

GeNDeR Studies Program



Research Workshop

“An abominable sort of conceited independence”: Walking Women in 19th-Century British Literature

In 19th-Century Britain, women’s walking often carried negative social connotations. While a sedate stroll around the garden was considered a genteel form of exercise for ladies, straying beyond the bounds of socially acceptable mobility suggested rebelliousness at best, destitution and prostitution at worst. Authors of the period frequently leverage this transgressive potential to critique certain gender ideologies. Drawing examples from *Pride and Prejudice*, *Jane Eyre*, and *Adam Bede*, I theorize 19th-century literary walking as an individualistic mode of social resistance which serves as a powerful tool for women writers but whose efficacy stems in large part from its exclusion of non-white, working-class, and non-able-bodied subjects.

Thursday, November 1

5-6pm

339 O’Shaughnessy

Presenter: Trish Bredar

Trish Bredar is a PhD student in English and a Gender Studies graduate minor. She received her MA in English from the University of Colorado–Boulder. Her work focuses on women’s physical mobility in the nineteenth-century British novel, with a particular interest in literary depictions of walking. Her work on Charlotte Brontë appeared in *Victorians: A Journal of Culture and Literature* and a piece on the poetry of Charlotte Smith is forthcoming from *European Romantic Review*.



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Students,
Staff
and Faculty

Expires 11/02/18

Sponsored by the Marian Mullin Hancock Gender Studies Fund