“Down and Out: Victorian Extraction Literature and the Resource Frontier”

Elizabeth Carolyn Miller
University of California, Davis

Tuesday, February 26, 2019
Murray 302  4:30 PM

Miller’s talk, which is part of her current project, *Extraction Ecologies and the Literature of the Long Exhaustion, 1830s-1930s*, reimagines the literature of nineteenth-century Britain and its Empire in light of the global extraction boom caused by the industrialization of mining practices. That boom constituted a major feature of nineteenth-century environmental, economic, and labor history, and Miller argues that its impact extended to literary genre and form. Her talk focuses on the frontier logic of the extraction boom – the constant search for new lodes as each mining site is exhausted; she reads this logic as foundational to nineteenth-century adventure literature. Literary texts discussed include Mary Seacole’s *The Wonderful Adventures of Mrs. Seacole in Many Lands* (1857); Robert Louis Stevenson’s *Treasure Island* (1882), and H. Rider Haggard’s *King Solomon’s Mines* (1885).

Elizabeth Carolyn Miller is Professor of English at UC Davis. She is the author of *Slow Print: Literary Radicalism and Late Victorian Print Culture* (2013), which was named NAVSA Best Book of the Year and received Honorable Mention for the MSA Book Prize, and *Framed: The New Woman Criminal in British Culture at the Fin de Siècle* (2008). She recently guest-edited a special issue of *Victorian Studies* on the topic “Climate Change and Victorian Studies.”

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