



SGNCS

Society for Global
Nineteenth-Century Studies

**Cultural Circulations, Global Mobilities, and
Knowledge Translations:
Turning Points in the Nineteenth Century**

World Congress

17-20 July 2025



**UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM**

Welcome to the 2025 World Congress of the Society for Global Nineteenth-Century Studies at the University of Birmingham

The University of Birmingham is delighted to host the 2025 World Congress of the Society for Global Nineteenth-Century Studies, around the central theme of ‘Cultural Circulations, Global Mobilities, and Knowledge Translations: Turning Points in the Nineteenth Century’. The nineteenth century witnessed an unprecedented acceleration and densification of human movements that generated, perhaps for the first time, cultural circulations on a global scale. With the world more interconnected than it had ever been, the need to classify, translate and hierarchise knowledge became more pressing than ever. Birmingham, as the UK’s second city, and one of the cradles of the Industrial Revolution (the West Midlands are the birthplace of the steam engine), is the ideal location to place mobility centre-stage, and to explore the means through which it was implemented – travel, exploration and conquest, which in turn led to processes of translation, acculturation and superimposition that are closely associated with globalisation. Covering the period between 1750 through 1914, the congress reveals how travel and mobility structured the ‘Great Revolutions’ that marked the long nineteenth century and made it a watershed moment in human history.

We hope that delegates will seize the opportunity to engage with the two museums on campus – the Winterbourne House and botanic gardens, representative of the nineteenth-century British Arts and Craft movement, and the Lapworth Museum of Geology. The University also hosts the unique collections of the Cadbury Research Library, with documentary treasures ranging from the Church Mission Society archive to the personal papers of the Chamberlain family, the founder of sociology Harriet Martineau or former British Prime Minister Anthony Eden, offering many research opportunities in addition to the Congress.

As the industrial powerhouse of the industrial revolution in Britain, from where the first intercity railway line ran to London in 1838, Birmingham is a perfect exemplar of the fluxes, trajectories and developments that have shaped the phenomena which SGNCS members engage with in their work. We hope that delegates to the 2025 World Congress will thus experience, document and probe during these three days the relationship between past and present when it comes to nineteenth-century global dynamics.

World Congress Organising Committee

Berny Sèbe, Co-chair, University of Birmingham
Kevin A. Morrison, Co-chair, Henan University
Nathan Cardon, University of Birmingham
Eleanor Dobson, University of Birmingham
Maddie Hewitson, University of Birmingham
Kate Nichols, University of Birmingham
Emma Tyler, University of Birmingham
Xinbei Wang, University of Birmingham
Tomoki Yamada, University of Birmingham

World Congress Scientific Committee

Walter Bruyère-Ostells, Sciences-Po Aix, France
Rodrigo Escribano Roca, Adolfo Ibáñez University, Chile and CSIC, Spain
Satoshi Mizutani, Doshisha University, Japan
Alexander Morrison, University of Oxford, UK
Almash Seidikenova, Al-Farabi University, Kazakhstan
Gilles Teulié, Aix-Marseille University, France
Jennifer Yee, University of Oxford, UK
Barbara Körte, Albert Ludwigs Universität, Germany
Alex Middleton, University of Oxford, UK
Britta Schilling, Utrecht University, The Netherlands

Society for Global Nineteenth-Century Studies Executive Council

President: Kevin A. Morrison, Henan University (China)
Vice-President: Radha Dalal, VCUarts (Qatar)
Carola Bebermeier, Universitaet fuer Musik und darstellende Kunst (Austria)
Steeve Buckridge, Grand Valley State University (United States)
Chris Holdridge, North-West University (South Africa)
Manal Hosny, Gulf University for Science and Technology (Kuwait)
Klaudia Lee, City University of Hong Kong (SAR China)
Andrés Baeza Ruz, Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez (Chile)

17 July 2025

Today's events will be held at The Exchange, 3 Centenary Square, Birmingham city centre (within a short walking distance of Birmingham New Street station). Delegates may gather in person to watch the online panels or join by [Zoom link](#). All subsequent congress activities will take place at the University of Birmingham's main campus.

13:00 VIRTUAL WELCOME *Online & The Exchange*

Klaudia Lee (City University of Hong Kong)
SGNCS executive council member

13:05-14:30 GLOBAL MOBILITIES

PANEL: Contact Zones *ONLINE & The Exchange*

Chair: Klaudia Lee (City University of Hong Kong)

Peng Jin (City University of Hong Kong), *From the Caravan to the Trans-Siberian Railway: Delivering Chinese Tea throughout Eurasia, 1880-1913*

Chong XU (Soochow University), *French Representations of a Chinese Cultural Landscape, 1840s–1940s*

Arunima Chakraborty (Jadavpur University), *Migration, Trade, and Art: Cultural Crossroads in 19th-Century Colonial Bengal*

14:45-16:15 CULTURAL CIRCULATIONS

PANEL: Colonial Narratives, Representational Encounters *ONLINE & The Exchange*

Chair: Berny Sèbe (University of Birmingham)

Menglu Gao (University of Denver), *Imperial Adventure and Boredom: Colonial Exploration in Alfred Wallace's The Malay Archipelago*

Sophia Merkin (Columbia University), *The Vailima Co-Collection of Tapa: Connecting Gifts of Barkcloth, Indigenous Agency, and Robert Louis Stevenson in Samoa, 1890-1894*

Chris Holdridge (North-West University), *Conditional Pardons and Settler Vigilance: Australian Convict Migrants in Cape Town and San Francisco*

17:00 CONGRESS WELCOME *Online & The Exchange*

Helen Abbott, Head of the College of Arts and Law, Pro-Vice-Chancellor

Kevin A. Morrison, SGNCS President

Emma Tyler, Head of the School of Languages, Cultures, Art History and Music

Berny Sèbe, SGNCS 2025 World Congress Co-Chair

KEYNOTE SPEECH *The Exchange | Assembly Room*

Chair: Berny Sèbe (University of Birmingham)

Charles Forsdick (University of Cambridge)

Paying the Price of Freedom: The Cultural Circulation of Haiti in the Nineteenth-Century World

18 July 2025

9:00-10:30 CULTURAL CIRCULATIONS

PANEL: Networks of Knowledge and Emotion

Alan Walters G11

Chair: Maddie Hewitson (University of Birmingham)

Adam Matvya (University of Notre Dame), *Debating the 'Object for Tenderness' in the Law: Global Histories of Legal Sympathy and Civility, 1811-1818*

Elwin Susan John (Sophia College, Mumbai), *Mapping Colonial India: Cartographic Circulations and the Construction of a Biomedical Identity*

Sameena Siddiqui (University of British Columbia), *Interface and Intermediality: Regional Colonial Exhibitions, native artists/photographers, and the crossover between photography, print, and vernacular practices of painting in North India, 1870s-1940s*

PANEL: Objects on the Move

Alan Walters 103

Chair: Agustín Coletes-Blanco (Universidad de Oviedo)

Esther Waldron (University of Oxford), *The land of Sarras: a consideration of Edward Burne-Jones and the Holy Grail tapestries*

Rachael Durkin (Northumbria University), *Patent Pending: Musical instruments and the patent system, c.1750–1852*

Charlotte Johnston (Northumbria University), *Cat's Eyes & Candies: Import of Natural Resinous Material 'Dammar' to Britain 1800-1845*

PANEL: Textual Adaptation and Object Movement Across Cultures

Alan Walters 112

Chair: Humberto Garcia (University of California, Merced)

Christopher Stokes (University of Exeter), *'The State requires her death': Medievalism, Politics and Womanhood in British Adaptations of the Portuguese Inês de Castro legend, 1763-1825*

Aleksandra Fedorowicz-Jackowska (Institute of Art, Polish Academy of Sciences), *19th-century Books for Decoration – Exploring Cultural Practices Across European and Global Networks*

Aysun Kiran (Marmara University), *Through the Lens of Recontextualisation and Intermediality: Revision and Tension in a Global Contemporary Adaptation of Frankenstein in the Late Ottoman Era*

10:40-11:00 BREAK

Alan Walters Foyer

11:00-12:30 CULTURAL CIRCULATIONS

PANEL: Mediated Circulations and Mobilities

Alan Walters G11

Chair: Hao-Yu Hu (University of Edinburgh)

Barbara Korte (University of Freiburg), *Mobility in Victorian Periodicals: A Case Study of the Leisure Hour*

Bethan Elliott (University of York), *'Words to those whom I shall never see': Joanna Baillie and the Role of Christian Moral Drama in British Ceylon*

Maddie Hewitson (University of Birmingham), *'[A] kind of miniature monument': The Montefiore Centrepiece (1842-3) and Anglo-Jewish Imperial Identities*

PANEL: Racial and Gendered Circulations

Alan Walters 103

Chair: Mary Gallagher (University College Dublin)

Shawn Michael Bullock (University of Birmingham), *The Hybridity of the Photography Studio: Mediating Relationships via Photography in the Journals of Helen Caddick*

Zach Sell (University of Notre Dame), *'Fellow-slaves': class, tax, and compensated Emancipation*

Humberto Garcia (University of California, Merced), *An Enslaved Black Seaman in Victorian London? Abolitionism's Unfreedom and the Trials of John Bardoe*

PANEL: Nineteenth-Century Travels and Travel Accounts

Alan Walters 112

Chair: Camille Stallings (University of Oxford)

Renata Schellenberg (Mount Allison University), *Moderating Mobility: Johann Georg Kohl's Reise nach Istrien, Dalmatien und Montenegro (1851)*

Negeen N. Nikraves (The University of Texas at Dallas), *Visible Identities: Hidden Mother Photography and Bishop's Journeys in Persia and Kurdistan*

Anne-Florence Quaireau (University of Angers), *Reframing Travel: Annie Brassey's A Voyage in the Sunbeam, our Home on the Ocean for Eleven Months (1878)*

12:30-14:00 LUNCH

Alan Walters Foyer

14:00-15:30 GLOBAL MOBILITIES

PANEL: The Body and Embodiment

Alan Walters G11

Chair: Kate Nichols (University of Birmingham)

Iris Julian (University of Vienna), *From 'Methodological Nationalism' to Transnational Spheres of Contact*

Emily A. Bernhard-Jackson (University of Exeter), *The Flesh Made Word: How the Authorial Body Makes the Text*

Leanne Zalewski (Central Connecticut State University), *Fantasy Figures: Images of Dancers in The Arabian Nights, 1820-1930*

PANEL: Politics and Diplomacy Between Nations and Empires

Alan Walters 103

Chair: Tomoki Yamada (University of Birmingham)

W. Jack Rhoden (Bishop Grosseteste University), *Learning the lessons of Waterloo: 1852 as a turning point in Anglo-French relations*

Eline Ceulemans (University of Antwerp), *"Translating (Belgian) Empire? Leopoldian Interpreters as Transimperial Actors in Late Qing China"*

Xinbei Wang (University of Birmingham), *Understanding Sino-British Political and Cultural Exchanges in the Nineteenth Century: The Case of British Consulates as Vessels of Informal Imperialism*

15:30-16:00

BREAK

Alan Walters Foyer

16:00-17:30

KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATIONS

PANEL: Science in Translation

Alan Walters G11

Chair: Zach Sell (University of Notre Dame)

Annie Greene (University of Utah), *Printing God's Wonders and Debating Gravity: Translating, Inventing, and Versifying Science in Iraq*

Nikki Otten (Milwaukee Art Museum), *Loie Fuller as a Science Fictional Figure*

Carlos Fernando Teixeira Alves (CHSC-FLUC, Portugal), *Hydraulic Knowledge Networks: Circulating Water Expertise in the 19th Century*

PANEL: East and West

Alan Walters 103

Chair: Xinbei Wang (University of Birmingham)

Shay Rozen (Avshalom institute), *West Meet the Middle East Baha'i Western-Women Pilgrimage to the Holy Land*

Li Qi Peh (Nanyang Technological University), *'Re-orienting' the Durian*

Mingjie Zhang (University of Birmingham), *The Translator-Anchored Cross-Cultural Mediation of Western Musical Terms in Early 19th-Century China*

PANEL: Texts in Translation

Alan Walters 112

Chair: Andreas Schübeler (University of Göttingen)

Emma Tyler (University of Birmingham), *Lucien Bonaparte: Controlling the Narrative through Publication and Translation*

Asa Zhang (University of Michigan), *'And Made the Echoes Song': Translation and the Transnational Poetess in Augusta Webster's Yu-Pe-Ya's Lute*

Lynn Qingyang LIN (Lingnan University), *Comparativism and Transcultural Knowledge: Translating and Reviewing Classical Chinese Poetry in the Victorian Periodical Press, 1870s – 1900s*

19:00 CONGRESS DINNER [preregistration and payment required]

Edgbaston Park Hotel and Conference Centre
Birmingham
B15 2RS

19 July 2025

9:00-10:30 CULTURAL CIRCULATIONS

PANEL: Global Circulations of Byron: Revolution and Reaction *Alan Walters G11*

Chair: Christopher Stokes (University of Exeter)

Alicia Laspra-Rodríguez (Universidad de Oviedo), *The Spanish Liberal Revolution, between Shelley and Byron, and its aftermath, prophesied by Byron*

Agustín Coletes-Blanco (Universidad de Oviedo), *For a piece of bread: Byron's afterlife during the First Carlist War, 1833-1840*

PANEL: Japan and Japonisme *Alan Walters 103*

Chair: Tomoki Yamada (University of Birmingham)

Emily Pearce (University of Birmingham), *Japonisme and Japanese Numismatics: The Aesthetic and Collecting Cultures in North America*

SeungHyeon Pyo (University of Hawaii at Manoa), *Epistemic Sutures: Where Nerves Speak in Borrowed Tongues; Translational Negotiations in Kaitai Shinsho*

Arisa Yamaguchi (University of Tsukuba), *Reframing Japanese Labourers in Yokohama Photography: Costume, Class, and Western Representations of Masculinity*

10:30-11:00 BREAK *Alan Walters Foyer*

11:00-12:30 CULTURAL CIRCULATIONS

PANEL: Comparative and World Literatures *Alan Walters G11*

Chair: Chair: Camille Stallings (University of Oxford)

Malgorzata Nowak (Adam Mickiewicz University), *Theodicy as The Turning Point for Polish Romantic Literature and Modernity – case of Juliusz Słowacki*

Mohammed Alqarawi (University of Edinburgh), *Temporality of Travel in Unrecorded Spaces: Using Richard Francis Burton's Pilgrimage to Al-Madinah and Meccah to read Thomas Hardy's Tess of the d'Urbervilles*

Jūratė Petronienė (The Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore), *Women Writers in XIXth Century Lithuania: Between Gothic and Historical Prose*

PANEL: Art and Architecture

Alan Walters 103

Chair: Xinbei Wang (University of Birmingham)

Dominik Müller (ETH Zurich), *Historiographies of Belonging and Othering Jacques-Ignace Hittorff and the Character of Norman Architecture in Sicily*

Andreas Schübeler (University of Göttingen), *The Proclamation of the German Empire as a Turning Point for the Tasks and Requirements of State-Commissioned Art*

Elizabeth Pergam (Society for the History of Collecting), *The Aftermath of the First Blockbuster Art Exhibition*

12:30-13:45

LUNCH

Alan Walters Foyer

13:45-15:15

GLOBAL MOBILITIES

PANEL: Nineteenth-Century Tourism and Tourists

Alan Walters G11

Chair: Eleanor Dobson (University of Birmingham)

Yifan Qiu (SOAS, University of London), *A Sense of Exotic or Superiority: Traveling to Chinese Ancient Imperial Mausoleums from 1860s to 1910s*

Megan Liao (Durham University), *Overseas Travels of the Empire's Marginalities: Fin-de-siècle tourism travelogues*

Paulina Banas (University of Alabama at Birmingham), *The Blurred Temporalities of the Island of Philae in the World of French and British Nineteenth-Century Publishing*

PANEL: Turning Points in the Balkan Transformation: Unveiling Hidden Episodes of Imperial Rivalries during the late 19th century

Alan Walters 103

Chair: Carlos Fernando Teixeira Alves (CHSC-FLUC, Portugal)

Aleksandar Zlatanov (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), *Empire's Edge: Gen. Nikolay Ignatiev as a Turning Point of the Russian Near Eastern Strategy (1864–1877)*

Nadezhda Vasileva (Independent scholar), *Sir Henry Drummond Wolff's Diplomatic Missions and British Strategy in the Near East (1878–1885): Imperial Rivalries and the Reconfiguration of the Ottoman Empire*

Katalin Schrek (University of Debrecen), *Austro-Hungarian and Russian Concepts in Building the Balkans Railway: Turning Points and Changing Concepts after 1878*

15:15-15:45

BREAK

Alan Walters Foyer

15:45-17:15 KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATIONS

PANEL: Periodical Cultures and the Spread of Knowledge

Alan Walters G11

Chair: Agustín Coletes-Blanco (Universidad de Oviedo)

Tu HUYNH (University of Cologne) and YANG Fan (Sun Yat-Sen University), *Translation and Transmission of Ideas: The Role of Chinese Newspapers in Transnational Discourse on Indentured Labor in South Africa, 1904-1906*

Daniel Sanjiv Roberts (Queen's University Belfast), *'The Paltry Intrigues of ... Oriental Negotiation': Imagining China in British Magazines in the wake of the Amherst Embassy (1816-17)*

Silvia Gregorio Sainz (Universidad de Oviedo-España), *Wellington on Spain vs. Spain on Wellington: Allusion and Representation*

WORKSHOP: The Nineteenth-Century Global Bookshelf: Methods for Studying Ordinary Readers' Responses to Translation [preregistration required] *Alan Walters 103*

Facilitator: Alexander Bubb (Roehampton University)

17:30-18:45 PLENARY SESSION

Online & Edgbaston Campus

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Adam Walters G11

Chair: Emma Tyler (University of Birmingham)

Regenia Gagnier (University of Exeter)

Manik Bandyopadhyay, Technological Progress and Democracy, and the State of Decolonizing

20 July 2025

9:00-10:30 GLOBAL MOBILITIES

PANEL: Merchants, Markets, and International Trade

Alan Walters G11

Chair: Deborah Besseghini (Università degli Studi di Torino)

David van Gent (University of Amsterdam), *The untold story of the creation of the Suez Canal*

Damian Clavel (University of Zurich), *Banking on Resistance: European Capital Markets as South American Fields of Frontier Struggle, c.1860s-1870s*

Nick Sharman (University of Nottingham), *The Impact of British Free Market Liberalism on Spain's Collective Traditions*

PANEL: Movements On (and Off) the Page

Alan Walters 103

Chair: Li Qi Peh (Nanyang Technological University)

Richard Menke (University of Georgia), *Pirate Mobilities and the Mobilisation of Romance in Emmanuel Appadocca*

Mary Gallagher (University College Dublin), *Three Successive Pivots in the Interrupted Odyssey of Homeless Global Writer, Lafcadio Hearn*

Sophie Maddison (University of Sheffield), *Circulatory Narratives of Naples and Paris*

10:30-11:00 BREAK

Alan Walters Foyer

11:00-12:30 CULTURAL CIRCULATIONS

PANEL: Literary Techniques

Alan Walters 103

Chair: Eleanor Dobson (University of Birmingham)

Jonathan Potter (Birmingham City University), *Translating Reality into Descriptive Truth: Categorical Specificity and Popular Sketch Writing*

Marie Duic (Sorbonne Université), *Radically novel: Harriet Martineau's Deerbrook (1839)*

Hao-Yu Hu (University of Edinburgh), *Aestheticism, Decadence, and Queer Temporality in Walter Pater's Marius the Epicurean*

PANEL: Circuits of Knowledge

Alan Walters G11

Chair: Andrés Baeza Ruz (Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez)

Pablo Toro Blanco (Universidad Alberto Hurtado), *The cane, an educational tool? Transnational references during the discussion on physical punishment abolition in Chilean education (c.1830-c.1880)*

Priyanka Choudhary (University of Delhi), *From Nomadism to the Margins: Decoding the Impact of India's Housing Policies on Gadia Lohar community of Udaipur*

Katie Donnelly (University College Dublin), *'Angel in the Tent': Relocating British Domesticity in Colonial Australia*

12:30-13:30

LUNCH

Alan Walters Foyer

13:30-15:00

KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATIONS

Panel: Manuscript and Archival Cultures

Alan Walters 103

Chair: Priyanka Choudhary (University of Delhi)

Abdul Sabur Kidwai (King's College London), *Masihuddin and the Global Imagination: South Asian Travel Writing in the 19th Century*

Donel Varghese (Indian Institute of Technology), *Beyond Travel: Writing and the Search for Form in Varthamanappusthakam (1786)*

Deborah Besseghini (Università degli Studi di Torino), *At the Roots of Nineteenth-Century Globalisation: The Travels and Collections of Carlo Vidua (1818-1830)*

Panel: Questions of Space and Place

Alan Walters G11

Chair: Aleksandar Zlatanov (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences)

Catalina V. Fara (University of Buenos Aires), *Decoroso Bonifanti: plein air painting the Buenos Aires' transforming urban landscape at the turn of the century*

Jakub Frejtag (University of Warsaw), *From Commonwealth to Empire: Contested Urban Spaces in Post-Partition Poland-Lithuania*

Camille Rivoire (Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3), *'Madam, a circulating library in a town is an evergreen tree of diabolical knowledge!': The Circulating Library as a New Epistemological Contraption*

PERSONAL NOTES