

“The Pursuit of Happiness”
Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference
Bard College and Skidmore College
April 24-26, 2009
Saratoga Springs, New York

For those arriving on Thursday, registration will open at 3:00 p.m.

Friday, April 24

8:00 AM: Continental Breakfast
8:00-3:30: Registration

9:00 – 10:30 AM: SESSION 1

A. Happy and Unhappy Women

Moderator: Marni Kessler (Art History, University of Kansas)

Laura Callanan (English, Duquesne University), “Lucy Snowe’s Creed: Narrative Indeterminacy and the Question of Happiness in Charlotte Brontë’s *Villette* (1853)”

Melissa Lingle-Martin (English, Indiana University of Pennsylvania), “[N]o happy woman ever writes’: Nineteenth-Century Women Writers and the Pursuit of Happiness”

Susan Roberts (Roehampton University), “The Pleasure and the Pain is All Hers!”

Lynn Alexander (English, University of Tulsa), “Beyond Despair: The Drowned Woman in Victorian Literature and Art”

B. Politics and Happiness

Moderator: Sumangala Bhattacharya (English and World Literatures, Pitzer College)

Ellen Goldner (English, College of Staten Island), “Happiness in a Different Key: The Pleasures of Struggle in African-American Abolitionist Performance”

Lise Shapiro Sanders (English Literature and Cultural Studies, Hampshire College),
“Gender and the Politics of Happiness in the Life and Work of Millicent Garrett
Fawcett”

Frank Mabee (English, Fitchburg State College), “The Happy Revolutionaries:
Contesting Rights and Rewards at Spithead and the Nore”

Stefan Bird-Pollan (Social Studies Program, Harvard University), “The Idea of
Labor in Rousseau, Hegel and Marx”

Kris Pangburn (History, UCLA), “Early German Liberalism and Debate over
Heavenly Happiness: The Case of M.C.F.W. Graevell”

C. Economics of Happiness

Moderator: Susan Hiner (French, Vassar College)

Lise Shreier (French, Fordham University), “Exoticized Children and the Pursuit of
Happiness”

Susan Hiner (French, Vassar College), “Calico and Cashmere: The Economics of a
Happy Ending”

Carolyn Betensky (English, University of Rhode Island), “The ‘Happy’
and the ‘Unhappy’: Affect and Economics in *Mary Barton*”

D. Happiness at the Fin de Siecle

Moderator: Stephen Graham (Literature, Bard College)

Anne DeWitt (English, Yale University), “H.G. Wells and the Pursuit of Beauty”

Barri Gold (English, Muhlenberg College), “Decadent Pleasures, or How I Learned to
Stop Worrying and Love the Second Law”

Lee Behlman (English, Montclair State University), “Heat Death: May Kendall’s
Comic Fatalism”

Moris Stern (The New School for Social Research), “Victorian Thoughts on
Happiness as Self-Expansion, Uninhibited Desire, Multiple Selves, Mourning,
and Beauty: Plato and Freud in Oscar Wilde’s *Picture of Dorian Gray*”

10:30 AM: Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30 PM: SESSION 2

A. Too Much of a Good Thing: The Paradox of Plenitude

Moderator: Maeve Powlick (Economics, Skidmore College)

Francesco Ferrante (Economics, University of Cassino), “Opportunities, Aspirations and Life Satisfaction”

Marisa Ruccolo (Italian Studies, University of Toronto), “Boredom as an Obstacle to Happiness: The Novel in Post-Unification Italy”

Simona Tenaglia (Social Policies, Institute for the Development of Training for Workers), “Testing Theories on Happiness: A Questionnaire”

Julia Chavez (English, Marquette University), “‘Strange Good Sorrowful Happiness’ and Materialism in Dickens’s *Our Mutual Friend*”

B. Happy Labors

Moderator: Janet Casey (English and American Studies, Skidmore College)

Margaret Lynch-Brennan (Independent Scholar), “The Irish Bridget’s Pursuit of Happiness”

James Lundberg (History, Sacred Heart University), “The Happy Ditch-Digger and the Virtuous Drudge: Horace Greeley’s Heroic Journalism, 1837-1854”

Laura Rotunno (English, Penn State Altoona), “Pleasure Seeking, Identity Formation, and Anxiety in the Victorian Post Office”

Silvana Colella (University of Macerata), “‘The Burden and the Heat of Common Affairs’: Walter Bagehot and Bourgeois Happiness”

C. The Novel and the Question of Happiness

Moderator: Alexandra Wettlaufer (French and Comparative Literature, University of Texas at Austin)

Karen Chase (English, University of Virginia), “‘Happiness is not a potato’: The Victorian Cultivation of Happiness”

Kathy Justice Gentile (English and Gender Studies, University of Missouri – St.

Louis), “[A] wicked thing not to be happy’: The Laws of Comedy in Austen’s Novels”

Deborah Deneholz Morse (English, College of William and Mary), “Nothing Will Make Me Distrust You’: The Pastoral Transformed in Anthony Trollope’s *The Small House at Allington* (1864)”

Caroline Bolt (Literary Studies, University of Texas at Dallas), “Competing Notions of Happiness in Gaskell’s *North and South*”

D. Objects of Desire

Moderator: Sharon Weltman (English, Louisiana State University)

Elizabeth Holt (Arabic, Bard College), “Reading Threads of Bourgeois Desire: Silk in the Journals of 1870s Beirut”

Adrienne Munich (English and Women’s Studies, SUNY Stony Brook), “We Want Your Diamonds: In Pursuit of Carbon Rocks”

Sarah Willburn (English, Skidmore College), “Happiness and Idolatry in Late Victorian Fiction”

12:30 PM: Lunch on your own

2:00 PM: Keynote Lecture – Robert Frank, “Unsolicited Advice for the Obama Administration”

3:30 – 5:00 PM: SESSION 3

A. Infant Joy

Moderator: Keith Hanley (English Literature, University of Lancaster)

Linda Shires (English, Stern College and Yeshiva University), “Kipling, Happiness, and the Child Mind”

Karen Li Miller (English, University of Connecticut), “‘To Run and Play’: The American Commodity Aesthetics and Missionary Reform of Chinese Children”

Dianna Vitanza (English, Baylor University), “Happiness in Charles Bray’s *The*

Education of the Feelings”

B. Illicit Pleasures

Moderator: Kim Marra (American Studies and Theatre Arts, University of Iowa)

Carolyn Tate (English, University of Virginia), “Queer Optimism and Female Pleasure in Late Victorian Pornographic Novels”

Benedetta Gennaro (Italian Studies, Brown University), “Cross-Dressing, Transgression, and the Pursuit of Happiness: Notes on the Women in Arms of the Italian Risorgimento”

Meredith Collins (English, Temple University), “Pleasure and Identity: Homosexuality as Identity in Victorian Pornography”

Kristin Flieger Samuelian (English, George Mason University), “Remaking a Prince of Pleasure: The Evolution of ‘Florizel’ and ‘Perdita’”

C. Pleasure for the People

Moderator: Chris Vanden Bossche (English, University of Notre Dame)

Denise Odello (Music, University of Minnesota – Morris), “Leisure, Music, and Fair Play: The Brass Band Contest of Late Nineteenth- and Early Twentieth-Century Britain”

Ellen Rosenman (English, University of Kentucky), “The Victorian Working Classes Remake the World”

Stacey Floyd (English, Cardinal Stritch University), “Chartist Fiction and Working-Class Distrust of Luck”

Kristine Kelly (English, Case Western Reserve University), “No Time for Play: Working-Class Women and the Pursuit of Romance”

D. Entertainment and Visual Representation

Moderator: Marni Kessler (Art History, University of Kansas)

Rozanne Stringer (Art History, University of Kansas), “Pleasure, Race, and Autonomy in Toulouse-Lautrec’s *Chocolat Dansant dans un Bar*”

Michelle Foa (Art History, Tulane University), “Georges Seurat on Solitude, Spectatorship, and the Everyday”

Juliet Bellow (Art History, American University), "Presenting Antiquity: Auguste Rodin's Cambodian Dancers"

5:30 PM: Reception at the Surrey

Dinner on your own

Saturday, April 25

8:00 AM: Continental Breakfast

9:00 – 10:30 AM: SESSION 4

A. Sporting Pleasures

Moderator: Jeff Segrave (Dean of Special Programs, Skidmore College)

Gabrielle Gopinath (Visual Arts, College of the Holy Cross), "The Happiness of Pursuit: Changing Definitions of the Quarry at Midcentury"

Kim Marra (American Studies and Theatre Arts, University of Iowa), "Saratoga Racing and the Anglophilic Affinity between Women and Horses"

Michael Hauptert (Economics, University of Wisconsin – La Crosse), "Take Me Out to the Ballgame: The Pursuit of Pleasure and Profit on the Ballfield"

B. Friendship and Sociability

Moderator: Chris Krueger (English, Marquette University)

Sarah Horowitz (History, Washington and Lee University), "Friendship and the Problem of the Social Order in Balzac's *Illusions Perdues*"

Gage McWeeny (English, Williams College), "Pleasure and Good Form: Henry James's George Eliot"

Nancy Leonard (Literature, Bard College), "Strong Ties at a Distance: Emily

Dickinson and the Letter”

John Westbrook III (Philosophy, Marquette University), “Let's Be Friends: Aristotle and Kierkegaard on Friendship, Existence and the Happy Life”

C. Architecture and Urban Spaces

Moderator: Joe McLaughlin (English, Ohio University)

Paul Moulton (Music, The College of Idaho), “Escaping the Mundane in the Sacred Space of the Concert Hall”

David Pike (Literature, American University), “Buried Pleasure”

Barbara Leckie (English, Carleton University), “The Architecture of Happiness: Housing for the Poor and the Foreclosure of the Emotions”

Megan Norcia (English, SUNY Brockport), “Pursuing Happiness Through London: A Study of Children’s Guidebooks to the City”

D. Dickens

Moderator: Teresa Mangum (English, University of Iowa)

Deb Gettelman (English, College of the Holy Cross), “Poring Over Dickens”

Shu-Fang Lai (Foreign Languages and Literature, National SunYat-Sen University), “‘Ecstasy of Unhappiness’: Happiness in Dickens”

Rachel Bowser (English, Emory University), “Lingering Sadness and Limited Form: The Pleasures and Parameters of Plot in Dickens”

Sharon Weltman (English, Louisiana State University), “‘Not for Me the Happy Home’: *Oliver!*, Victorianness, and the Anti-Angel in the House”

E. Music and Joy

Moderator: Thomas Denny (Music, Skidmore College)

James Parsons (Music History, Missouri State University), “The Musical Pursuit of Happiness: Tracking Schiller’s ‘An die Freude’ from 1785 to Beethoven’s 1824 Ninth Symphony”

Edward Green (Manhattan School of Music), “Music, the Victorians, and the Pursuit of Happiness – A Consideration of the Writings of the Rev. H.R. Haweis”

Nancy Newman (Music, University at Albany), “Good Music for a Free People: The Germania Musical Society’s Transatlantic Journey”

Peter Laki (Music, Bard College), “The Evanescence of a Dream”

10:30 AM: Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30 PM: SESSION 5

A. Guiding Happiness

Moderator: Phyllis Roth (English, Skidmore College)

Lauren Obermark (English, Ohio State University) and Jennifer Phegley (English, University of Missouri – Kansas City), “Victorian Match.com: Courtship Letters and Women’s Rhetorical Power”

Ombretta Frau (Classis and Italian, Mount Holyoke College), “Looking for Happiness in Italian Female Narratives and Books of Conduct”

Deirdre McMahon (English and Philosophy, Drexel University), “‘I wish I were a boy. I should like to help kill some of the Boxers’: Colonial Cross-Dressing and Narrative Pleasure in Victorian ‘Books for Boys’”

B. Happy Men

Moderator: Derek Furr (English, Bard College)

Lisa Niles (English, Spelman College), “In Pursuit of ‘Prime’: Masculinity, Aging, and Work in Anthony Trollope”

Sarah Gerk (Musicology, University of Michigan), “‘We Crave Your Condescension’: Drunken Irishmen and Upward Mobility in *The Mulligan Guards*”

Dennis Gouws (English, Springfield College), “More than ‘a Gentleman with a Sketchbook’: Professionalism, Happiness, and the Manhood Question in *Middlemarch* and *Daniel Deronda*”

Chris Kent (History, University of Saskatchewan), “The Pleasure of Being a Properly Attired Male”

C. Ethics of Happiness

Moderator: Natalie Taylor (Government, Skidmore College)

Christopher Barker (Political Science, California State University – San Bernardino),
“The Utilitarian Pursuit of Happiness”

Supritha Rajan (English, University of Rochester), “The Ends of
Pleasure: Labor’s Sacrifice and Just Distribution in Nineteenth-Century Political
Economy”

Ashley Barnes (English, University of California - Berkeley), “Representing
Happiness: Ethics, Erotics, and Narrative Theory”

Marylu Hill (Villanova Center for Liberal Education, Villanova University), “‘The
Shadow of Ourselves’: Thomas Carlyle and the Isolating Pursuit of Happiness

D. The Good Life and the Good Home

Moderator: Mimi Hellman (Art History, Skidmore College)

Sumangala Bhattacharya (English and World Literature, Pitzer College),
“Epicurean Pleasure versus Home Cooking: Gastronomy Takes on Victorian
Domesticity”

Lauren Klein (English, City University of New York), “The Good Life and the Good
Table: Food, Taste, and Happiness in the Writings of Thomas Jefferson”

Katherine Osborne (English, University of Kentucky), “Beadwork and Basket-Making:
Handiwork and the Possibilities of Female Friendship”

E. Willful Happiness

Moderator: Ghislaine McDayter (English, Bucknell University)

Marina van Zuylen (English, Bard College), “‘I’m unhappy because—I’m
too happy’: *Oblomov*, Schopenhauer, and the Poetics of Stasis”

Matthew Austin (Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism, University of
Western Ontario), “From Quiet Suffering to Raging Joy: Nietzsche’s Critique of
Nineteenth-Century Pessimism”

Jason Dockstader (Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism, University of
Western Ontario), “Spinozan Joy in Nietzsche”

John Maynard (English, New York University), “Repetition and/of/in Victorian

Pleasures”

12:30 PM: Lunch on your own (INCS Board meets)

2:00 – 3:30 PM: SESSION 6

A. Family and Marriage

Moderator: Sarah Webster Goodwin (English, Skidmore College)

Catherine Siemann (New York University and Cooper Union), “Gender, Gambling, and the Pursuit of Happiness in the Novels of George Eliot”

Eileen Gillooly (English, Columbia University), “On the Feelings of a Parent”

Anca Vlasopolos (English, Wayne State University), “The Happiness of Reconfigured Families in the Neo-Victorian Detective Series by Philip Pullman”

Nancy Henry (English, University of Tennessee), “Secrets, Lies, and Marriage in George Eliot’s Life and Writing”

B. Public Happiness

Moderator: Tillman Nechtman (History, Skidmore College)

Thomas Scanlan (English, Ohio University), “The Politics of Happiness in the Early American Republic; OR the Life and Death of Public Happiness in America”

Shawn Kimmel (School of Public Health, University of Michigan) “Democratic Well-Being: The Emergent Public Health Legacy of the ‘Pursuit of Happiness’ in the Early Nineteenth Century”

Clare Simmons (English, Ohio State University), “Medievalism and the Quest for England’s Happiest Age”

Emily Haddad (English, University of South Dakota), “General Happiness and Human Bliss: Jane Marcet’s Political Economy in James Morier’s Persia”

C. Can Money Buy Happiness?

Moderator: Silvana Colella (University of Macerata)

Lara Akin (Psychology, University of British Columbia), “From Wealth to Well-Being: Spending Money on Others Promotes Happiness”

Anne Longmuir (English, Kansas State University), “Margaret Hale and ‘Shabby People’: Female Consumers in Gaskell’s *North and South*”

Cristina Gragnani (Italian, University of Illinois at Chicago), “Pomp and Decline: Images of ‘Palermo Felicissima’ in Sicilian Literary Journalism”

Peter Martinsson (Economics, University of Gothenburg) and Alpaslan Akay (Institute for the Study of Labor), “Econometrics of Happiness – How Should We Consider Causality?”

D. Misery, Pain, and Despair

Moderator: Marina van Zuylen (French Studies and Literature, Bard College)

Lisa Cunningham (English and Women’s Studies, St. John Fisher College), “Happiness Through a Disfigured Lens”

Rachel Cole (English, Lewis and Clark College), “Glad Enough: Emily Dickinson, Togetherness, and the Contentment of Despair”

Claudia Klaver (English, Syracuse University), “Crimean Miseries”

Hannah Cowles Freeman (English, University of Kentucky), “‘Thou comfort of woe’: Opium Use and Romantic Women’s Writing”

E. Representing Happiness

Moderator: Laurie Dahlberg (Art History, Bard College)

Pamela Fletcher (Art History, Bowdoin College), “Happiness Lost: William Powell Frith and the Painting of Modern Life”

Sarah Peterson (English, Emory University), “Re-Presenting the Invisible: Christina Rossetti and Pre-Raphaelite Aesthetics”

Kimberly Rhodes (Art History, Drew University), “In the Cards? Abraham Solomon’s *Doubtful Fortune* (RA 1856) and the Fate of Female Happiness”

4:00 PM: Keynote Lecture – Darrin McMahon, “‘Happiness is No Laughing Matter!’ Some Reflections on the Pursuit of Happiness in the Humanities”
Introduction by Susan Kress, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Skidmore College

5:00 PM: Shuttle to hotels

6:00 PM: Reception at Tang

7:00 PM: Banquet

Sunday, April 26

8:00 AM: Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM: Special Session: Studying Happiness

Moderator: William Lewis (Philosophy, Skidmore College)

Ryan Tobler (History, Brigham Young University), “‘Never Unhappy Again’:
Emerson, Hedge, and Transcendental Religion”

Students from Bard Seminar “The Pursuit of Happiness” and Skidmore Seminar “The
Psychology of Well-Being”

10:00 - 11:30 AM: SESSION 7

A. Science, Health, and Happiness

Moderator: Frank Scalzo (Psychology, Bard College)

Shalyn Clagget (English, Mississippi State University), “Phrenological Felicity:
Victorian Self-Knowledge and Success”

Richard Gordon (Psychology, Bard College), “Mania: The Pathology and
Medicalization of Euphoria”

Sarah Russo (English, Hobart and William Smith Colleges), “‘A delicious
sensation of ease spread through me’: Harriet Martineau, Mesmerism, and the
Pleasures of Health”

Benjamin Morgan (Rhetoric, University of California – Berkeley),
“Aesthetics/Hedonics: The Science of Pleasure at the *fin de siècle*”

B. Empire and Travel

Moderator: Linda Simon (English, Skidmore College)

Vera Jakoby (Philosophy and Religious Studies, McDaniel College), “With *Tancred* in the Saddle-Pocket: The ‘Orient’ as a Place of Pleasure and Longing”

Jen Camden (English, University of Indianapolis), “The Pursuit of Happiness and the Colonial Detour”

Nandini Sengupta (English, Syracuse University), “Fanny Parks’s *Wanderings of a Pilgrim in Search of the Picturesque*: The ‘pleasure of vagabondizing over India!’”

Katarina Gephardt (English, Kennesaw State University), “The Pleasures of Traveling Rough: Late Nineteenth-Century British Tourists in Eastern Europe”

C. Happiness and the Intellectual

Moderator: Joe Luzzi (Italian, Bard College)

Alina Gharabegian (CUNY Graduate Center), “The Law of One’s Being: Matthew Arnold and the Pursuit of Happiness”

Kathleen Blake (English, University of Washington – Seattle), “Bentham and the Pursuit of Aesthetic Happiness: ‘Push-pin is as good as poetry’”

Robert Boyers (English, Skidmore College), “The Fate of Pleasure Revisited”

Andrew Stauffer (English, University of Virginia), “Scholarship and the Joy of Random Access”

D. The Happy Poor

Moderator: Catherine Golden (English, Skidmore College)

Tomoko Kanda (English, Nihon University), “Poor but Happy? —Images of the Working Poor as Represented in the Earlier Half of 19th Century English Literature”

Erica Moretti (Italian Studies, Brown University), “Can Happiness be Taught? Leopoldo and Alice Franchetti’s Pedagogical Experiments”

Colleen Willenbring (English, Marquette University), “‘Their Discontent Has Been Abated’: Commissioned Happiness in Poor Law Reform”

Hildegard Hoeller (English and Women's Studies, City University of New York),
"The Rich Poor and the Poor Poor: Happiness and Misery in Catherine Maria
Sedgwick's *The Poor Rich Man and the Rich Poor Man* and Lydia Maria Child's
Letters from New York"

**11:30: Keynote Lecture – Adam Potkay (English, College of William and
Mary), "The Narrative Possibilities of Happiness, Joy, and Unhappiness"**

**As you are making your travel plans, please note that we are planning optional
excursions—some free of additional charge—Thursday afternoon/evening and Sunday
afternoon. These excursions might range from a guided walking tour of the pleasure-
grounds of Saratoga Springs to taking the waters of the Spa City. More details will follow
shortly.