

Special Issue

Victorian Realism and Crime

Message from the Guest Editors

The definition of literary realism and the key features of Victorian realist novels have long been the subject of debate. However, most would agree that Victorian realist texts have traditionally focused on the lived experience of everyday people, representing the observable world and embracing literal representation of it, and using it to present social commentary prescient to the real world it is designed to reflect. Victorian and Golden Age crime fiction, meanwhile, has historically been tied to the sensational, the allegorical, the formulaic, and (in broader terms) the willing suspension of disbelief. Readers accept, and in some ways are almost expected to predict, the formula and conclusion to the story, and are content in the knowledge that the story will reach a predictable conclusion. However, crime is in and of itself a reality of life, and any tale that purports to be realist should accept this premise; indeed, many canonical realist texts in the Victorian period involve crimes that rival those of sensation fiction in terms of their depiction and narrative impact in spite of the very different critical responses to the genres.

Guest Editors

Dr. Melissa Raines

Department of English, University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 7ZG, UK

Dr. Sam Saunders

Centre for Innovation in Education, University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 3GW, UK

Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (28 February 2025)



Humanities

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 0.3
CiteScore 0.5



mdpi.com/si/184831

Humanities
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
humanities@mdpi.com

[mdpi.com/journal/
humanities](https://mdpi.com/journal/humanities)





Humanities

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 0.3
CiteScore 0.5



[mdpi.com/journal/
humanities](https://mdpi.com/journal/humanities)



About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

We welcome contributions that address fundamental issues in the Humanities from any meaningful perspective, combining past and present concerns in order to blaze a path toward the future. Interdisciplinary approaches are particularly welcome. All submissions will be critically reviewed by peers, aiming for the highest possible scholarly level. Being an online journal, the published papers will reach their desired audiences faster, more reliably, and much more easily than traditional print versions, while upholding the same, if not even higher, scholarly standards.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Albrecht Classen

Department of German Studies, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
85721, USA

Author Benefits

High Visibility:

indexed within Scopus, ESCI (Web of Science), ERIH Plus, and other databases.

Rapid Publication:

manuscripts are peer-reviewed and a first decision is provided to authors approximately 33.7 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 4.9 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the first half of 2025).

Recognition of Reviewers:

reviewers who provide timely, thorough peer-review reports receive vouchers entitling them to a discount on the APC of their next publication in any MDPI journal, in appreciation of the work done.