

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

Thursday, April 23

3:00-5:30: Registration (Gannett Lobby)

Friday, April 24

7:45-8:45 AM: Shuttle from the Hilton to Palamountain

8:00 AM: Continental Breakfast (Murray-Aikins)

8:00-3:30: Registration (Gannett Lobby)

9:00 – 10:30 AM: SESSION 1

A. Happy and Unhappy Women (Murray-Aikins, Room 1)

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

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”

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 (English, Roehampton University), “The Pleasure and the Pain are all
Hers!”

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

B. Politics and Happiness (Murray-Aikins, Room 2)

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”

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), “Rousseau, Hegel and Marx: Labor, Individuality and Society”

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

C. Economics of Happiness (Murray-Aikins, Room 3)

Moderator: Susan Hiner (French, Vassar College)

Lise Shreier (French, Fordham University), “The Playthings of Empire: Exoticized Children and the Economics of Happiness”

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

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

D. Happiness at the Fin de Siecle (Murray-Aikins, Room 4)

Moderator: Stephen Graham (Literature, Bard College)

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

Barri Gold (English, Muhlenberg College), “The Promise of the Demon, 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”

10:30 AM: Coffee Break (Murray-Aikins)

11:00 – 12:30 PM: SESSION 2

B. Happy Labors (Murray-Aikins, Room 1)

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 Heroic 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 (Murray-Aikins, Room 2)

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), “Jane Austen’s Rhetoric of Happiness in *Northanger Abbey*”

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)”

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

D. Objects of Desire (Murray-Aikins, Room 3)

Moderator: Joseph Luzzi (Italian, Bard College)

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), "Give us 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 (The Murray-Aikins Dining Hall has a terrific, affordable range of options)

2:00 PM: Keynote Lecture – Robert Frank, "Unsolicited Advice for the Obama Administration" (Davis Auditorium)

Introduction by Michèle Dominy, Vice President and Dean of the College; Professor of Anthropology, Bard College

3:30 – 5:00 PM: SESSION 3

A. Infant Joy (Murray-Aikins, Room 1)

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 (Murray-Aikins, Room 2)

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), "The Pursuit of Happiness in the Risorgimento: Countess Della Torre between Romantic and Patriotic Love"

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 (Murray-Aikins, Room 3)

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), “Mobility and Space: Penny Dreadfuls Re-Map the Nation”

Stacey Floyd (English, Cardinal Stritch University), “Soothing the Child-Self: Happiness, Identity, and Passing in *Great Expectations* and Thomas Cooper’s ‘The Lad Who Felt Like a Fish Out of Water’”

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

D. Entertainment and Visual Representation Association of Historians of Nineteenth-Century Art Panel (Murray-Aikins, Room 4)

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

Rozanne Stringer (Art History, University of Kansas), “Pleasure, Race, and Agency 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*”

5:00-6:00 PM: Shuttle from Palamountain entrance to the Hilton

5:30 PM: Reception at the Surrey (Performance by Skidmore’s incomparable a cappella group, The Accents)

7:00 PM: Shuttle from Surrey to the Hilton

Dinner on your own

Saturday, April 25

7:45-8:45AM: Shuttle from the Hilton to Palamountain

8:00 AM: Continental Breakfast (Gannett Lobby)

9:00 – 10:30 AM: SESSION 4

A. Sporting Pleasures (Murray-Aikins, Room 2)

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 Ball Field”

B. Friendship and Sociability (Murray-Aikins, Room 4)

Moderator: Mary Jean Corbett (English, Miami 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 (Bolton 280)

Moderator: Joe McLaughlin (English, Ohio University)

David Pike (Literature, American University), “Buried Pleasure: Doctor Dolittle, Walter Benjamin, and the 19th-Century Child”

Barbara Leckie (English, Carleton University), “The Architecture of Unhappiness: 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 (Bolton 281)

Moderator: Teresa Mangum (English, University of Iowa)

Deb Gettelman (English, College of the Holy Cross), “On the Pleasures of Releasing Imaginary Prisoners”

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

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 (Filene 207)

Moderator: Thomas Denny (Music, Skidmore College)

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

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 (Murray-Aikins and Gannett Lobby)

11:00 – 12:30 PM: SESSION 5

A. Guiding Happiness (Murray-Aikins, Room 2)

Moderator: Phyllis Roth (English, Skidmore College)

Lauren Obermark (English, Ohio State University), “Victorian Match.com: Courtship Letters and Women’s Rhetorical Power”

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

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 (Murray-Aikins, Room 3)

Moderator: Derek Furr (English MAT Program, 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 Gentleman”

C. Ethics of Happiness (Murray-Aikins, Room 4)

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”

D. The Good Life and the Good Home (Bolton 280)

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), “Basket-Making and Worsted-Work: Handiwork and the Possibilities of Female Friendship”

E. Willful Happiness (Bolton 281)

Moderator: David Thomas (English, University of Notre Dame)

Marina van Zuylen (French Studies and Literature, 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/Brunch on your own (INCS Board meets)

2:00 – 3:30 PM: SESSION 6

A. Family and Marriage (Murray-Aikins, Room 2)

Moderator: Sarah Webster Goodwin (English, Skidmore College)

Catherine Siemann (English, 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 (Murray-Aikins, Room 3)

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”

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*”

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

C. Can Money Buy Happiness? (Murray-Aikins, Room 4)

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 ‘Shopy People’: Female Consumers in Gaskell’s *North and South*”

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

D. Misery, Pain, and Despair (Bolton 280)

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 (Bolton 281)

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” (Gannett Auditorium)

Introduction by Christine Krueger, President of INCS; Associate Professor of English, Marquette University

5:00 PM: Shuttle between Hilton and Palamountain entrance

6:00 PM: Reception at Tang Museum (Gallery tour of Oliver Herring’s “Me Us Them” and “Tim Rollins and K.O.S.: A History”)

7:00 PM: Banquet (Murray-Aikins)

10:00 PM: First shuttle from campus to Hilton

Sunday, April 26

7:45-8:45 AM: Shuttle from the Hilton to Palamountain

8:00 AM: Continental Breakfast (Gannett Lobby)

9:00 AM: Special Session: Studying Happiness (Bolton 281)

Moderator: William Lewis (Philosophy, Skidmore College)

Ryan Tobler (History, Brigham Young University, 2009), “‘Never Unhappy Again’: Emerson, Hedge, and Transcendental Religion”

Randee Schwartz (Skidmore College, 2010), “The Psychology of Happiness”

Vanessa Loukas (Skidmore College, 2009), “The Psychology of Happiness”

Neha Jain (Bard College, 2010), “Happiness for One?: A Study of the Individualistic Nature of Happiness

Sofia Pia Belenky (Bard College, 2011), “Happy Homes”

10:00 - 11:30 AM: SESSION 7

A. Science, Health, and Happiness (Bolton 100)

Moderator: Frank Scalzo (Psychology, Bard College)

Shalyn Claggett (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 Aesthetic Pleasure at the *fin de siècle*”

B. Empire and Travel (Bolton 281)

Moderator: Linda Simon (English, Skidmore College)

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 (Bolton 280)

Moderator: Sharon Weltman (English, Louisiana State University)

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

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

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

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

D. The Happy Poor (Bolton 103)

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), “Inventing the Happy Poor: Catherine Maria Sedgwick’s Anti-Depressant Novel *The Poor Rich Man and the Rich Poor Man*”

11:30: Keynote Lecture – Adam Potkay (English, College of William and Mary), “The Narrative Possibilities of Happiness, Joy, and Unhappiness” (Gannett Auditorium)

Introduction by Susan Kress, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Professor of English, Skidmore College

1:00 PM Shuttle from campus to Hilton

During the conference weekend, be sure to check out...

“Luxury, Humor, and Folly in the Victorian Illustrated Book” – selections from the Norman M. Fox Collection (Scribner Library). This is an exhibit for the INCS 2009 Conference by Julia Dauer, Special Collections Assistant, and Wendy Anthony, Curator, Department of Special Collections.

Thursday 8:00am - 10:00pm

Friday 8:00am - 10:00pm

Saturday 9:00am - 10:00pm

Sunday 11:00am – 2:00pm

The 2009 INCS Book Exhibit (2nd Floor Balcony in Murray-Aikins)

Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm

Saturday 8:00am - 5:00pm

Sunday 8:00am - 12:00pm