Arms: Dickens’s *All the Year Round* and Thackeray’s *Cornhill Magazine*’ – Mark Cronin
- ‘English, European, Oriental: The European Continent in Dickens’ *Household Works* (1850-1859) – Ognyan Darinov
- ‘Writing to Dickens’ – Claire Wood & Julian North

14.30: Goodbye coffee