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## CONVENORS

Claudia Capancioni  
Mariaconcetta Costantini  
Mara Mattoscio

VPFA International Study Day  
Programme

10th-11th June  
2022

Women & the East:  
Gendered Narratives of  
Encounter in Victorian  
Popular Writing

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Encounter in Victorian  
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## VENUE

Room 31  
Dipartimento di Lingue,  
Letterature e Culture Moderne  
Viale Pindaro, 42  
Pescara (Italy)

**ORGANIZED BY**  
C. d'Annunzio University  
(Chieti-Pescara, Italy)  
in collaboration with  
Bishop Grosseteste  
University  
(Lincoln, UK)



## Women & the East: Gendered Narratives of Encounter in Victorian Popular Writing

Friday, 10th June 2022

### 9:30 – 10:00 Welcome

- **Carlo Martinez** - Head, Dipartimento di Lingue, Letterature e Culture Moderne, G. d'Annunzio University, Italy
- **Julia Kuehn** - VPFA President

### 10:00 – 11:30 Panel 1: Egypt (1) ✂ Chair: Mariaconcetta Costantini

- **Claudia Capancioni** - Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln, UK  
*"A 'dragoman' of all the languages in the world": Lucie Duff Gordon's Transnational Literacy*
- **Muireann O'Conneide** - National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland  
*"East and West is the difference": Epistemological Encounters in Lucie Duff Gordon's Letters from Egypt, 1863–1865*
- **Ross Conway** - University of Birmingham, UK  
*Harriet Martineau: Hair, Heads and Keepsakes in Eastern Life: Present and Past*

### 11:30 – 12:30 Keynote Speech ✂ Chairs: Mariaconcetta Costantini & Claudia Capancioni

- **Julia Kuehn** - The University of Hong Kong, China  
*"A Vision for an Artist – a female artist": Elisabeth Jerichau-Baumann and the Traditions of Middle Eastern Travels and Popular Representations of the Harem*

### 12:30– 14:00 Lunch Break

### 14:00 – 15:00 Panel 2: Ottoman Empire/Middle East ✂ Chair: Elvira Diana

- **Selin Tuzlan Mead** - Durham University, UK/Bogazici University, Turkey  
*A Feminine Experience of the Ottoman Empire: The Ottoman Woman in Nineteenth-Century British Women's Travel Literature*
- **Giulia Nonno** - G. d'Annunzio University, Italy  
*European Women Travellers to the Middle East, the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula*

### 15:00 – 17:00 Panel 3: India ✂ Chair: Mara Mattoscio

- **Graziella Stringos and Mireille Vila** - University of Malta  
*Marriage and Female Self-Abnegation and Heroism in Flora Annie Steel's "Uma Himāvutee" (1898)*
- **Rebecca Nesvet** - University of Wisconsin, US  
*G.W.M. Reynolds's Women in India: The Case of THE SEPOYS, OR HIGHLAND JESSIE (1858)*
- **Lalit Kumar** - University of Delhi, India  
*Dilemma of Private vs. Public, and Feminism vs. Femininity: Gendered Roles of a "Helpmeet" in Isabella Fane's Miss Fane in India*
- **Greta Perletti** - University of Trento, Italy  
*"Be Still and Listen": Encountering and Understanding the East in Margaret Harkness's Writings*

## Women & the East: Gendered Narratives of Encounter in Victorian Popular Writing

Friday, 10th June 2022

### 17:00-17:30 Coffee Break

### 17:30 – 19:00 Panel 4: Egypt (2) ✂ Chair: Claudia Capancioni

- **Kristine Swenson** - Missouri University of Science and Technology, US  
*Cheap Trippers and Unprotected Females at the Pyramids*
- **Kathleen Sheppard** - Missouri University of Science and Technology, US  
*From Taking the Airs to Taking the Artifacts: Egypt as a Health Resort and the History of Egyptology*
- **Claudia Zilletti** - University of Naples "L'Orientale", Italy  
*"Transported bodily into the Arabian Nights": The Egyptian Fascination in Janet Ann Ross's The Fourth Generation: Reminiscences (1912)*

### 20:00 Conference dinner

### Saturday, 11th June 2022

### 09:30 – 11:00 Panel 5: Eastern Europe ✂ Chair: Mara Mattoscio

- **Efterpi Mitsi** - National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece  
*Women Writers and the Marketing of Modern Greece in Victorian Periodicals*
- **Serena Volpi** - LdM Florence/University of Roma Tre, Italy  
*Narrative of the Life and Travels of Mrs. Nancy Prince (1850): An African-American Woman at the Court of Alexander the First*
- **Agnes Strickland-Pajtok** - Eszterházy Károly Catholic University, Eger, Hungary  
*The Orientalist View of Eastern Europe at the End of the Long Nineteenth Century: Baroness Orczy's Symbolic Geography of Hungary*

### 11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

### 11:30 – 13:00 Panel 6: The Far East ✂ Chair: Luca Stirpe

- **Silvia Granata** - University of Pavia, Italy  
*Dangerous Encounters: Women Travellers and Unwanted Proximity in Late Nineteenth-Century China*
- **Laurence Talairach** - Alexandre Koyré Center for the History of Science and Technology/ University of Toulouse Jean Jaurès, France  
*"I am beginning to enter the joys of a naturalist": Anna Forbes's Explorations of the Malay Archipelago*
- **Helena Esser** - Independent Scholar, Germany  
*Weirdly Beautiful: Mary Crawford Fraser's Japan*

\*All the timings in the programme are indicated in Central European Time (CET).