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Research Project

Vice, Scandal, and "News": 19th-Century Newspapers and their Literary Products

Project funded by own resources

Project title Vice, Scandal, and "News": 19th-Century Newspapers and their Literary Products

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Organisation / Research unit

Departement Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaften / English Modern Literature (Habermann)

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Status Completed

My project emerges from within the context of the repeal of the taxes on knowledge (i.e. the removal of additional taxes for advertisements (1853), stamps (1855), and the weight of paper (1861)), honing in on the changing nature of the periodical from 1850 onwards, and the way in which 19th-century serialized fiction in Britain refracted and reflected the political agendas of the monthly, weekly, and daily papers that housed them. Moving chronologically through Wilkie Collins' *The Woman in White*, Thomas De Quincey's *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater*, A. C. Doyle's *Sherlock Holmes* stories, and Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, I explore the influence of newspaper and magazine layouts, the authors' knowledge and exploitation of readership and circulation, the organization of the news, and the way in which authors incorporate current events and/or 'front page news' in their writing, demonstrating that serialization increasingly became a mode of narration and a form of logic.

Keywords serialization, Collins, De Quincey, Doyle, Stoker, newspapers, periodicals

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