



School: School of Humanities

Researcher: Dr Cassie Newland

Project Title: *Victorians Decoded: Art and Telegraphy*

UOA: 28: History

Research Questions

- How can understandings of the telegraph help us move between and relate 19th century material objects and conceptual ideas?
- What were the particular practices and sensations generated by telegraphic communication?
- What was the range of British public commentary and graphic imagery produced in response to the drama and developing technology associated with the telegraph?
- How can terms discovered in the telegraphic archive such as proximity/distance and conductivity/impedance help us understand Victorian culture? What would compression, stretchiness or splicing, for instance, mean in the case of the novel or in the case of the short story? What would sequence, seriality or heat production mean in the case of mythological painting or landscape examples?
- Can the turn to the ornamental in late Victorian art be taken as evidence of a new logic of seriality predicated on the one-message-at-a-time capability of the telegraph.
- Is the possibility of sequential encryption and decryption routinely adopted in telegraph-age literary and artistic culture?
- Can the examination of telegraphy help us to develop interdisciplinary arguments of broad significance about Victorian culture?
- How can interdisciplinary working in the present help us work through these ideas?
- How best can these ideas be communicated to a wider public?