

## **ENGL 918 - Queering the 19th-Century (Interdisciplinary Seminar in Nineteenth-Century Studies)**

In this theme seminar offered as part of the program in Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies, we will study sexuality and gender in Britain and America through literary works, other primary texts, and secondary scholarship. We will begin the semester by reading Michel Foucault's enormously influential *History of Sexuality*, Vol. 1. Although Foucault argued that sexuality as an identity category did not emerge until the 1870s, we will treat the category of "queer" broadly, focusing on both gender and sexuality throughout the century. We will also attend to questions of race and the emergence of sexual identities. Literary texts may include the poetry of Michael Field (pseudonym of Katharine Harris Bradley and Edith Emma Cooper), Henry James, Julia Ward Howe, Theodore Winthrop, Oscar Wilde, and Sarah Orne Jewett, and secondary scholarship may include work by Siobhan Somerville, Mark Rifkin, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, Jonathan Ned Katz, Martha Vicinus, Rachel Hope Kleves, and Jen Manion. Note that although the class is listed as a web conference based, there will likely be some asynchronous online elements of the class to avoid three long hours of Zoom, and based on the course of the pandemic, we may consider moving to in person instruction later in the semester.