

# 2025 Dickens Society Symposium: Dirty Dickens

July 14-17, 2025

Sponsored by the Center for Interdisciplinary Teaching & Learning  
and the College of General Studies, Boston University\*

## **DRAFT SCHEDULE**

**\*All breakfasts and conference meetings will be held on the second floor of the Photonics Center at Boston University, 8 St. Mary's Street, Boston, MA. The wine and cheese reception on Wednesday, July 16 is at the Castle (The Dahod Family Alumni Center at the Castle, 225 Bay State Road)**

**Monday, July 14- Preconference.** Move-in to dorms or hotels. View Mugar Library Victorian exhibit. Entrance to Mugar is in the George Sherman Union (GSU), at 775 Commonwealth Ave. Informal happy hour at Sunset Cantina, Commonwealth Ave., 4-6:00 pm, 916 Commonwealth Ave.

### **Tuesday, July 15**

8:00-9:00 **Continental Breakfast**, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Photonics Atrium

9:00-9:15 **Opening remarks, Photonics room 206**

#### **9:20-10:50 Session 1, concurrent meetings A and B**

##### **1A: room 206 Beginnings, Endings, and from Beginning to End**

Leslie Simon, "Forget the Endings: An Apologia for Dickens's Slow Beginnings"

Robert Sirabian, "Publishing, Audience, and Authorship in Dickens's Prefaces"

Joel Brattin, "Choosing a Copytext for *A Tale of Two Cities*"

##### **1B: room 203 Interdisciplinary Dickens/Dickens and Other Arts**

Jennifer Heine, "'It isn't funny at all': Dickens and Wax-Works"

Melanie Lewis, "Lens Affect-Ing Cells: Embodied Response and Critical Surcharge in Christine Edzard's Film Adaptation of Dickens's *Little Dorrit*"

Clair Schwarz, "The Dickens Fragrance Collection"

James Armstrong, "Dirt and Discomfort": Theatrical Audiences in Dickens

**11:00-12:15 Session 2: room 206, Dishing and Digging Dirt: Dirty Secrets, Dirty Puns**

Jeremy Parrott, “When is a Penis Not a Penis? When it’s a Dick”

Melisa Kaya, “Dickens’s Dogged Dirt-Digging: Disclosing, Dissecting, and Disseminating the Depths of Victorian Filth Fascination”

Pete Capuano, “The Dirt on Dickens’s Letters”

**12:15 to 1:30 Lunch** (lots of nearby places to go for lunch! See list in conference folder. Within 1-3 blocks of the Photonics Center, there are these options: University Grill and Pizza, Crepes Café, Beijing Café, Pavement, Nud Pab (Thai), Subway, Basho Express, the Food Court at the George Sherman Union, Noodle Street (Ramen), Shu Da Xia Hot Pot, Futago Udon, and Café Landwer)

**1:30-3:00 Session 3, concurrent meetings A and B**

**3A: room 206, Dirty Business and Filthy Lucre**

Mark Klemens, “Reading Paul Dombey in the Current American Business, Political and Social Environment”

Alexander Bove, “‘Encompassed by all this taint of prison’: The Spectral First Person and the Tainted Subject of Speculative Capital in Dickens’s *Great Expectations*”

Anita Fernandez Young, “Dirt, Dirty Dealing, Disease, and Death in *Martin Chuzzlewit*”

Ryan Poll, “A *Christmas Carol* in the Age of Marx, Engels, and *The Economist*”

**3B: room 203, TBD**

**3:00-3:30 Coffee/tea/cookie break, Photonics Atrium**

**3:30-4:30 Business Meeting, room 206**

**Annual Dickens Dinner at the Omni Parker House, 60 School Street, Boston** (accessible via the T, Uber/Lyft, car, or an hour walk from BU)

6:00 Cocktails in Press Room (2<sup>nd</sup> floor), Omni Parker House

7:00 Dickens Dinner and Toast

## Wednesday, July 16

8:00-9:00 Continental Breakfast in Photonics, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Atrium

### **9:00-10:30 Session 4, concurrent meetings A and B**

#### **4A: room 206, Teaching and Conveying Dickens**

Rob Jacklosky, “Down and Dirty: Teaching Dickens in the Bronx”

Andy Andres, “Dickens’s Famous First Line as the Main Theme for a Course in Human Ecology”

Dominic Rainsford, “Basic Dickens”

#### **4B: room 203, Global Dickens**

Claire Woods, “Dirty Dickens and the Smutty French”

Renata Goroshkova, “‘He comforts readers with tears and laughter’: the Reception of Dickens’s Works in the Context of Early Soviet Russia”

Jude Chudi Okpala, “Beyond Colonialism: Dickens’s Presence in African Literature”

Yon Ji Sol, “Dickens’s Transatlantic Networks: The Pilgrim Edition Read Digitally”

### **10:45-12:15, Session 5, room 206 Dickens’s Afterlives**

Ben Moore, “From Mud to Make-Up in *Bleak House* and the Bondwoman’s Narrative”

Douglas Scully, “‘Travelling Backwards and Forwards Betwixt’: *A Tale of Two Cities* as Border-Crossing Narrative”

Diana Archibald, “Dirty Tricks with Dickens: An Experiential ‘reading’ of *A Christmas Carol* through Tabletop Role Playing”

Chris Louttit, “‘It’s . . . not really very Dickensian when you think about it’: The Neo-Victorian Twists and Turns of *The Artful Dodger* (2023)”

**12:15- 1:30 Lunch** (on your own—see list of nearby restaurants on page 2 under “Lunch” and in conference folder)

### **1:30-3:00 Session 6, concurrent meetings A and B**

#### **6A: room 206, Dickens in Conversation with Other Authors**

Mark Cronin, “The Strange Case of ‘The Loving Ballad of Lord Bateman’: Dickens, Thackeray, and Cruikshank’s Overwrought Ballad

Elizabeth Bridgham, “Master Humphrey’s Madness?: Dickens, Poe, and the Power of the London Crowd”

Katie Bell, “The Purloined Heart: Intertextuality between Dickens and Poe”

**6B: room 203, Mud and the Muddy River**

Ian Annetts, “Our Mutual Error: How Dickens Chose to Portray 1860s London”

Stephen Himes, “Recalled to Life ‘With Earth Hanging About His Face and Hair’: Dickens’s Use of Mud to Develop Resurrection Themes in *A Tale of Two Cities*”

Adrianne Wojcik, “Mud and Law: The Function of Dirt in *Great Expectations*”

Deborah Siddoway, “Dickens and the Allure of the River: Dredging the Dark Waters of the Thames”

**3:45-5:15 Session 7, concurrent meetings A and B**

**7A: room 206, Dirtiness/cleanliness; Virtue/Vice**

\*[pending]

Magdalena Pypec, “Dickens, Dirt, and the Gothic”

Lillian Nayder, “Dickens, Physiognomy, and the ‘Dirty-Faced’ Figure”

**7B: room 203, Sexual Relations: Dirty, Clean, Other**

Carolyn Vellenga Berman, “‘Some Portion of Himself’: Cross-Gender Identification and Sexual Exploitation in *David Copperfield*”

Jessica Campbell, *Little Dorrit*’s Miss Wade & Tattycoram vs. Amy & Pet

Emma Linford, “Miss Havisham: A Victim of Romance Fraud”

Katherine Kim, “The Scandalous Desperation of Bradley Headstone”

**5:15-7:30 Wine and Cheese reception** in the Castle (“The Dahod Family Alumni Center at the Castle,” 225 Bay State Rd. About two blocks from the Photonics Center)

## Thursday, July 17

8:00-9:00 Continental Breakfast in Photonics Atrium, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

### **9:00-10:30 Session 8, room 206, Shame and Trauma in Dickens**

Annette Federico, "Shameless"

Adrian Nordgren, "Dickensian Traumas: What Becomes of Us When the Story Ends"

Meaghan Cronin, "Old clothes—'Gooroo'—and Childhood Fear: A Note on Dickens's Jewish Stereotypes and Maria Edgeworth's *Harrington*"

Lydia Craig, "Charles Dickens's Sins, A Daughter's Silence: Kate Perugini's 1904-12 Verses in *The Pall Mall Magazine*"

### **10:45-12:15 Session 9, room 206, Dickens, Crime and the (Murky) Law**

Lucie O'Brien, "Charles Dickens and the Stigma of Bankruptcy in Colonial Australia"

Houliang Chen, "[The Boot Tavern Is] in a Manner the Headquarters of the Rioters: Temperance Narrative and the Politics of Drinking in Charles Dickens's *Barnaby Rudge*"

Mark Wietrzykowski, "The Spike that Intervenes: How I Accidentally Solved Dood"

Sean Grass, "Precedent and Progress: The Law in *Bleak House*"

### **12:15, room 206, Closing Remarks, Thanks, and Farewell!**