

Bud Clark PhD
Conference summary
NAVSA November 16 – 18

I recently attended the North American Victorian Studies Association (NAVSA) conference in Banff, Alberta. In addition to attending eleven lectures, two caucus meetings, a professional workshop and a seminar (listed below), I presented a paper, “Moral Legislation and the Kanaka Maoli: A Victorian argument for Preserving Hawaiian Indigeneity. My paper was an enhanced edition of lectures I give in my Religion and Ethics courses. I received positive feedback that helped contextualize my material in the bigger picture of Victorian travel narratives, a perspective I will incorporate into course curriculum.

Of the many presentations I attended, the caucus meeting on teaching universities held particular relevance to UHMC. As a caucus this group has a standing presence at NAVSA. The group focuses on pedagogy, and issues that are particular to colleges and universities that emphasize teaching over research. I found that most of the faculty had an interest in research and publication and we discussed, at length, ideas on juggling those interests and maintaining teaching excellency. I noted that these professors did not see research and writing as an “either or” but rather research was complimentary to their pedagogy.

We continued the caucus meeting over a meal and launched a Facebook page to facilitate an ongoing dialog. In addition we agreed to organize a panel for the next NAVSA that will focus specifically on pedagogy.

Papers and presentations attended

1. The disappearing native: indigenous extinction and preservation in Isabella Bird's the Hawaiian Archipelago
2. A Natural History of the English Peasants": Preservationism in P. H. Emerson's Photographic Naturalism
3. Travel Writing as Environmental Preservation in Isabella Bird's *A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains*
4. Preserving the Sea-Side: Natural History, Tourism and North Devon
5. The Case for the Nineteenth-Century Irish Novel
6. Purer than the British? Irish American Victorian Morality
7. Queering Realism
8. "Extraction Ecologies and Victorian Literature"
9. Gothic History in the Writings of John Mitchel: Preserving the Dead and the Land in Famine and Post-Famine Ireland
10. Chinese Famine and the Preservations of British Travel Writing
11. Haunted by Irish Bog Bodies: Preserving Famine Memory in Emma Donoghue's *The Wonder*

Caucus Meetings

Teaching Universities
Aestheticism and Decadence

Professionalizing Workshops

Publishing Your First Book

Seminar: The Historical Ocean