

RESEARCH SOCIETY FOR VICTORIAN PERIODICALS (RSVP)

“STRUCTURES”

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2027

OTTAWA, CANADA, traditional, unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe nation

Hosted by Carleton University

JUNE 24–26, 2027

In-person conference with some online pre-conference sessions

The theme of **Structures** takes inspiration from the host city of Ottawa, where natural and built environments intersect in ways that foreground questions of infrastructure, governance, and historical memory. From the Algonquin Anishinaabe stewardship of the region to Ottawa’s designation as Canada’s capital by Queen Victoria in 1857 and its iconic Neo-Gothic architecture, the city invites reflection on ‘structure’ in both literal and metaphorical senses. While structure can refer to the arrangement of parts into an identifiable whole, it also invokes Raymond Williams’s structure of feeling and, more recently, Brian Larkin’s conception of infrastructure as the material and relational systems that enable movement and connection.

We welcome proposals on any aspect of nineteenth-century British periodicals or newspapers, including—but not limited to—the following:

- Texts, paratexts, and editorial arrangement
- Literary form, serialization, and the architecture of newspapers and magazines
- Typography, layout, and visual organization
- Publishing, printing, and production systems
- Distribution and communication infrastructures (railway, postal, telegraph)
- Networks of contributors, editors, publishers, readers, and translators
- Information management, archives, classification, data and databases
- Institutional structures (scientific, legal, governmental, religious, educational)
- Queering and querying (hetero)normative infrastructures
- Empire, colonial administration, and global circulation
- Economic structures, advertising, and markets
- Social structures of class, gender, race, and labour

- Infrastructures of the Black press in Canada and other areas of the British Empire
- Monuments, ruins, and the material cultures of print
- Structural failure, censorship, repair, and alternative publishing networks
- Structures of feeling, resistance, and counterstructures
- Digital methods and pedagogies for studying Victorian periodicals
- Indigenous presence in the periodical press

We encourage applicants to consider the form, materiality, and/or genre of periodicals, rather than focusing solely on the content that appears within them.

PRE-CONFERENCE DIGITAL PROGRAMMING

Due to local capacities, the Ottawa conference will be a fully in-person event. Building on the success of the pre-conference digital programming of previous years, we are planning a series of online panels on the conference theme. We invite proposals for **pre-formed panels** of 3 speakers (**10 min** papers each) on:

1. The theme of Structure and/in periodicals.

Panels that include speakers at different career stages or those newer to periodical studies will receive the highest consideration.

2. Periodical-based pedagogy panels.

Online panels will take place 8-9 am Pacific and are tentatively scheduled for May 14, May 21, and May 28, 2027.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES for IN-PERSON PRESENTATION

The RSVP conference committee invites proposals (300 words max.) for individual papers (15-20 minutes), panels (3–4 presenters; papers 15–20 minutes each), or roundtables (max. 5 people, papers 6–7 minutes each). You will be asked to submit keywords (4 max.) with your proposal.

Proposal deadline is **1 NOVEMBER 2026** and should be submitted at https://rs4vp.smapply.io/prog/2027_rsvp_conference_proposal_submission_form/

Acceptance decisions will be sent out by mid-December.

ABOUT RSVP CONFERENCES

Travel grants are available to support graduate students and independent or retired scholars presenting at the conference. **ALL presenters are required to be members of the Society.**