

**‘The Eaton Family in Geographic, Print Cultural and Digital Space:
Sui Sin Far, Onoto Watanna, and more’**

Dr Mary Chapman (University of British Columbia, Canada)

PPCRG Online Research Seminar



Time: 17.00 (BST) on Weds, 24 June 2020

Venue: Microsoft Teams

How to join: This event is free and open to everyone. To sign up, email ppcrg@ntu.ac.uk.

We are delighted to host Dr Mary Chapman (University of British Columbia) as the first speaker in the Periodical and Print Culture Research Group’s (PPCRG) occasional seminar series at Nottingham Trent University. This seminar is a live online event.

Overview:

In the first half of this presentation, Dr Chapman will outline her current research: a microhistory of the Eaton family, one of North America’s first Chinese families. Deploying Lisa Lowe’s

concept of the ‘Intimacies of 4 Continents’, she will acknowledge their participation in the work of the British Empire in Asia, North America and the Caribbean. Her project hopes to trace the circuits of print culture in which daughters Edith Eaton (who wrote under the Chinese pseudonym ‘Sui Sin Far’) and Winnifred Eaton (who wrote under the faux-Japanese pseudonym ‘Onoto Watanna’) participated. She will explore how these print cultural networks mirror, in interesting ways, the global circuits of migration that their parents—*mui tsai* and travelling acrobat Grace Achuen Amoy Eaton and British silk-merchant-turned-human-trafficker Edward Eaton—participated in. Dr Chapman will discuss how her biographic research informs bibliographic/recovery work and vice versa. The talk will survey the periodicals and print culture in which Edith and Winnifred participated, in terms of subgenre, nation, aesthetic, and politics to consider how these two racialized authors positioned themselves variously within the imagined communities of these periodicals: as white, as Chinese, as Japanese, and as unspecified ‘other’.

The second half of the presentation will focus on the [Winnifred Eaton Archive](#) website, which interested participants are invited to peruse in advance. Dr Chapman will address the technical challenges both of DH more broadly (sustainability, infrastructure, expertise) and of the WEA project more specifically (how to organize texts given her diverse oeuvre, the variety of her author positions, pseudonyms, geographies, genres, aesthetics, and politics). She will conclude by looking at some topical texts from the site.





The talk will be followed by a Q&A session.

About the Speaker:

Dr Mary Chapman is Professor of English and Academic Director of the Public Humanities Hub at the University of British Columbia. She specializes in American literature and transnational American Studies, suffrage literature and activism, women's poetry, periodicals, digital humanities, and public humanities.

About the PPCRG:

The Periodicals and Print Culture Research Group (PPCRG) is located in the English department at Nottingham Trent University and co-directed by Dr Catherine Clay and Professor Andrew Thacker. The group aims to develop work on the study of periodicals and print culture, from the nineteenth century to the present. It is concerned with the material culture of periodicals alongside books, newspapers, pamphlets, comics, zines, and other forms of print ephemera, along with the digital manifestations of these objects.



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