VICTORIAN SUSTAINABILITY

British Association for Victorian Studies Conference
4-6 September 2014, University of Kent, Canterbury

Keynote speakers
Harriet Ritvo (MIT)
Dennis Denisoff (Ryerson University)
Caroline Arscott (Courtauld Institute)

Call for Papers
From emerging ideas about the perils of environmental degradation to the establishment of the National Trust, the concept of sustainability began to take on a new importance in the Victorian period that remains relevant to 21st century modernity. We welcome proposals which address any aspect of Victorian sustainability and especially encourage interdisciplinary approaches.

Topics may include but are not limited to:
• Victorian nature writing and/or discourses of nature and science
• Heritage and preservation (of built environments, natural landscapes, species, material cultures)
• Climate change and the Victorians
• Sustenance and sustainability
• Victorian discourses of emotional/psychological sustainability or wellbeing
• Eco-criticism and environmental aesthetics in Victorian literature
• Sustaining the Victorians (literary and/or cultural legacies)
• ‘Green imperialism’ and/or colonial sustainability
• The emergence of self-sufficiency and sustainable ways of life in the Victorian period
• Waste/pollution vs. recycling/renewal in Victorian contexts
• Narratives of catastrophe, risk, decay or crisis in the Victorian period
• Representations of growth, flourishing and/or transformation in Victorian literature and culture
• Social ecology and the relation between human and non-human in the Victorian period
• Victorian pastoral and/or the legacy of Romanticism
• The sustainability of Victorian Studies

Proposals (300 words max) are due by 31 March 2014, and should be sent to kentbavs2014@gmail.com. Panel proposals (comprised of 3 paper proposals, plus an additional 300 words explaining how the papers are linked in addressing the theme) are also welcome. Please direct any enquiries to Wendy Parkins, Director of the Centre for Victorian Literature and Culture, at W.J.Parkins@kent.ac.uk

All conference presenters are required to be members of BAVS or an affiliated organisation (AVSA, NAVSA).

www.kent.ac.uk/english/research/victorianconference2014.html