

Volume 28, Issue 33

Conference Announcement

Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies, "The Pursuit of Happiness"

Location : Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY

Organizers : Deirdre d'Albertis and Barbara Black

NCS encourages interdisciplinary perspectives integrating: Economic History, Literature, Law,
Major Topics : Political Science, Philosophy, Theology, History, Art History, History of Science, Sociology,
Anthropology, Psychology, Economics, Health Sciences.

Conference Dates : 4/24/2009 to 4/24/2009

Submission Deadline : 10/15/2008

Send Submissions To : 200 word abstracts by October 15, 2008 with name, institutional affiliation and contact info to
Deirdre d'Albertis, Bard College via e-mail at: dalberti@bard.edu

Sponsoring Organizations : Bard College and Skidmore College

For further information contact : Deirdre d'Albertis, Bard College, dalberti@bard.edu

Web Page : <http://www.nd.edu/~incshp/>

Happiness our being's end and aim is at bottom, if we will count well, not yet two centuries old in the world. Thomas Carlyle. Following on the 2008 INCS theme, The Emergence of Human Rights, this conference will focus on the pursuit of happiness, that elusive corollary to life and liberty. What form did happiness and the comprehension of happiness take in the nineteenth century? How, for example, did the legacy of the American and French Revolutions shape nineteenth-century understandings of happiness? What were the effects of burgeoning industrialism? In keeping with the recent turn to studies of emotion, feeling, and affect within literary studies as well as psychology, economics, history, and philosophy, we invite papers on the nineteenth-century contexts and genealogies for such work. And, in acknowledgment of our 2009 conference location. Saratoga Springs, NY, we particularly encourage papers exploring Victorian pleasure-seeking as having provided popular, if contested, routes to happiness. Topics may include: Joy Luxury and pleasure in a democratic republic Wealth Leisure Beauty, art Speculation (gambling, chance) Family, friendship, love Recreation Rights, liberties Race, class, gender and ethnic perspectives on happiness Leisure Virtue, working for the good of others Health, spas, hygiene The cultivation of emotions Shopping / consumer desire Vacations / travel Misery, the absence of happiness and pain, the opposite of pleasure Architecture of happiness Keynote Speakers: Robert Frank, Henrietta Johnson Louis Professor of Management and Professor of Economics, Johnson Graduate School of Management, Cornell University and author of **Falling Behind: How Rising Inequality Harms the Middle Class** (U of California, 2007), **The Economic Naturalist: In Search of Explanations for Everyday Enigmas** (Basic Books, 2007) and **Luxury Fever: Money and Happiness in an Era of Success** (Princeton UP, 2000). Darrin McMahon, Ben Weider Professor of History at Florida State University and author of **Happiness: A History** (Atlantic Monthly Books, 2006) and **Enemies of the Enlightenment: The French Counter-Enlightenment and the Making of Modernity** (Oxford University Press, 2001). and Adam Potkay, Margaret L. Hamilton Professor of English at The College of William and Mary and author of **The Story of Joy from the Bible to Late Romanticism** (Cambridge University Press, 2007) and **The Passion for Happiness: Samuel Johnson and David Hume** (Cornell University Press, 2000).

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