

Clare Stainthorp

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I am a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow at Queen Mary University of London, specialising in Victorian literature and intellectual history. My current research addresses nineteenth-century atheist, secular, and agnostic movements and the associated periodical press. My monograph on poet, philosopher, and scientist Constance Naden and nineteenth-century interdisciplinarity was published in 2019. I have taught literature from 1600–present to undergraduates and postgraduates at University College London and the University of Birmingham. I have previously held a faculty research support role focused on REF impact, and I am experienced in admissions, student recruitment, programme administration, and pastoral duties. I have also been employed in editorial positions and undertaken successful public engagement projects.

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

January 2021 – present

Queen Mary University of London

Leverhulme Early Career Fellow

My project ‘Reading the Freethought Movement: Atheism, Agnosticism, and Secularism, 1866–1907’ is the first substantial literary investigation into nineteenth-century freethought. Focusing on the movement’s periodical publications, this research will establish a clearer understanding of the freethought networks and their significance within nineteenth-century Britain, as well as cataloguing undigitized materials to make them more accessible for further study.

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

PhD, 2017

University of Birmingham

“[T]hese seemingly rival spheres constitute but one Cosmos”: Constance Naden as Scientist, Philosopher, and Poet.’ Funded by an AHRC (BGP) Doctoral Award.

Supervisors: Prof. J. Holmes and Dr W. Tattersdill; Examiners: Prof. A. Jenkins and Dr R. Mitchell

Taught MLitt in Victorian Literature, 2011

University of Glasgow

Distinction. Recipient of the James Boswell Bursary and Carnegie-Cameron Postgraduate Bursary.

MA Hons. in English Literature, 2010

University of Glasgow

First Class. Recipient of the 2010 Tobias Smollett Prize for the outstanding dissertation in the Honours Class of English Literature and the 2007 Robert W. Service Prize.

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Nineteenth-Century Religion, Literature, and Culture, Vol. 4 *Disbelief and New Beliefs*, co-edited with Naomi Hetherington (Routledge, 2020). [4000 word introduction + headnotes]

Constance Naden: Scientist, Philosopher, Poet (Peter Lang, 2019). Winner of the 2017 Young Scholars Competition in Nineteenth-Century Studies. [100,000 word monograph]

‘On the Discovery of a Sequence of Constance Naden’s Notebooks: Finding Her Voice, 1875–1879’, *Victorian Poetry* 56.3 (2018), 233–63. [10,000 word article] DOI: 10.1353/vp.2018.0015

‘Tracing the Sculptural Legacy of Constance Naden: Memorialisation, Gender and the Portrait Bust’, co-authored with Sarah Parker, *Journal of Victorian Culture*, 23.4 (2018), 508–26. [9000 word article] DOI: 10.1093/jvcult/vcy046

‘Activity and Passivity: Class and Gender in the Case of the Artificial Hand’, *Victorian Literature and Culture*, 45 (2017), 1–16. [9000 word article] DOI: 10.1017/S1060150316000401

(Additional publications and work-in-progress listed overleaf.)

TEACHING

2019

University College London

Seminar Leader, BA Comparative Literature

School of European Languages, Culture and Society

Taught first-year survey module ‘How to Read Texts’ (Anglophone and European literature and critical theory ranging from Shakespeare to the present).

I designed and delivered seminar teaching, marked formative assessments, and provided academic guidance, feedback, and support in person and via VLE.

2014 – 2017

University of Birmingham

Visiting Lecturer (2017); Postgraduate Teaching Assistant (2014–15)

School of English, Drama, American and Canadian Studies

Convened

- Third-year and MA module ‘Suicide Girls: Female Self-Harm in the Nineteenth Century’ (British and American novels and poetry and European plays and novels in translation).

I designed and delivered plenary lectures, shaped the syllabus, assessment criteria, and VLE, led workshop groups at undergraduate and masters level, and marked summative assessments. I provided academic guidance, feedback, and support for around ninety students.

Seminar leader

- First-year survey modules ‘Prose’, ‘Literary Aesthetics since 1800’, and ‘Critical Practice’ (literature and theory from the nineteenth century to the present).
- Second-year module ‘The Gothic: Afterlives’ (twentieth-and twenty-first-century novels).
- Third-year module ‘Victorian Literature and Science’ (lecture and seminar on poetry and science).

I planned and led weekly workshop groups, marked formative and summative assessments, provided support and feedback in office hours and via email and VLE.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Reports, review essays, book reviews, encyclopaedia entries, and guides

‘Constance Naden’ and ‘Freethinkers’, *Palgrave Encyclopedia of Victorian Women Writers*, ed. by Lesa Scholl and Emily Morris (2020) [3000 + 2500 words] DOI: 10.1007/978-3-030-02721-6

‘Review: *The Cambridge Companion to Victorian Women’s Poetry*’ ed. by Linda K. Hughes’, *Women: A Cultural Review*, 30.4 (2019), 491–94 [1300 words] DOI: 10.1080/09574042.2019.1676063

Structurally Unsound. UCL and Resolution Foundation ‘Exploring Inequalities: Igniting research to better inform UK policy’ project report (2019). Co-authored with Siobhan Morris, Oliver Patel, and Olivia Stevenson. [30,000 words] <<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/grand-challenges/sites/grand-challenges/files/structurally-unsound-report.pdf>>

‘Review: *The Political Poetess Victorian Femininity, Race, and the Legacy of Separate Spheres* by Tricia Lootens’, *Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies*, 14.2 (2018). [1000 words] <<http://www.ncgsjournal.com/issue142/stainthorp.htm>>

‘The Victorian Period: Poetry’, *The Year’s Work in English Studies*, 97 (2018), 844–71. Co-authored with Michael J. Sullivan [13,000 words] DOI: 10.1093/ywes/may009

‘Constance Naden: A Critical Overview’, *Literature Compass*, 14 (2017). [7000 words] DOI: 10.1111/lic3.12401

‘Teaching guide for “Constance Naden: A Critical Overview”’, *Literature Compass*, 14 (2017). [500 words] DOI: 10.1111/lic3.12410

‘The Victorian Period: Poetry’, *The Year’s Work in English Studies*, 96 (2017), 872–97. Co-authored with Michael J. Sullivan [13,000 words] DOI: 10.1093/ywes/max015

‘Review: Lauren Cameron, “Spencerian Evolutionary Psychology in *Daniel Deronda*”, *Victorian Literature and Culture*, 43 (2015)”, *Journal of Literature and Science*, 9.2 (2016). [800 words] DOI: 10.12929/jls.09.2.08

‘The Victorian Period: Poetry’, *The Year’s Work in English Studies*, 95 (2016), 914–40. Co-authored with Clara Dawson [13,000 words] DOI: 10.1093/ywes/maw015

Under contract:

‘Constance Naden’, in *Oxford Handbook of American and British Women Philosophers in the Nineteenth Century*, ed. by Lydia Moland and Alison Stone (OUP, due summer 2021)

PREVIOUS RESEARCH ROLES

February – September 2019

University College London

Research Assistant, Grand Challenge of Justice & Equality

‘Exploring Inequalities: Igniting research to better inform UK policy’ was a collaborative project by UCL and the Resolution Foundation exploring intersections between structural inequalities that brought together academia, NGOs, and government to identify evidence gaps and cross-cutting issues to facilitate better policy making. I co-wrote the well-received project report (launched October 2019) that synthesised large quantities of research, policy, and expert testimonials; the report has since been cited in the House of Lords.

I also published a related article in *The Conversation* – ‘How the language we use entrenches inequalities’ (October 2019) – alongside attending project roundtables at which I presented work-in-progress and produced detailed summaries of discussions for circulation.

2017/18 Nineteenth-Century Matters Fellowship

Cardiff University

Competitive early-career fellowship run jointly by the British Association for Romantic Studies and the British Association for Victorian Studies to support career development and ongoing research. The fellowship entailed institutional affiliation, accommodation, and mentorship. In this role I organised a successful early-career professionalisation event – ‘Navigating the REF’ – in May 2018.

2017 Curran Fellowship

Research Society for Victorian Periodicals

Two-month research fellowship awarded to support archival research into the freethought press. The initial outcome was a database cataloguing printed matter in the *Secular Review/Agnostic Journal* (1876–1907). This research will become a journal article for *Victorian Periodicals Review* and laid the groundwork for my Leverhulme project.

OTHER ACADEMIC ROLES

May 2019 – November 2020

University College London

Research Impact Officer, Faculties of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

I worked closely with academics across 16 departments and other colleagues to guide the development of REF impact case studies. I reviewed draft statements against REF 2021 criteria and provided detailed feedback to direct revisions, as well as advising researchers about running impact-orientated activities and obtaining testimonials and other supporting evidence. I undertook strategic planning for developing a culture of impact across two faculties, including designing and implementing a programme of workshops for PhD students and ECRs. I monitored and evaluated departmental activities to promote impactful research and enterprise activity, sharing best practice and strategies in one-to-one, departmental, and faculty meetings.

September 2017 – April 2019

University College London

Admissions and Postgraduate Administrator, English Department

Admissions: First point of contact for applicants to BA, MA, and PhD programmes, providing advice about applications, degree structure, and student experience at open days and via email/telephone. I facilitated the admissions process by supporting academic and central admissions staff, organising interviews, and processing decisions and feedback. Adept use of specialist databases.

Postgraduate support: First point of contact for c.120 MA and doctoral students, providing administrative and pastoral support from a busy department office. I advised and liaised between academic staff, faculty, registry, and student welfare to ensure that postgraduate students receive all necessary help and guidance.

Departmental Equal Opportunities Liaison Officer: I was instrumental in supporting and facilitating diversity and representation at staff, student, and curriculum levels, working with EDI office as necessary.

Event organisation: I planned and ran departmental open days and workshops as well as organising widening participation activities and supporting postgraduate applications for event funding.

February 2014 – January 2018

Modernist Cultures

Editorial Assistant

I was the first point of contact for this international journal. The role involved liaising between publisher, editors, contributors, and readers, setting up and running social media, and maintaining databases. Copy-editing duties developed my strong foundational knowledge of twentieth-century literature and culture.

January – July 2017

COVE

Editorial Assistantship

Working with international colleagues on the development of the Central Online Victorian Educator website <covecollective.org>. I undertook HTML mark up of nineteenth-century texts in preparation for digital editions and proofed peer-reviewed articles for inclusion in the BRANCH timeline and database.

ACADEMIC EVENTS ORGANISATION

‘Religion and Victorian Popular Literature and Culture’, Victorian Popular Fiction Association Twitter

Taster Day, May 2020. VPFA Study day postponed to May 2021 due to Covid-19. Lead organiser.

‘Navigating the REF’, Nineteenth-Century Matters Training Day for PGRs and ECRs, Cardiff University, May 2018. Sole organiser.

British Society for Literature and Science Conference, University of Birmingham, April 2016. Team.

‘Science in the Archives’, British Society for Literature and Science Winter Symposium, University of Reading, November 2015. Lead organiser.

‘Power and Identity: Representations, Transformations, and Conflicts’, College of Arts and Law Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Workshop, University of Birmingham, March 2015. Lead organiser.

INVITED SPEAKER

The Power of Now roundtable, Women’s Higher Education Network Conference (online), September 2020.

From *Secular Review* to *Atheistic Communistic Scourger*: Freethought Periodicals of the Late Nineteenth Century. London 19th-Century Studies Seminar, King’s College London, UK, December 2019.

‘Man is the maker of his own Cosmos’: Constance Naden’s Synthetic Philosophy. Philosophy Seminar Series, University of Birmingham, UK, May 2018.

‘Reason, with clear and open eyes, / Is in itself a better World’: Constance Naden and the Freethought Movement. Centre for Nineteenth-Century Studies. University of Sheffield, UK, June 2017 and Department of English, University College London, UK, March 2018.

PhDs: The Final Straight (workshop for postgraduates). University of Sheffield, UK, June 2017.

Constance Naden’s Unpublished Voice: A Manuscript Discovery. Cadbury Research Library Public Lecture, University of Birmingham, UK, December 2015.

CONFERENCE PAPERS (selected)

Shaping and Sustaining Conversations and Communities: Freethought Periodicals of the Late 19th Century.

New Directions in Nineteenth-Century Periodical Studies, University of Leeds, UK, September 2019.

Scientific Identities at Mason College. *Self-Fashioning Scientific Identities in the Long Nineteenth Century*, University of Leicester, UK, June 2018.

Unity and synthesis: Constance Naden as interdisciplinary thinker. *Victorian Interdisciplinarity International Conference*, Durham University, UK, May 2018.

‘Reason, with clear and open eyes, / Is in itself a better World’: Constance Naden and the Freethought Movement. *NAVSA/AVSA International Conference*, Florence, Italy, May 2017.

George Egerton and ‘the female idea’. *George Egerton and the Fin de Siècle*, Loughborough University, UK, April 2017.

What does Analogy do in Literature and Science? Finding Unity in Diversity. *Commission on Science and Literature International Conference*, Pöllau, Austria, September 2016.

Reassessing the Function of Poetry: Constance Naden in the 1880s. *International Centre for Victorian Women Writers Conference*, Canterbury Christ Church University, UK, July 2016.

The Adolescent Writings of Constance Naden (1875–1879): A Manuscript Discovery. *British Association for Victorian Studies Annual Conference*, Leeds Trinity University, UK, August 2015.

Striving towards the light: The functions of optical science in Constance Naden’s writing. *British Society for Literature and Science Annual Conference*, University of Liverpool, UK, April 2015.

FUNDING SECURED

2017 Curran Fellowship, Research Society for Victorian Periodicals. To support archival research into freethought periodicals at Conway Hall and Bishopsgate Institute, London. \$2000.

2013–16 Arts and Humanities Research Council BGP Doctoral Award in English Language and Literature. £52,878.

2013–16 Postgraduate Research Support Funding from College of Arts and Law, University of Birmingham. To support attendance of conferences and training. £607.50.

2016 Commission on Literature and Science Conference Bursary. £130.

2013–15 Postgraduate Research Development Funding from College of Arts and Law, University of Birmingham. To support the running of EDACS Postgraduate Seminar Series. £600.

2015 British Society for Literature and Science Winter Symposium Grant. To run ‘Science in the Archives’ symposium. Additional funding secured from English Literature Departmental Host Funding and Centre for Collections-Based Research at University of Reading. £900.

2015 British Association for Victorian Studies Conference Postgraduate Bursary. £100.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & IMPACT

Discovery and deposit of Constance Naden’s adolescent notebooks

I discovered three notebooks belonging to Naden from the 1870s. Their contents double her poetic corpus and are the first manuscript materials attributable to Naden. The notebooks were in the possession of her

indirect descendants and I facilitated the deposit of these documents to the University of Birmingham's Cadbury Research Library. In December 2015, I gave an invited public lecture to celebrate this important acquisition. An article in *Victorian Poetry* introduced these notebooks to the scholarly community.

Constance Naden Trust Grave Restoration Appeal

I led a campaign to replace Naden's gravestone, which was illegible and in a state of complete disrepair. In May 2019 an unveiling and rededication event was attended by the general public, local politicians, and local history groups. The appeal featured in local media and led to an invited 'In-Conversation' event on Naden at the Birmingham and Midland Institute (March 2018) and an online public talk about her importance for the Jewellery Quarter Cemeteries Project (August 2020). As well as making a tangible impact on Midlands heritage and increasing the visibility of women's history, this campaign raised Naden's public profile and engaged people with my wider research.

Open-access online publication (2014–present)

I have had work published on a range of academic blogs about Constance Naden and Victorian intellectual culture more broadly. I also undertook a year-long open-access blog project that provided close-readings of, and contexts for, Naden's poetry <<https://nadensyearinsonnets.wordpress.com/>>

Collaborated with photographer Liz Hingley on 'Making Space', an art installation and exhibition commissioned by University of Birmingham for International Women's Day, April 2017

I advised on the early years of Mason College (later the University of Birmingham) and Naden's role as the first female Associate. Hingley described how Naden's life and works inspired the shape of the eventual project, which involved creating portraits, and telling the stories, of women currently associated with the university. A photograph of Naden's memorial bust was projected on the university's clock tower.

'Poetry in the Laboratory', Think Corner Pop-Up Shop, University of Birmingham, September 2014.

Drop-in workshop about how we learn about science, using Naden's poem about attending a Chemistry lecture (and her lecturer's reply) to reflect upon Victorian education in Birmingham. Attendees read and discussed the poems and created their own piece of writing reflecting on their engagement with science.

OUTREACH & WIDENING PARTICIPATION

The Brilliant Club, Scholars Programme

I have delivered programmes of university-style tutorials to small groups of outstanding pupils at non-selective state schools, developing knowledge, skills and ambition that help them to secure university places. I created a six-tutorial course – 'Nineteenth-Century Encounters in Poetry and Science' – which were taught to Key Stage 4 students in two Birmingham schools in 2014 and a Basildon school in 2017. The successful programme concluded with an essay assignment marked to learning criteria that I devised.

COMMITTEE ROLES & SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- **Departmental Equal Opportunities Liaison Officer** UCL English Department (2017–19). I attended and contributed to Faculty Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Athena SWAN meetings, offered support and guidance to staff and students, and attended training and policy sessions to facilitate change.
- **Midlands Interdisciplinary Victorian Studies Seminar** ECR committee member (2015–17). Co-organised twice-yearly seminars and was responsible for maintaining the website. I contributed to preparing CFPs and programmes, assessed abstracts, and publicised events using social media.
- **Postgraduate Seminar Series**: co-founder and organiser (2013–15), Department of English, Drama, American and Canadian Studies, University of Birmingham. Created an institutional framework that facilitated academic connections and developed support networks between PGR students.
- **Commission on Science and Literature** postgraduate committee member, 2015–16.
- **Peer reviewer**: *Victorian Network*, *Birmingham Journal of Literature & Language* and *eSharp*.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & TEACHER TRAINING

- Teacher training from Centre for Learning and Academic Development, University of Birmingham (HEA accredited): learning and teaching in HE, small group teaching, assessment and feedback, and lecturing, 2014–15. I am currently applying for Associate Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy.
- Attended BME Attainment conference that addressed the disparities in attainment and experience of undergraduate BME and white students. UCL, April 2018.
- Training on pedagogy and approaches to widening participation, The Brilliant Club, 2013 and 2017.
- 'Introduction to the Guidelines of the Text Encoding Initiative', Digital Humanities at Oxford Summer

School, July 2016.

- ‘Reading German for Researchers’, accredited two-term module, University of Birmingham, 2013–14.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- British Association for Victorian Studies
- British Society for Literature and Science
- North American Victorian Studies Association
- Research Society for Victorian Periodicals