

British Association of Nineteenth-Century Americanists

BrANCA

1st – 2nd December 2023

REFUSE/REFUSAL

*6th Biennial Symposium
University of Bristol*



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

DAY 1 – FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2023

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: 10th 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 2nd DECEMBER 2023

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 19th-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 19th-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 19th-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 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)