

BTP2BR T 12 01 Major Figures: Other Texts in Victorian Literature (PhD) – seminar

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As a complementary seminar course to the lecture course on Victorian studies, its aim is to help students gain a better understanding of the Victorian age in its cultural complexity, and to familiarise students with the concept created by Steven Marcus, “the Other Victorians”, even though by extending the term in two ways: on the one hand, by including some early nineteenth-century (pre-Victorian) texts that can be considered as forerunners of Victorian otherness; on the other hand by extending the notion of otherness beyond the idea of Marcus’s, who used the term primarily in a sense referring to the double-faced nature of the Victorian concept of sexuality. The course, however, means to explore nineteenth-century women writers’ writings as texts of various forms of otherness, ranging from experimentation with non-canonicalised fictional forms through the analysis of how novel forms of science and non-literary discourse are present in literature to various forms of cultural otherness, like industrialism or the unseemly involvement of women writers in public causes. The course also tackles otherness in the sense that we will discuss texts and writers who do not belong to the core curriculum (like the Brontës or the most famous novels by Austen and George Eliot), but will rather focus on texts that may reveal a less seamless surface of Victorian textuality.