

Crime, Justice, and Cultures of Transgression in Early America

The 14th Biennial Conference of the Charles Brockden Brown Society

September 14th to 16th, 2023

University of Nottingham

Nottingham, UK

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 14th, 2023

9.45-10.00: Welcome

10.00-11.30: Panel 1

Making and Remaking the American Revolution

“‘Rhetoric of Imprisonment’: Treason and Human Rights in the Captivity Narratives of the American Revolution” – Nicola Paladin (University at Chieti-Pescara)

“Cacophony instead of Consensus: Rereading the Early American Novel on the Revolution” - Robert Battistini (Centenary University)

“‘Remember that this world is a state of revolution’: The Politics of Transgression in *The Memoirs of Stephen Burroughs*” - Rowland Hughes (University of Hertfordshire)

11.30-11.45: Break

11.45-1.15: Panel 2

Unsettling Performances: Role Playing in and through Early American Culture

“Pretend-Preachers: Textual Authority versus Criminal Conduct” – Ilka Brasch (Liebniz University)

“Doubling Republican Character: Dramaturgical Democracy in *The History of Constantius and Pulchera*” – Daniel Diez Couch (US Air Force Academy)

“A Chatbot Comes to Mettingen: Bayesian Brown and *Monsterhearts* Intersectionality” - Stephen Shapiro (University of Warwick)

1.15-2.00: Catered Lunch

2.00-3.30: Panel 3

Watching the East: Orientalist Transgressions and American Nationhood

““I trembled for my faith, and burst into tears”: The Threat of Religious and Cultural Conversion in Barbary Captivity Narratives of the New Republic” – Anna Diamantouli (The American College of Greece)

“Spy versus Spy in the Revolutionary Atlantic” – Jacob Crane (Bentley University)

“Amusing Menace: ‘Oriental Spy’ Surveillance” – Michelle Sizemore (University of Kentucky)

3.30-3.45: Break

3.45-5.15: Panel 4

Redrawing Boundaries: Gender, Race, and Power

“Partisan Actors: *Slaves in Algiers* and the Problem of Female Federalists” - David Lawrimore (Idaho State University)

“Pirating Rights and Casting Black Insurrection Out to Sea” – John Funchion (University of Miami)

“At the Intersection: Transgressing, Passing, and Cross-Dressing in Early American Fiction” – Elena Furlanetto (University of Duisberg-Essen)

5.15-5.30: Break (with refreshments supplied)

5.30-7.00: Panel 5

Crafting Identities along the Public/Private Divide

“Feeling Solitary in the Seductive Republic” – Ben Bascom (Ball State University)

“A ‘Wild and Ambiguous Medium’: Epistolarity and Reading Inner Life in *Clara Howard*” -Thomas Koenigs (Scripps College)

“Publicity as Punishment: Examining Thomas Jefferson” – Keri Holt (Utah State University)

7.00-8.00: Drinks Reception (on campus)

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 15th, 2023

10.00-12.00: Field Trip 1

Optional, self-funded visit to the National Justice Museum in Nottingham city centre (pay on registration): <https://www.nationaljusticemuseum.org.uk/>

1.00-2.45: Panel 6

The Many Faces of Crime: Visibility and the Law in Early America

“Visualizing Crime in Popular Print, 1740-1840” – Jared Gardner (Ohio State University)

“Incarceration, the Penitentiary, and the Prevention of Recidivism: Republican Justice and Anti-Gallows Reform in Dr. Benjamin Rush’s ‘An Enquiry into the Effects of Public Punishments’ (1787), *The Account of Murder by Mr. James Yates* (1781), and Charles Brockden Brown’s *Wieland or The Transformation* (1798)” – Christopher Allan Black (University of Memphis)

“‘Purge the city’: Private Policing of the Poor in the Early American Republic” – Kristin O’Brassill-Kulfan (Rutgers University)

“‘It is hoped that conduct so diabolical will speedily meet with its just recompense’: Acid Crime in Early Nineteenth Century New York and Baltimore” – Vivien Miller (University of Nottingham)

2.45-3.00: Break

3.00-4.30: Panel 7

Disturbing Bodies: The Testing of Physical Norms in Brown’s Fiction

“Disability and Disinterested Citizenship in Charles Brockden Brown’s *Edgar Huntly*” - Andrew Erlandson (Pennsylvania State University)

““My vocal glen”: Echolocation, Echolalia, and Neurodiverse Nation-Making in *Wieland* and *Memoirs of Carwin the Biloquist*” - Manuel Herrero-Puertas (National Taiwan University)

“The Pleasures of Authority in Charles Brockden Brown’s *Jane Talbot*” – Helen Hunt (Tennessee Technological University)

4.30-4.45: Break

4.45-6.30: Panel 8

We are very pleased to welcome (in-person) the director and cast members of a film adaptation of Brown’s *Wieland* due for release later this year: Cody Knotts, Emily Lapisardi, and Christian Peterson. They will be screening clips and discussing the film.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16th, 2023

10.00-11.45: Field Trip 2

Optional, self-funded guided tour of Nottingham's caves in the city centre (pay on registration): <https://www.nationaljusticemuseum.org.uk/cityofcaves/>

12.30-2.00: Panel 9

Science, Race, and Nature in the Early Republic

"Exercise in Transgression: On the Elusiveness of an Eighteenth-Century Mathematical Word Problem by Benjamin Banneker" – Lukas Etter (University of Siegen)

"Weeds and All: Contemporary Reclamations of Eighteenth-Century Ethnobotany"
- Siân Silyn Roberts (Queens College, CUNY)

"Edgar Allen Poe's Animal Tales and the Moral Treatment Movement in Psychiatry"
- Michael Boyden (Radboud University Nijmegen)

2.00-2.15: Break (with refreshments supplied)

2.15-3.15: Brown Society Business Meeting (all welcome)

3.15-3.30: Break

3.30-5.15: Panel 10

The Cultures and Practices of Editing in Brown's Time and Beyond

"C. B. Brown's Footnotes, Indigenous Peoples, and 'the Stain of Injustice and of Cruelty'" – Mark Kamrath (University of Central Florida)

"A New Novel by Brown?" – Leonard Von Morzé (University of Massachusetts, Boston)

“Posthumous Fragments and the Construction of the Collected Edition in the Early Republic” – Matthew Pethers (University of Nottingham)

“Collaborative Scholarship: Students as Partners in Editing and Publishing” – Hilary Emmett (University of East Anglia)

5.15-5.30: Break

5.30-7.00: Panel 11

Property Crimes: Creating and Violating the Economic Systems of Early America

“The Unfortunates: Indentured Servants in Early America” - Karen Weyler (University of North Carolina at Greensboro)

“Money Crime: Financial Illiteracy in the Early United States” - Elizabeth Hewitt (Ohio State University)

“‘A Modern Anecdote’: Enslavement, Capitalism, and Transgressive Circulation” – Duncan Faherty (Queens College and Graduate Center, CUNY)

8.00: Conference Dinner. Venue to be confirmed. Self-funded (deposit may be required on registration)

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17th, 2023

Option (self-funded) of excursion to Newstead Abbey, the ancestral home of Lord Byron, for anyone remaining in Nottingham: <https://newsteadabbey.org.uk/>. Will involve a short train journey from Nottingham city centre and a 1.5 mile walk to the Abbey at the other end. Indicate interest at registration.

TRAVEL GUIDANCE

Nottingham has a small regional airport – East Midlands Airport (<https://www.eastmidlandsairport.com/>) – close to the city centre (15 minutes by train/30 minutes by taxi) but it offers a fairly limited service to and from European destinations only. Still, you may be able to get a connecting flight into EMA. Manchester International Airport (<https://www.manchesterairport.co.uk/>) and Birmingham International Airport (<https://www.birminghamairport.co.uk/>) are larger regional hubs that do offer some direct non-European services and more connecting flight options. You can get to Nottingham from both by train in under two hours following transfer from airport to their main railway stations.

The widest and most flexible range of flight options will likely bring you into one of London's two main airports. London Heathrow is a 15 minute train ride from central London (if you take the fairly expensive Heathrow Express to Paddington - <https://www.heathrowexpress.com/#/>) or an hour by underground. Once in central London connect via underground to London St. Pancras (20 minute journey from Paddington). Trains to Nottingham leave from St. Pancras every 30 minutes on average and the journey takes between 90 minutes to two hours. London Gatwick airport is further out and not on the underground system, but trains from there to St. Pancras are available and take about 45 minutes.

Tickets for the train journey from St. Pancras to Nottingham can be bought on the day but will prove more expensive than advance purchase. Advance tickets are best bought through the East Midlands Railways site: <https://www.eastmidlandsrailway.co.uk/>

Once you arrive in Nottingham the city centre is a very short walk from the train station.

In terms of travel from the city centre to the University Park Campus where the conference is being held there are multiple options. The best is to take a tram from one of the various city centre stops (Royal Centre/Old Market Square/Lace Market/Nottingham Station) in the direction of Toton Lane. The University of Nottingham stop is about 20 minutes from the city. Trams depart every 10 to 15 minutes and a Day Ticket allowing unlimited travel for the day can be purchased on station platforms for £4.70. This is the tram system website: <https://www.thetram.net/tickets>. A second option is to travel by bus – various buses leave regularly in the direction of University Park through the day. You can find details of routes and tickets here: <https://www.nctx.co.uk/>. A final option is to take a taxi. Uber operate in Nottingham but there are also taxi ranks throughout the city. Yellow Cars (<http://www.yellowcars.net/>) are the most reliable taxi firm for advance bookings.

Once on the University Park campus you can orient yourself from the lake near the South Entrance (where the tram stop is). A map of the campus can be found here: <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/sharedresources/documents/mapuniversitypark.pdf>.

ACCOMMODATION GUIDANCE

We aren't using a designated conference hotel. Nottingham has plenty of accommodation options all of which (even at the higher end) are cheap by comparison with major UK, US or European cities. The following are just a few specific recommendations. Other options can be found through the usual travel websites and also through the "Visit Nottinghamshire" site: <https://www.visit-nottinghamshire.co.uk/stay>. You'll also be able to find serviced apartment options and Airbnb locations.

The Orchard Hotel ([The Orchard Hotel & Restaurant | Nottingham Venues](#)): this is located on the University Park campus and so a short walk from the conference itself

but you might prefer staying in one of the city centre locations listed below instead, which offer better access to leisure amenities and the field trip venues.

Travelodge Nottingham Central ([Travelodge Nottingham Central Hotel - Book Now](#)) or *Premier Inn Nottingham City Centre* ([Nottingham City Centre Hotels | Book Hotels In Nottingham Chapel Bar | Premier Inn](#)): these are the best budget options – small and clean, sometimes ultra-cheap rooms.

Best Western Plus Nottingham City Centre ([Best Western Plus Nottingham City Centre | Hotels in Nottingham, Nottinghamshire](#)) or *Crowne Plaza* ([4-Star Hotels In Nottingham: Crowne Plaza Nottingham \(ihg.com\)](#)): better-appointed and slightly more spacious but still relatively cheap rooms.

St James Hotel (<https://stjames-hotel.com/>): decent boutique hotel.

Lace Market Hotel ([Lace Market Hotel](#)): nice boutique hotel in the most attractive part of the city.

SHOPPING/LEISURE/EATING GUIDANCE

Nottingham city centre is very compact so you'll be able to walk between any of the venues listed here unless otherwise noted. For many more suggestions of shops, activities, and eateries see the "Visit Nottinghamshire" website: <https://www.visit-nottinghamshire.co.uk/>

Bookshops: *Five Leaves* (<https://fiveleavesbookshop.co.uk/>) is an excellent independent bookshop which specializes in politics, poetry, and translated works. *Waterstones* ([Bookshop in Nottingham | Waterstones](#)) is the city's big book chain store, covering five floors.

Record shops: *Rough Trade* (at 5 Broad Street) is the best independent venue for vinyl and books on popular music.

Cinemas: *Broadway* ([What's On | www.broadway.org.uk](http://www.broadway.org.uk)) is a great arthouse cinema. *Cineworld Cornerhouse* (<https://cornerhousenottingham.co.uk/attractions/cineworld/>) is the option for Hollywood blockbusters.

Shopping Centres: *The Victoria Centre* (<https://victoria-centre.com/>)

City Centre Tourist Attractions: *Nottingham Castle* is currently closed (following a multi-million pound rebranding debacle) though might have reopened by September. *Nottingham Contemporary* ([Nottingham Contemporary | Nottingham Contemporary](#)) is a small but reliably interesting (and free) contemporary art gallery that puts on revolving exhibitions. *St Marys Church* is an impressive medieval building which allows visitors in ([Opening Times – St Mary's in the Lace Market \(stmarysnottingham.org\)](#)). *Wollaton Hall* ([Home - Wollaton Hall](#)), an atmospheric Elizabethan mansion in very nice parkland (which played the role of Wayne Manor in Christopher Nolan's Batman movies) is outside the city centre but walkable or accessible by bus from the University Park campus.

Nottinghamshire Tourist Attractions: These sites are outside the city centre and require travel by bus, train, taxi or car but are well worth visiting if you have spare time before or after the conference. *The Framework Knitters Museum* ([Museum Nottingham - Framework Knitters Museum](#)) may not sound immediately enthralling but is the best place to get a sense of Nottingham's former role as a centre of the lacemaking industry and starting point for the Luddite movement, and its only 5 miles from the city on a regular bus connection. *The D. H. Lawrence Birthplace and Museum* ([D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum : Broxtowe Borough Council](#)) is about 10 miles away. *The Workhouse and Infirmary* ([The Workhouse and Infirmary | Notts | National](#)

[Trust](#)) is a preserved Victorian workhouse some 15 miles from the city centre. *Sherwood Forest* ([Sherwood Forest – Where legends grow \(visitsherwood.co.uk\)](#)), some 20 miles out, isn't actually the nicest of the rural areas around the city you could visit but it's the closest you'll get to Robin Hood's old stomping grounds. *The National Civil War Centre* ([National Civil War Centre, Newark](#)) some 20 miles east is the country's primary museum dedicated to the English Civil War. If you're an avid hiker or biker the *Peak District National Park* ([Home: Peak District National Park](#)) is 30 miles from the city.

Drinking: The city centre is rife with good pubs and bars. This list is strictly subjective. *Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem* (1 Brewhouse Yard) claims to be the country's oldest pub, dating back to 1189, and is partly built into the cave system. *The Bell Inn* (18 Angel Row) is one of the city's oldest drinking houses. *The Cock and Hoop* (25 High Pavement) is tiny but worth checking out. *The Angel* (7 Stoney Street) is a lively microbrewery. *The Kean's Head* (46 St Mary's Gate) is a friendly boozier tucked away in the Lace Market. *The Kilpin* (10 Bridlesmith Walk) is hidden down an alley but has an exceptional range of international beers, and is next to *The Junkyard Bottle Shop*, a good craft beer venue. *The Hockley Arts Club* (20 Carlton Street) is a hipsterish place in a nice building, good for cocktails. *The Bierkeller* (15 Friar Lane) for kitschy, pseudo-European vibes, and pool tables/darts.

Eating: You'll find all the usual UK and US fast food and restaurant chains and all the pubs and bars noted above serve food. There are lots of other eating options too. The following are just a few suggestions. Many of them have vegan options (especially in the case of the Asian food venues) and there are also a few specifically vegan cafes scattered around. Of the several very good Indian restaurants in the city centre *Kayal* (8 Broad Street) and *Cumin* (62 Maid Marian Way) come personally recommended. *Bonzai* (11 Carlton Street) serves excellent Japanese food at a reasonable price. Then there's *Yamas* (5 Thurland Street) for Greek dining, *French Living* (27 King Street) for

French cuisine, *Bar Iberico* (17 Carlton Street) for tapas, and *Colombo Street* (2 Adam's Walk), which specializes in Sri Lankan food. *Annie's Burger Shack* (8 Broadway) is a local favorite serving, in its words, "authentic Rhode Island burgers." *Bill's* (15 Queen Street) operates in slightly more upmarket burger territory but also has an extensive plant-based menu. *Browns* (20 Park Row) is more toward the fine dining end of things; pricier than any of the above but reliably good. *Sat Bains* (Lenton Lane), Nottingham's only Michelin-starred restaurant, is outside the city centre but close to the University Park campus; booking well in advance a necessity here.