

**Antebellum American Women Writers and the City**  
**Fordham University Rose Hill Campus**  
**September 22-25, 2005**

**CONFERENCE PROGRAM PRE-LIM**

All sessions, unless otherwise noted, will occur at  
Duane Center, Fordham University Rose Hill Campus

***THURSDAY***

*12:00-2:45*    *CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND WELCOME*

**1:00-2:30**    **SESSION ONE:    Display and Performance in the City**

“‘The False Environment of Civilized Life’: Indians on Display in Lydia Maria Child’s  
*Letters from New York*”

Lynn Domina, State University of New York, Delhi

“The Actress Writes: Benefit Plays by Women in New York Theater”

Helen Huff, City University of New York, Manhattan

“Chicken Bones, Malaga Wine, and Raisins: City Tastes, Sedgwick, and Eliza Leslie”

Etta Madden, Southwest Missouri State University

**2:45-4:15**    **SESSION TWO:    Women Writers and the Public Sphere**

“The Unitarian Tract Sedgwick DID Publish in 1822: Or, Sedgwick’s Publication of *Mary Hollis* with the New York Unitarian Book Society”

Melissa Homestead, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

“Sedgwick and the B’hoys: reading *The Linwoods* through the New York Periodical Press”

Tim Jecmen, University of North Carolina

“Writing New York: Margaret Fuller’s Urban Writing”

Jeffrey Steele, University of Wisconsin-Madison

**4:30-6:00**    **SESSION THREE: Stoddard Panel**

TBA

**6:00-8:00**    **WELCOME WINE AND APPETIZER RECEPTION**

An opportunity to meet new colleagues and reconnect with old friends over substantial snacks and drinks.

## ***FRIDAY***

8:30-10:00 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

### **9:00-10:45 SESSION FOUR: Living in Antebellum New York: Rethinking Domesticity**

“Rethinking Domesticity: The Antebellum Boardinghouse Imaginary”  
David Faflik, University of Arkansas

“*Fern Leaves* and the Antebellum Widow: Social Commentary and the Melodrama”  
Helen McGuire-Driver, Saint Thomas Aquinas College

“Women’s Urban Identity and Cultural Production: Reading the Texts of Ghetto realism in Lydia Maria Child and Mattie Jane Jackson”  
Tabitha Adams Morgan, Commonwealth College, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

“Margaret Fuller in New York City, 1844-1845”  
Bette Weidman, Queens College

### **11:00-12:00 SESSION FIVE Joanne Dobson Reading**

### **12:00-1:15 LUNCH BUFFET**

### **1:15-2:45 SESSION SIX: City Places, Urban Spaces: Women Writers and the Urban Landscapes of New York**

“Vision, Power and Urban landscapes in Fanny Fern’s *Ruth Hall*”  
Nancy Von Rosk, Mount Saint Mary’s College

“‘No One Would Undertake His Cause’: Urban Nightmares in Susanna Rowson’s *Charlotte Temple* and *Reuben and Rachel*”  
Steven Epley, Samford University

“New York as Undefined Space in *Marian Grey*”  
Earl Yarrington, Burlington County College

### **3:00-4:30 SESSION SEVEN: Salon Cultures, Civility, and Sensibility**

“Drawing Room Revolution in *The Linwoods*”  
Maureen Tuthill, University of Connecticut

“The Sedgwicks Meet the ‘Friendlies’: A Circle of Female Friends in Boston in the Late 1810s”  
Timothy Kinslea, Norwell (MA) High School

“Phoebe Cary and the Parodic Sensibility”  
Elizabeth Petrino, Fairfield University

**4:30-6:30 SUPPER BREAK**

We will have reservations at several local restaurants to make this dinner break easy, efficient, and enjoyable for all.

**6:30-8:00 KEYNOTE PANEL in FLOM AUDITORIUM/WALSH LIBRARY**

A select panel of senior scholars will make brief remarks about specific antebellum authors and the effect of the city on their work—and vice versa—followed by discussion.

**8:00-10:00 DESSERT AND WINE RECEPTION O'HARE COLLECTION**

A special event to celebrate both our keynote speakers and all conference participants, courtesy of the generosity of the Fordham University Deans.

***SATURDAY***

*9:00-12:00 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION*

**9:00-10:15 SESSION EIGHT (PEDAGOGY ROUNDTABLE)**

Please bring not only your great teaching ideas but also at least 20 copies of teaching materials to share with colleagues. Facilitated by Sarah Robbins.

**10:30-12:00 SESSION NINE: Rethinking the “Feminine Fifties”:  
Sentimentalism, Realism, Feminism**

“Panic of 1837 and the ‘Sentimental’ Mode”  
Lisa West, Drake University

“Benevolent Realism in Sedgwick’s *Married or Single?*”  
Deborah Gussman, Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

“The Emergence of the Feminist Novel”  
Charlene Avallone, Independent Scholar

**12:00-1:00 LUNCH BUFFET**

**1:00-6:00 NINETEENTH CENTURY WOMEN WRITERS STUDY GROUP**

**7:30-10:00 CONFERENCE BANQUET at CLUB QUARTERS HOTEL**

## ***SUNDAY***

### **9:00-10:30 SESSION TEN: Women Writers as Observers/Critics**

“Fanny Fern’s View of New York”  
Joyce Warren, Queens College, CUNY

“The Prison-Woman and the Popular Novelist: Ann Stephens and Urban Reform”  
Theresa Strouth Gaul, Texas Christian University

“Babylon Sisters: The Female Flaneur in *Letters from New-York*”  
Hisayo Ogushi, Keio University

### **10:45-12:15 SESSION ELEVEN: New York and the Nation**

“*Home: Scenes and Characters Illustrating Christian Truth*: Catharine Maria Sedgwick’s Pro-Irish Response to Samuel F. B. Morse’s Nativism”  
Virginia Mastromonaco, Fordham University

“A Mortgage, a Murder, and a Romance: The Legacies of Wall Street in Catharine Maria Sedgwick’s *Wilton Harvey*”  
Joan Varnum,

“‘Under Shelter of Ripened Vines’: Lydia Maria Child’s Observations of Immigrants in New York vs. Margaret Fuller’s Thoughts on Poverty”  
Susan Toth Lord, Kent State University

### **12:15-1:00 CONFERENCE CLOSING**

A closing discussion of the conference highlights, led by TBA.

### **TOUR OF LOWER MANHATTAN LITERARY AND HISTORICAL SITES**