

Call for Papers
Romantic Futurities

British Association for Romantic Studies Early Career and Postgraduate Conference

Keats House, London, 12-13 June 2020

Keynote Speakers:

Professor Michael Gamer (University of Pennsylvania)

Dr Emily Rohrbach (The University of Manchester)

The BARS Early Career and Postgraduate Conference invites an examination into the pluralistic theme of 'futures' in Romantic-period literature and thought. This examination is inclusive of, but not limited to, the historical future, the anticipatory future, posterity, and the future of the field of Romanticism. The conference will bring together early-career and postgraduate researchers whose work addresses futurity from a wide range of perspectives: from historical depictions of the future, to writers' concerns with posterity, to the future of the field of Romanticism in regard to rethinking the canon, pedagogical approaches, and digital humanities.

'I longed to avoid the necessity of action; I strove to escape from thought—vainly—futures, like a dark image in a phantasmagoria, came nearer and more near, till it clasped the whole earth in its shadow.' – Mary Shelley, *The Last Man*

We encourage a wide interpretation of 'futures'. Topics of interest may include, but are not limited to:

- Backward Glances (the anterior future, or the historical moment as future)
- The Utopian and Dystopian
- Science and Invention
- Radicalism, Rights, and Revolution
- Lost Futures (early and unanticipated deaths, unpublished works)
- Prophecy and Apocalypse
- Time and Temporality
- Modernity and Posterity
- Ecology and the Environment ('dark ecology' and the Anthropocene)

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Please send 250-word abstracts for 20-minute papers to bars.postgrads@gmail.com by **31 January 2020** including a 100-word biography. We also welcome 250-word abstracts for poster presentations separate from or in addition to papers. Posters cannot be presented in absentia.

We expect to publish a special issue of essays from revised conference papers through *Romanticism on the Net*