



2021 RSVP Digital Salon

A Discussion on Decolonizing Periodical Studies

Chat Transcript

10:09:29 From Fionnuala Dillane to Everyone : Some Questions circulated to our speakers (and most of you)

How to approach the archive/new readings of the digital archive?

What material are we not reading and where do we find it?

New methodologies and/or Reframing the questions?

Undisciplining periodical studies?

Are there questions we should be asking in addition to/instead of these?

10:22:42 From Fionnuala Dillane to Everyone : Powerful too the think about how we acknowledge absence in the archive in what we publish

10:25:24 From Priti Joshi to Everyone : Mofussil

10:33:32 From Matt Poland to Everyone : The One More Voice project Priti just mentioned: <https://onemorevoice.org/>

10:34:25 From Fionnuala Dillane to Everyone : I add too Jessie Reeder's collaborative work on the Latin American Press

10:36:29 From Fionnuala Dillane to Everyone : See also <https://www.ucd.ie/southhem/> and the just published Sarah Comyn, Porscha Fermanis, 'Rethinking nineteenth-century literary culture: British worlds, southern latitudes and hemispheric methods'

<https://journals-sagepub-com.ucd.idm.oclc.org/doi/full/10.1177/0021989420982013>

10:37:31 From Katherine Harris to Everyone : A student of Derrick Spires, Charline Jao, has taken up this challenge and is working on Black-owned newspapers in 19c America — as part of her dissertation. All of the

newspapers are available at Princeton, which made the project perfect. We definitely need to encourage more work like this — here's her early proof of concept site: <http://periodicalpoets.com/about>

10:43:43 From Jennifer Phegley to Everyone : Thank you for sharing that site, Katherine. What a fascinating project!

10:44:39 From Porscha Fermanis to Everyone : Manu Samriti Chander is currently working on periodicals in nineteenth-century Guiana (along with other things): <https://sasn.rutgers.edu/about-us/faculty-staff/manu-samriti-chander>

10:44:55 From Katherine Harris to Everyone : I wonder if we might borrow from Digital Humanities theorizing about these gaps or silences in the archives — specifically Lauren Klein's work - *The Image of Absence* <https://read.dukeupress.edu/american-literature/article-abstract/85/4/661/4953/The-Image-of-Absence-Archival-Silence-Data>

10:44:58 From Fionnuala Dillane to Everyone : For those who didn't get it - here was some suggested reading as a start point....

10:45:03 From Fionnuala Dillane to Everyone : Some Readings
Caroline Bressey, 'Surfacing black and brown bodies in the digital archive: domestic workers in late nineteenth-century Australia', *Journal of Historical Geography* 70 (2020): 1-11

Priti Joshi, "Scissors-and-Paste: Ephemerality and Memorialization in the Archive of Indian Newspapers" *Amodern* 7, Dec 2017, <https://amodern.net/article/scissors-and-paste/>

Candace Ward, "An Engine of Immense Power": The Jamaica Watchman and Crossings in Nineteenth-Century Colonial Print Culture', *Victorian Periodicals Review* 51.3 (Fall 2018): 483-503

Of interest also:

Ronjaunee Chatterjee, Alicia Mireles Christoff, Amy R. Wong, 'Introduction: Undisciplining Victorian Studies', *Victorian Studies*, 62.3 (Spring 2020): 369-391

10:45:21 From Katherine Harris to Everyone : (We're having some robust conversation on Twitter as well to avoid flooding chat here #RSVPDigitalSalon)

10:45:56 From Fionnuala Dillane to Everyone : Great! Flood chat too! With your questions in particular

10:46:29 From Porscha Fermanis to Everyone : On Lara's point about anticolonial vs decolonial:

<https://www.utpjournals.press/doi/abs/10.3138/ecf.33.1.99>

10:47:35 From Jim Mussell to Everyone : Question: it's often claimed that working on form is a way of eliding or erasing politics. But form is so important for periodical studies. In what ways does form intersect with race, empire, politics...?

10:47:50 From Katherine Harris to Everyone : Paula Krebs suggested on Twitter that perhaps we can use the free open access Humanities Commons to find each other to collaborate

10:48:42 From Jennifer Phegley to Everyone : I love that idea, Linda. And what a great connection to the founding of RSVP.

10:48:46 From Candace Ward to Everyone : We didn't touch on it, but the work we do in the classroom has possibilities for future work and collaboration!

10:49:09 From Katherine Harris to Everyone : Bibliographic Society of America also has some great funding opportunities.

10:50:28 From Katherine Harris to Everyone : Q: I wonder if we might borrow from Digital Humanities theorizing about these gaps or silences in the archives — specifically Lauren Klein's work - *The Image of Absence*
<https://read.dukeupress.edu/american-literature/article-abstract/85/4/661/4953/The-Image-of-Absence-Archival-Silence-Data>

10:50:32 From Jennifer Phegley to Everyone : In terms of funding for collaborative projects. Don't forget about the Field Development grant due March 15: <http://rs4vp.org/awards/rsvp-field-development-grant/>

10:51:35 From Katherine Harris to Everyone : Humanities Commons:
<https://hcommons.org/>

10:52:49 From Matt Poland to Everyone : To Priti's point - Clare Pettitt's Serial Forms is great on the politics of serial form (and productively critiques Benedict Anderson) <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/serial-forms-9780198830429?cc=us&lang=en&>

10:53:17 From Fionnuala Dillane to Everyone : Thanks Katherine and Caroline's essay above or here again - addresses same Caroline Bressey,

'Surfacing black and brown bodies in the digital archive: domestic workers in late nineteenth-century Australia', *Journal of Historical Geography* 70 (2020): 1-11;

10:53:27 From Madeline Gangnes to Everyone : Question related to Candace's comment above re the classroom: Any advice for how to engage in decolonizing periodical studies in a British literature course? I try to sneak a bit of periodical studies in my Brit lit surveys, but it can be tricky, especially in consideration of these issues of access and erasure. As I'm expected (by my institution) to generally focus on canonical authors for these kinds of courses, what are some ways I can make room for these discussions/explorations?

10:55:14 From Katherine Harris to Everyone : Thank you, Fionnuala!

10:56:02 From Candace Ward to Everyone : Here are some historical figures to examine: Robert Wedderburn!!

10:56:17 From Iain Crawford to Everyone : To Madeline's question, linking periodicals to canonical works may be a way around both the institutional resistance and any from students — I've matched *Hard Times* with other articles from *Household Words*, for instance

10:56:27 From Candace Ward to Everyone : Early Caribbean newspaper databases;

10:56:51 From Katherine Harris to Everyone : I did a decolonizing British Romantics grad course and we all refused to read the canonical 6 authors. Then students built a digital project around the literary annual, *The Bengal Annual* for 1830. <https://scalar.usc.edu/works/the-bengal-annual/index>

10:57:33 From Katherine Harris to Everyone : We used Scalar, the free version, and used both my copy of the annual and Google Books version to create the start to this project...that I intended my undergraduate class to take up a year later (but...pandemic undermined that)

10:57:46 From Paul Fyfe to Everyone : Q: the "Undisciplining" piece is not only about content, but the demographic racism of Victorian studies. How do you all see or would address the whiteness of periodicals studies?

10:57:51 From Jennifer Phegley to Everyone : The April RSVP Digital Salon will be focused on teaching with 19th C. Periodicals!

10:58:37 From Candace Ward to Everyone : Digital Aponte
<http://aponte.hosting.nyu.edu/>

10:58:48 From Laurel Brake to Everyone : George Eliot was a journalist!! She edited the WR, which is available online for students to work on

10:59:04 From Priti Joshi to Everyone : True, Laurel (good to see you)!

10:59:25 From Mercedes Sheldon to Everyone : Question for Dr. Bressey: On the statistically insignificant challenge. How have you been thinking about how to counter that quite limiting response and similar ones that shut down rather than open up research possibilities and ways of thinking?

11:00:22 From Candace Ward to Everyone : Everyone, I have to leave, but want to thank everyone. I am very excited at the prospect of the reading group and all the other consequences of this talk...

11:00:23 From Siobhan Brownson to Everyone : Thank you, RSVP, for arranging this amazing opportunity, and to the speakers for their insightful remarks. I'm off to a committee meeting. Best of health and safety to all, and, again, thank you so much. This roundtable was a real gift.

11:00:51 From Matt Poland to Candace Ward(Direct Message) : Thanks so much, Candace!

11:01:11 From Mary Grant to Everyone : Thank you so much for arranging much a wonderful event! I have to run to a meeting but very much enjoyed this session!

11:03:54 From Annemarie McAllister to Everyone : Thanks, everyone, for a fascinating discussion! Stay safe 😊

11:04:41 From Laura Fiss to Everyone : Q in terms of absence: I sometimes struggle with how to deal with casual racism in the material I use. Even whether to erase it by not quoting it or not... Because erasing it seems to excuse it, but highlighting it may be unintentionally magnifying it...

11:05:39 From Jennifer Phegley to Everyone : Great question, Laura. I've encountered that in my current research on working-class magazines.

11:05:45 From Katherine Harris to Everyone : Great question, Laura.

11:06:29 From Laura Fiss to Everyone : Words are data! :)

11:11:03 From Clare Stainthorp to Everyone : Carolyn Betensky's 'Casual Racism in Victorian Literature' in VLC (2019) is interesting on this (but focused on classroom)

11:11:10 From Linda Hughes to Everyone : Have you seen Carolyn Betensky's "Casual Racism" in VLC? She addresses this head on.

11:11:21 From Laura Fiss to Everyone : Thanks!

11:11:29 From Linda Hughes to Everyone : sorry for the duplicate

11:11:32 From Andrew Hobbs to Everyone : Thanks for organising this excellent event, looking forward to what comes next -- reading group? Finding aids? A new RSVP funding stream? Bye everyone

11:12:19 From Charles LaPorte to Everyone : I have to run to another meeting as well. Warmest thanks to the presenters and organizers! Great panel!!

11:15:49 From Michelle Witen to Everyone : I also have to run: this was so interesting!! Thanks to the organizers, the speakers, the typers (chat and twitter) and the contributors!!

11:16:03 From Catherine Waters to Everyone : Thank you to all the speakers for great talks and to Lara for expert chairing. Priti, I think you and Andrew hoobs should get together for a big project on the mofussil press across the globe :-) Good to see so many RSVP friends.

11:16:19 From Priti Joshi to Everyone : Yes! Thanks, Cathy!

11:16:27 From ashley mistretta to Everyone : thank you so much for organizing this!

11:16:47 From Jennifer Phegley to Everyone : Thank you to all presenters! I've learned so much.

11:16:50 From Kate Teltscher to Everyone : Thank you for a great discussion.

11:16:56 From Andrea Stewart to Everyone : Thank you so much for an insightful and engaging panel and discussion!

11:17:00 From Fariha Shaikh to Everyone : Thank you to all the speakers - such an interesting panel! I'm afraid I have to dash now, but really enjoyed this evening's discussion :)

11:17:00 From Mary Shannon to Everyone : This was wonderful and fascinating, and I can't wait for what comes next. Thanks so much speakers and all.

11:17:12 From Clare Stainthorp to Everyone : thank you - an incredibly useful and insightful session, especially all the reading suggestions!

11:17:21 From Rachel Cleaver to Everyone : Brilliant talk. Thank you

11:17:27 From Helena Goodwyn to Everyone : Thanks to speakers and chair. Lots to think about and reflect on!

11:17:37 From Caroline Bressey to Everyone : Thank you very much everyone - it's been a really great and I hope to take part in further ones.

11:17:47 From Helen Goodman to Everyone : Many thanks all for your thoughts on these important issues! Very valuable.

11:28:54 From Beth Gaskell to Everyone : Thank you - I need to run now. This has been great. Thanks to all the speaks and organizers.

11:29:13 From Katherine Harris to Everyone : LOL — I was in mid sentence with Laurel Brake and Madeline in our room when we ported back

11:29:23 From Priti Joshi to Everyone : Me too!

11:29:29 From Priti Joshi to Everyone : with Isabel!

11:30:16 From Matt Poland to Everyone : I want to make sure Paul's question from earlier doesn't get passed over bc it's important: Q: the "Undiscipling" piece is not only about content, but the demographic racism of Victorian studies. How do you all see or would address the whiteness of periodicals studies?

11:30:22 From Linda Hughes to Everyone : Perhaps more round tables too - alternating reading assignments with presenters?

11:30:22 From Katherine Harris to Everyone : One thing we talked about as pushing past english-language only "press" and print culture

11:30:50 From Matt Poland to Everyone : Sorry booting you out of the breakout rooms was rude...I hated to cut it short!

11:31:08 From Katherine Harris to Everyone : All good, Matt! It's just nice to talk to other scholars for whatever time period

11:31:18 From Isabel Seidel to Everyone : No problem at all Matt!

11:31:56 From Linda Hughes to Everyone : So sorry - must run now: this has been wonderful, and thanks so much to all!

11:33:04 From Caroline Bressey to Everyone : I'm sorry that I need to leave now - thank you so much for this.

11:33:20 From Fionnuala Dillane to Everyone : Thank YOU Caroline

11:33:39 From Katherine Harris to Everyone : Thank you, Caroline. That was incredible.

11:35:06 From Jim Mussell to Everyone : I think Jennifer said earlier that the Field Development grant could be used for this kind of work

11:35:38 From Paul Fyfe to Everyone : Finding experts and speakers from “outside” the field for these convos would be really welcome too

11:35:40 From Madeline Gangnes to Everyone : Those kinds of materials (hopefully in a centralized list) would be great for assigning essays to students as well.

11:35:43 From Jennifer Phegley to Everyone : Yes, Jim! And, we can also have further discussions about how best to financially support this kind of work.

11:36:39 From Katherine Harris to Everyone : Perhaps we can start a google doc list for speakers — we did this for female-identifying potential speakers/keynotes for Digital Humanities (because organizers of DH conferences regularly create all male keynote panels).

11:42:57 From Madeline Gangnes to Everyone : It's a shame that this is inevitably a financial/funding issue: having the time to learn another language is a privilege, especially for early-career scholars worrying about tenure and promotion, and shifts in higher education that result in heavier teaching loads and decreased research funding. In theory, I could audit a language course at my institution, but it's difficult to justify the time that I "should" be using to publish and do course development.

11:43:03 From Katherine Harris to Everyone : Laurel Brake showed me (as a grad student 20 yrs ago) that periodical studies was a viable form to study

11:43:22 From Katherine Harris to Everyone : Madeline, I wonder if we could instead think more about collaboration, then

11:43:47 From Madeline Gangnes to Everyone : Katherine--I'd certainly welcome it if it's feasible.

11:44:14 From Katherine Harris to Everyone : Madeline, we just need to find each other in order to collaborate

11:44:49 From Paul Fyfe to Everyone : On these questions about changing the field and discipline, also been pondering this

<https://twitter.com/AnnaElizClark/status/1351294214777159682>

11:45:49 From Katherine Harris to Everyone : Paul, oh yes! We are going through this right now in my dept. The newer faculty (who are fabulous) are asking us to do this, but older faculty (not me!) are holding onto the field divisions with a death grip. It's maddening

11:47:04 From Kaari Newman to Everyone : On that note, I'm always happy to retweet research questions on the @RS4VP page!!

11:48:01 From Katherine Harris to Everyone : Manu Chander has been working on this type of non-English language newspapers for awhile — and trying to get the newspapers digitized but more as a Romanticist than a periodicals scholar or digital humanist or a scholarly editor. It's an interesting cross roads

11:48:46 From Katherine Harris to Everyone : Guyana newspapers

11:51:02 From Mercedes Sheldon to Everyone : Reading groups that encourage/teach collaboration as a skill and network?

11:51:21 From Madeline Gangnes to Everyone : I suspect graduate students and early-career scholars would be grateful to be invited into collaborations; I confess I'm reticent about approaching more established scholars, especially those I don't know personally, about collaborative projects.

11:51:59 From Laura Fiss to Everyone : What if we had a reading group that resulted in a collaborative project?

11:52:08 From Paul Fyfe to Everyone : Hate to leave, especially to attend a dept meeting. Thanks for a great start RSVP!

11:52:55 From Madeline Gangnes to Everyone : Would it be appropriate to do a "call for collaborators" (somewhat like a call for papers)?

11:53:14 From Lorraine Janzen Kooistra to Everyone : Thanks so much for this wonderful session. Sorry I need to run.

11:53:42 From Katherine Harris to Everyone : I wonder, too, if some senior people would be willing to do things like call out where we're missing non-English language scholarship and then make space for those. (That's the role of an editor, I think...but we're all trained to get there first, right?)

11:54:05 From Jim Mussell to Everyone : I think that's totally appropriate Madeline

11:54:10 From Matt Poland to Everyone : I second that feeling, Madeline!

11:54:46 From Madeline Gangnes to Everyone : Even a Google Doc where more established scholars sign up to be "mentors" and less established scholars sign up to show interest in collaborating?

11:54:57 From Madeline Gangnes to Everyone : Could include a list of each person's particular interests

11:55:18 From Katherine Harris to Everyone : I wonder if there's a funding stream specifically for collaborative projects offered by RSVP?

11:55:26 From Katherine Harris to Everyone : (Not as part of the others but specifically valuing collaborations)

11:55:35 From Jim Mussell to Everyone : I'm not sure established scholars should be positioned as experts, but if they could use their clout to get things going then great

11:56:01 From Priti Joshi to Everyone : yes, not exerts, but folks with resources and clout! agreed Jim

11:56:13 From Katherine Harris to Everyone : Twitter: @triproftri

11:56:14 From Madeline Gangnes to Everyone : Yes, that seems reasonable and helpful

11:57:37 From Isabel Seidel to Everyone : Thank you very much for another wonderful and inspiring event!

11:57:47 From Madeline Gangnes to Everyone : Thank you, everyone! Two hours well spent :)

11:57:51 From Mercedes Sheldon to Everyone : Thank you, Matt and Kaari and RSVP!!

11:57:59 From Priti Joshi to Everyone : Thank you Fionnuala too!

11:58:21 From Porscha Fermanis to Everyone : Thank you so much, everyone! My first RSVP event - it was so great!

11:58:22 From Jim Mussell to Everyone : Yes, thanks Fionnuala

11:58:23 From Laura Fiss to Everyone : Thanks, everyone!

11:58:42 From Katherine Harris to Everyone : Thank you! After being so isolated, this was wonderful to attend. Periodicals scholars are always my favorite.

12:00:13 From Megan Kuster to Everyone : Thanks a lot everyone!