

Call for Papers: Wounded Bodies, Tortured Souls: Narratives of Victorian and Neo-Victorian Trauma

Country: United Kingdom

Date: 3/16/2012

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Postgraduate Conference, University of Portsmouth, 14th June 2012

In recent years the study of trauma has become central to contemporary conceptualisations of personal and collective narratives of pain and loss. Often identified as a 'modern' phenomenon, a product of industrialisation and modernisation, trauma emerged as a distinct pathology alongside the rise of a middle-class readership, and accounts of physical and psychological wounds abound in Victorian fiction. In turn, Victorian tropes of trauma have been appropriated by the neo-Victorian novel, often in ways which offer a self-conscious or critical engagement with past representations.

This conference seeks to examine the intersection between the physical and psychical representation of trauma in both Victorian and Neo-Victorian literature. It aims to explore the importance of the relationship between the mind and the body, as well as the relationship between Victorian literary representations and neo-Victorian appropriations. We welcome papers examining representations of trauma in Victorian and neo-Victorian fiction, as well as contributions from the fields of literary theory, cultural studies, and the visual arts.

Possible areas of interest include, but are not limited to:

Victorian trauma narratives

Pain in Victorian art, literature and culture

Neo-Victorian traumatic appropriations

'Wound Culture'

Traumatic performances (race/gender/sexuality, etc.)

Imperial trauma

Please send abstracts of no more than 300 words for papers lasting 20 minutes, and a brief biographical note (100 words), to Emily Hunt (emily.hunt@port.ac.uk) or Alex Messem (alexandra.messem@port.ac.uk) by 16 March 2012.

Link: <http://victorianpersistence.wordpress.com/2012/01/25/cfp-wounded-bodies-tortured-souls-narratives-of-victorian-and-neo-victorian-trauma/>

Categories: Academia, Literature and Medicine, Medical Humanities, Pain, Psychology, Sexuality, Trauma

Audience: Academic, Historian