

Dr Will Tattersdill BA (Hons.), MSt, PhD

Lecturer in Victorian Literature

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About

I'm interested in the relationship between literature and science, especially as it is figured in popular culture from the nineteenth-century to the present. My current work is on the social history of dinosaurs over this period.

Qualifications

- BA (University of Exeter)
- MSt (Exeter College, Oxford)
- PhD (King's College London)
Thesis title: 'Science, Fiction, and the Monthly Magazines 1891-1905.'

Biography

I grew up in Moseley and studied in Exeter, Oxford, and London before returning to Birmingham for a teaching fellowship in 2013. Since September 2014 I have been a full-time lecturer in the English department.

Teaching

- Victorian Literature and Science (Level 3) (convenor)
- Victorian and Decadent Literature (Level 2) (convenor)
- Victorian Literature, Culture, and Modernity (MA)
- The Gothic (Level 2) (lecturer)
- Literary Aesthetics after 1800 (Level 1) (lecturer)

Research

In my doctoral research, I examined the connections between literature and science in popular magazines of the *fin de siècle*. In particular, I focussed on the emerging genre of science fiction, arguing that the co-presence of fact and fiction alongside each other in these general magazines created a publishing environment in which sci-fi could thrive.

My current research looks at these ideas across a wider time period, focussing on how dinosaurs are articulated in popular culture. Dinosaurs are impossible without a great deal of both close scientific study and abstract imaginative work - I'm investigating the way the relationship between literature and science plays out as the social dinosaur moves through time.

I am also interested in book history, periodical studies, imperialism, popular fiction, crime writing, and modernism.

Other activities

With Zara Dinnen, I convene the doctoral seminar for first-year PhD students. I am active in the university's **[Centre for Cultural Modernity](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/culturalmodernity/index.aspx)** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/culturalmodernity/index.aspx>).

I am a member of the British Society for Literature and Science (BSLS) and the British Association of Victorian Studies (BAVS). I am also an Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

Publications

- 'Periodicity, Time Travel, and the Emergence of Science Fiction'. *Victorian Periodicals Review* 46:4 (Winter 2013). <<http://goo.gl/161HYe> (<http://goo.gl/161HYe>)>
- 'Science, Fiction, and the Public: Fin de Siècle Magazines'. *MHRA Working Papers in the Humanities*, 7 (2012) 33-40. Peer-reviewed publication. Issue theme: 'Literature and Science: the Great Divide?' <<http://goo.gl/c5QZj> (<http://goo.gl/c5QZj>)>

