

# Victorian Transformations



**24-25 May 2023 at Weetwood Hall, Leeds, and online**



Welcome to the *Victorian Transformations* Conference, a two-day interdisciplinary event exploring the idea of transformation both as applied to the Victorians and in Victorian Studies.

The event is fully hybrid, so all the sessions will take place live in the Cookridge suite or Bramley suite and interactively via Microsoft Teams. Each session will have a chair who will lead discussion in the room and also a member of the LCVS 'home team' who will welcome online participants, monitor the chat and relay online comments to the chair. We hope that all delegates will be fully engaged.

Equality of participation and accessibility are also important to us and Weetwood Hall is well set-up to meet a wide variety of access needs. Please speak to a member of the team if you require further assistance or adjustments.

We thank you for attending and look forward to our colloquy over the coming days.

*The Victorian Transformations Conference Committee:*

Clemence Schultze, Clare Walker Gore, Julia Courtney (CMYF)

Jane de Gay, Karen Sayer (LCVS)

**Cover image: Charlotte M. Yonge.**

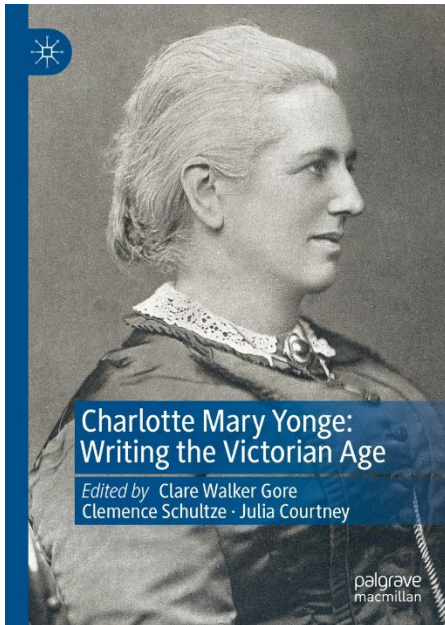
**Photograph by Duke Yonge. Public domain**

## About the conference

The Victorian age was characterised by social, technological, scientific, religious, and cultural transformation. As we have lived with the Victorians, our view of them has in turn transformed, with the concept of ‘transformation’ itself proving mutable. This conference will engage with the idea of transformation both as applied to the Victorians, and in Victorian Studies. Taking a thoroughly interdisciplinary approach, the conference seeks to explore both the changes taking place in society and personal consciousness during the long nineteenth century, and the changing constructions and interpretations of the Victorian age.

Organized as a collaboration between the Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies (LCVS) and the Charlotte M. Yonge Fellowship (CMYF), the conference coincides with the bicentenary of the novelist Charlotte M. Yonge (1823–1901). It is intended that she will feature prominently in the discussions, as a writer whose exceptionally long literary career captured the many changes of the period, and whose reception history has been so suggestively varied. Once seen as a writer with ‘true realist chique’ (Henry James, 1865), she was later disparaged as old-fashioned and off-puttingly religious – even ‘fanatic’ (Q. D. Leavis, 1944) – before enjoying something of a renaissance in the twenty-first century.

This two-day conference will explore how and why readings of her work have changed, and how might a revisionary approach transform our view of ‘the Victorian’.



This conference celebrates the publication of *Charlotte Mary Yonge: Writing the Victorian Age*, edited by Clare Walker Gore, Clemence Schultze and Julia Courtney (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022). The editors and several of the contributors will take part in a roundtable on Thursday (Cookridge Suite, 1.45-2.30 p.m.).

This interdisciplinary collection of essays explores the life and work of Charlotte M. Yonge, a highly influential and popular nineteenth-century writer who is emerging from a long period of critical neglect. Its wide-ranging chapters capture the scope

and quality of current work in Yonge studies, addressing the full range of her prolific literary output from her best-selling novels to her nature writing, biographies, and letters. Considering themes from gender, disability, and empire, to Tractarianism, secularism, and the idea of progress, these essays consider how Yonge reflected and shaped the tastes, ideas and anxieties of her readers and contemporaries. Exploring her key role in the Anglican revival, her importance as a test case in the development of feminist criticism, and her formal innovativeness as a novelist, this collection places Yonge centrally in the nineteenth-century literary landscape and demonstrates her ongoing relevance to scholars and students of the period.

## Rosemary Mitchell

This conference also honours the memory of Revd Prof Rosemary Mitchell (1967-2021), Director of the Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies from 2009-2015 and a long-time member of the British Association for Victorian Studies.



*Charlotte Mary Yonge: Writing the Victorian Age*, includes Rosemary's chapter 'Charlotte Mary Yonge and the Concept of Conservative Community', which was the last publication she completed in her lifetime.

Rosemary was a fine scholar, a great inspiration to many Victorianists and a mentor to many.

## Programme

### Wednesday 24th May 2023

9.00-9.30 a.m. Registration and coffee

### **9.30-9.45 a.m. Welcome and housekeeping (Cookridge Suite)**

Conference organizers

### **Parallel Sessions - 9.45-10.45**

#### **Panel 1A: Charlotte M. Yonge**

#### **Cookridge Suite**

Chair: Clemence Schultze

Tech support: Jane de Gay

- Grace Oliver, 'The Transformation of the Victorian Religious Heroine in Charlotte M. Yonge's Hopes and Fears and Mrs Humphry Ward's *Robert Elsmere*'
- Teja Varma Pusapati [[Online](#)], On Wanting to Change: Women, Work, and Transformation in Charlotte M. Yonge's *The Clever Woman of the Family*.
- Clare Walker Gore, "Setting up for an authoress": The Woman Writer in the Work of Charlotte M. Yonge

#### **Panel 1B: Art**

#### **Bramley Suite**

Chair: Suzanne Owen

Tech Support: Marielle O'Neill

- Éva Péteri [[Online](#)], An Unlucky Transformation: J. E. Millais's Reinterpretation of the Huguenot Massacre Theme
- Fiona Irwin, Theirs but to do and die?: The Transformation of British Military Art in the Long Nineteenth Century
- Sammi Lukic-Scott, Creating a Popular Canon: Victorian Receptions and Transformations of Old Master Religious Imagery

**10.45-11.15** Coffee break

## Parallel Sessions - 11.15-12.15

### Panel 2A: Charlotte M. Yonge

### Cookridge Suite

Chair: Clemence Schultze

Tech support: Jane de Gay

- Susan Walton: “A good schoolbook is a very profitable article till it is superseded, as it is sure to be in these days of progress” [C. M. Yonge, ‘Authorship’, *Monthly Packet* Sept 1892]. How Charlotte Yonge adapted her writing of history textbooks in line with educational developments.
- Julia Courtney, Tradition, Textualisation and Transmission: Charlotte M. Yonge, Thomas Hardy and the Christmas Mummings.
- Nathalie Saudo-Welby, Making Something New out of the Old: the Victorian Art of Parody.

### Panel 2B: Social, economic and political transformations

### Bramley Suite

Chair: Edwin Stockdale

Tech Support: Suzanne Owen

- Tracy Stobbe, Economic Perceptions in Literature of the Industrial Revolution.
- Laura Monrós-Gaspar, Spatial Transformations: the drawing-room at Women’s Clubs and Late-Victorian Entertainment.
- Marielle O’Neill, From Parlour to Parliament: Leonard and Virginia Woolf, Margaret Llewelyn Davies and the Women’s Co-operative Guild.

**12.15-1.15 Keynote** - Talia Schaffer: Collectivity, Caregiving and Character: Transforming Reading

### Cookridge Suite

Chair: Clemence Schultze

Tech support: Jane de Gay

**1.15-2.15 Lunch**

Woodlands Restaurant

## Parallel sessions - 2.15-3.45

### Panel 3A: Elizabeth Gaskell and Victorian Inspirations Cookridge Suite

Chair: Clare Walker-Gore      Tech Support: Jane de Gay

- Claudia Zilletti [online], From “Fallen Woman” to “Madonna” type: Rebirth and Catharsis in Elizabeth Gaskell’s *Ruth* (1853).
- Petra Hack [online], The transformation of Margaret Hale’s role as a woman in Elizabeth Gaskell’s *North and South*
- Edwin Stockdale, Railways in the life and fiction of Dickens and Gaskell and the creation of new poems
- Amber Regis, My shameful mid-career in Victorian Studies: on wanting and fearing to transform

### Panel 3B: Neo-Victorianism; Victorian Fashion      Bramley Suite

Chair: Marielle O’Neill      Tech support: Suzanne Owen

- Elsa Adán Hernández, Writing about Pornography Then and Now: Sarah Waters’ exploration of female sexuality and desire in *Fingersmith* (2002).
- Raquel Carvajal-Ariza [online], “I am a woman, not an exhibit”: The Pre-Raphaelite Muse’s Female Gothic Identity in Neo-Victorian Fiction.
- Kathleen Beal [online], 'Dying to be Beautiful'
- Clara Contreras Ameduri: Ruffling Feathers: How Women Ornithologists Transformed Natural Science and Victorian Fashion

**3.45- 4.15** Tea break

## Parallel sessions - 4.15 to 5.45

### Panel 4A: Religion      Cookridge Suite

Chair: Julia Courtney      Tech support: Marielle O’Neill

- Clemence Schultze, Transforming Zeus: Aeschylus for a Christian audience
- Carol Herringer, The Active Anglo-Catholic Body
- Suzanne Owen, A turning point in settler-indigenous relations? A Newfoundland case study

**Panel 4B: Death and Transformation****Bramley Suite**

Chair and tech support: Jane de Gay

- Hayley Bradley & Janice Norwood [online]: “Dreadful apparition, why do you trouble me?”: Death and Transformative Ghostly Encounters
- Cecilia Neil-Smith, Transformation in Evelyn De Morgan’s ‘The Little Mermaid’ Triptych
- Charlotte Cai, Transformations in Dante Gabriel Rossetti’s Works

**7.00 pm** Dinner (optional)

Woodlands Restaurant

**Thursday 25th May 2023****9.00-9.15** Registration and coffee**Parallel sessions - 9.15-10.45****Panel 5A: Charlotte M. Yonge****Cookridge Suite**

Chair: Clare Walker-Gore

Tech Support: Marielle O’Neill

- Esther Hu, Charlotte M. Yonge’s Transformations: Gender, Genre, and Victorian Missions.
- Tamara S. Wagner [online], Charlotte M. Yonge and the Accident of Transformation.
- Julia Courtney, Miss Yonge and Friends: Charlotte M. Yonge as a Collaborative Author

**Panel 5B: Transformation and the Press****Bramley Suite**

Chair: Lawrence Jones

Tech support: Jane de Gay

- Iwona Lilly, The media image of Prince Albert based on selected British press titles and journalism (1840-1861)
- Carolyn Jackson-Brown [online], The media image of Boris Johnson based on selected British press titles and journalism (2016-17)
- John Davies, The developing relationship between the later Victorian Army and the Press. A case study of Lord Frederick Roberts and Sir William Nicholson



**10.45-11.15** Coffee break

**Parallel sessions - 11.15- 12.45**

**Panel 6A: Women Writers**                      **Cookridge Suite**

Chair: Carol Herringer                      Tech Support: Jane de Gay

- Shantanu Majee [[online](#)], Remarketing Literature: Textual Transformations in the Publication History of Mrs. Oliphant
- Anna Barton, Collaborative Transformation in Mary Coleridge's Poetry
- Steve Nash [[online](#)], Discourses of congestion and flux: Transformation in the life and works of Hesba Stretton

**Panel 6B: Queer transformations**                      **Bramley Suite**

Chair: Iwona Lilly                      Tech support: Marielle O'Neill

- Samuel Love, Faun Again: The Queer Transformation of the Dionysian Retinue in Late Victorian Visual Culture
- Lawrence Jones, A Novel With a View: the Transformation of E. M. Forster's *A Room With a View* by Edward Carpenter's Writings on Homoerotic Love
- Stephen Basdeo, Álvares de Azevedo and the Transformation of Romantic Literature in Nineteenth-Century Brazil

**12.45-1.45** Lunch                      Woodlands Restaurant

**Roundtable on Charlotte Mary Yonge - 1.45 to 2.30**                      **Cookridge Suite**

Clare Walker Gore, Clemence Schultze and Julia Courtney (editors of Charlotte Mary Yonge: Writing the Victorian Age) with contributors.

Tech support: Jane de Gay

**Parallel sessions - 2.30-3.30**

**Panel 7A: George Eliot**                      **Cookridge Suite**

Chair: Edwin Stockdale

Tech support: Jane de Gay

- Nina Engelhardt, Transforming Tolerance: Victorian Studies and George Eliot's *Daniel Deronda*
- Chloe Flower [\[online\]](#), "Voices Raised": Female Preaching Transformed in *Adam Bede*

### **Panel 7B: Sexuality Transformed in Eric Stenbock's Fiction Bramley Suite**

Introduced by S. Brooke Cameron

Chair and tech support: Marielle O'Neill

- S. Brooke Cameron [\[online\]](#), The Queer Animal Gothic in Stenbock's "The Other Side"
- Ian Clark [\[online\]](#), Pursuing Queer Pleasure in Stenbock's "The True Story of a Vampire" (1894)
- Zsolt Bojti [\[online\]](#), The "Real Vampire" as a Conceptual Muddle in "The True Story of a Vampire" by Eric Stenbock

**3.30 –4.00** Tea break

**4.00 – 5.00 Keynote** - Helen Small: The Dirty Work of the Humanities?: Charlotte Yonge's *Unsentimental Education*.

### **Cookridge Suite**

Chair: Jane de Gay

Tech support: Marielle O'Neill

**5.00- 5.15** Summing up and farewell



**The Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies** is an internationally-recognized centre of excellence devoted to reconsidering the concept of the Victorian for the contemporary world.

Well-known for its interdisciplinary focus, the work of the Centre queries and tests chronological boundaries by reconsidering conceptions of the long nineteenth century, as well as examining representations of the Victorians and reconfigurations of Victorianism in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. It also tests geographical boundaries by considering what the concept of the Victorian meant on the world stage, including the British Empire. The Centre generates impactful research, bringing insights from rigorous scholarly study to bear on urgent questions of social justice and inclusion, climate change and the environment.

The Centre hosts seminars, workshops and conferences, and provides PhD supervision opportunities. It sponsors the *Journal of Victorian Culture* and hosts an annual lecture by a Visiting Professor, most recently Pratik Chakrabarti (Houston) and Ann Heilmann (Cardiff).  
Website: [www.leedstrinity.ac.uk/research/research-centres/lcvs/](http://www.leedstrinity.ac.uk/research/research-centres/lcvs/)



**The Charlotte M. Yonge Fellowship** was founded in 1995 to promote the appreciation and enjoyment of the works of this Victorian author. A best-seller in her own time, and admired by generations of readers, Charlotte Yonge has become, over the past forty years, the object of academic research. The Fellowship is open to all and has members worldwide. It welcomes fans, scholars, and everyone broadly interested in Yonge's books, life and context.

The CMYF holds two in-person meetings each year, with talks and visits to places connected with Yonge and her works, as well as regular online book club sessions. A *Review* appears twice-yearly; and the *CMYF Journal*, with longer articles, is published every other year. The Fellowship holds, at an Oxford college, a large collection of Yonge's titles (many of them scarce) which can be consulted by members and bona fide researchers. It also encourages the republication of out-of-print or rare works by Charlotte M. Yonge. The CMYF maintains two websites: [cmyf.org.uk](http://cmyf.org.uk) brings together useful research resources; and [charlottemyonge.org.uk](http://charlottemyonge.org.uk) offers up-to-date information about membership and events.

# *Thank you for attending Victorian Transformations*

## **Feedback**

Please send us your comments on this event, via the following link, or scan the QR code below.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=uiBM36hkUkOz-UeIGrvAmlI42n1oGjpJkiQaBjlWp9IUQkZZNFFXWThMU0pWRIdKUExSTDI4VDJDWS4u>

LCVS Conference: VICTORIAN  
TRANSFORMATIONS

