



SECOND  
CALL FOR PAPERS  
2015 VICTORIANS INSTITUTE CONFERENCE  
**VICTORIAN WORK AND LABOR**  
OCTOBER 2 - 3, 2015  
CONVERSE COLLEGE  
SPARTANBURG, SC

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:**  
**SUSAN FRAIMAN, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA**

Author of  
*X-treme Domesticity: Desperate Housekeeping from Robinson Crusoe to Martha Stewart*  
(forthcoming from Columbia UP)

*I've got a great ambition to die of exhaustion rather than boredom.*

- Thomas Carlyle

*Work is the curse of the drinking class.*

- Oscar Wilde

The concept of personal, as well as societal, industry was essential to the Victorian sense of self. The idea of work as a virtue, a duty, and a privilege was widespread (and sometimes mocked). For the 44<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the VICTORIANS INSTITUTE, we invite proposals from a variety of disciplines addressing issues of Victorian work and labor, broadly defined. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

magic/invisible/fairy workers  
illegal work and black markets  
labor in public and private spheres  
new professions and professionalization  
middle-class work and occupations  
play and amateurism in an age of work  
art and authorship as labor  
"dirty" work

intellectual vs. physical labor  
Crystal Palace: showcasing production  
the work of conquering the Empire  
the work of teaching Vic lit and culture  
industrialization  
work in the Empire  
work and gender  
child labor

calling vs. toil  
servants and servitude  
prostitution  
the work of childbirth  
work and welfare of animals  
agrarian vs. city labor  
man and machine  
disabled bodies and work  
industry and environment  
the work of criminals

Papers or panels on poetry, prose, nonfiction, visual art, or historical context are welcome, as are presentations on the pedagogy of teaching Victorian literature. Selected papers from the conference will be refereed for the *Victorians Institute Journal* annex at NINES.

200 - 250 word proposals and a brief one-page CV should be sent to Anita Rose, [anita.rose@converse.edu](mailto:anita.rose@converse.edu), **BY JUNE 15, 2015. PLEASE WRITE "VI 2015 ABSTRACT" IN THE SUBJECT LINE.** Proposals should include contact information. Proposals for panels should provide contact information for all participants, a synopsis of the panel and abstracts of all papers to be included.

Limited travel subventions will be available from the VI for graduate students whose institutions provide limited or no support. More information about the travel awards and the application process will be posted to [www.vcu.edu/vij](http://www.vcu.edu/vij). Please visit [www.vcu.edu/vij](http://www.vcu.edu/vij) for information about the conference as it becomes available, the Victorians Institute, and the *Victorians Institute Journal*.

