

The recent turn to the study of print culture in American literary and cultural histories has increasingly focused scholarly attention on the dynamic interaction between writing, reading, and publishing. This has opened up a range of new perspectives on the networks of communication that shape and define creative, political, and intellectual communities. This proposed panel aims to explore these perspectives through the particular example of the American periodical as a public site of transatlantic debate and exchange. Pertinent questions which the panel might address include (but are not limited to):

How did nineteenth-century magazines shape American conceptions of Europe, and vice versa?

How and to what effect were European texts reprinted, translated, or adapted in American periodicals?

How might the serial nature of periodical publication have contributed to the formation of imagined communities in the nineteenth century?

What role did periodicals play in the spread of American political, economic, or scientific thought beyond the nation's borders?

To what extent did American and European periodicals share formal features and modes of address, and why might they have diverged?

What role did the periodical play in the development of transatlantic reform movements such as abolitionism and temperance?

What kinds of relationships existed between magazine editors and publishers on different sides of the Atlantic, and what might these relationships tell us about nineteenth-century print culture?

Can we read a nineteenth-century cosmopolitanism into the interaction between different texts within the periodical's pages?

What are the differences and the similarities between the social networks underpinning nineteenth-century periodicals and the social networks created by the digital media of the twenty-first century?

Participants are encouraged to address such questions by exploring the status, influence, and interrelation of authors, illustrators, publishers, printers, and editors, as well as through the analysis and interpretation of periodical content. Moreover, proposals are welcomed for individual papers that engage with American periodicals from a wide range of disciplinary angles, including literary and intellectual history, literary studies, cultural history, visual culture, the history of science, and Victorian studies.

Please send proposals of no more than 500 words, along with a brief bio, by 19 September 2011 to: Dr Matthew Pethers, School of American Studies, University of Nottingham, UK
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