# CALL FOR PAPERS FOR VOLUME 24 (2020)

**NEO-VICTORIAN NEGOTIATIONS OF HOSTILITY, EMPATHY AND HOSPITALITY**

*Guest editors: Rosario Arias (Universidad de Málaga) and Mark Llewellyn (Cardiff University)*

What does it mean to be sympathetic to or antagonistic towards our nineteenth-century past? How do we negotiate the territory between self/other, host/guest, stranger/friend?

This special issue explores the concepts of hostility, empathy and hospitality in neo-Victorianism.

The term ‘hospitality’ encompasses the tension between host and other since, as Emily Ridge has recently noted, hospitality “at its very etymological root, harbours an otherness [and] manifests a paradoxical character.” This leads to an ambiguous understanding of the term, opening up this notion to the analysis of contemporary literary and political landscapes. There has been a recent move to address hospitality in Victorian fiction. In *Narrative Hospitality in Late Victorian Fiction: Novel Ethics* (2013), Rachel Hollander – drawing on Levinas and Derrida among others – has highlighted “an ethics of hospitality, in which respecting the limits of knowledge and welcoming the stranger define fiction’s relationship to both reader and world.” There has been no such critical intervention into the applicability or challenge to such understandings in neo-Victorianism. The aim of this special issue is therefore to examine neo-Victorian representations of ‘hospitality’ in its amplest sense, inclusive of the states of empathy (a term coined at the turn of the nineteenth century) and hostility as staging points on the spectrum of the hospitable as an ethical, political and aesthetic principle. Taking the double orientation of the neo-Victorian mode as a point of departure (cf. Heilmann and Llewellyn; Gamble; Johnston and Waters), we wish to solicit articles that argue that readings of neo-Victorian host-guest exchanges relate to contemporary anxieties about the glocal and the global, about individual and collective identities, and about affect in host-guest interactions.

We welcome essays dealing with literal and metaphorical readings of hospitality, hostility and empathy in neo-Victorian studies. These essays should address not only the home and the relation between domestic and public spheres but also the receptiveness of contemporary fiction and culture to the Victorian past. We are interested in essays that mobilise the ambiguous nature of hospitality, as well as (troubled) host-guest relations, in neo-Victorianism.

Relevant topics in this context might include (but are not limited to):

* Hospitality as explicated by Emmanuel Levinas and Jacques Derrida, and concepts such as conditional hospitality and absolute hospitality
* Hospitality in relation to home/homelessness and domesticity
* Hospitality as a relationship between host and guest
* Hospitality to the (Victorian) past
* Hospitality vs. Hostility and/or empathy e.g. Victorian/Non-Victorian; European/Non-European

Detailed proposals (up to 1,000 words) for full essays (7,500 words), as well as all inquiries regarding this issue, should be sent to both editors: Rosario Arias: [rarias@uma.es](mailto:rarias@uma.es) and Mark Llewellyn: [LlewellynM4@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:mark.llewellyn@strath.ac.uk)