

George Eliot and Hannah Arendt: *Philosophies of the Pariah*

Though British novelist **George Eliot** and German-Jewish political philosopher **Hannah Arendt** lived a century apart and had very different life histories, they held surprising common interests. Both developed the notion of the pariah, the outcast or stateless person, as a figure for the individual who refuses the norms of dominant European culture. Both looked to Jews and women, in particular, as exemplary pariah figures, and both studied the difficulties facing 19th-century moral actors via concepts of belonging, assimilation, non-conformism, and ostracism. The talk will challenge common critical accounts of both thinkers.

Sponsored by the Intercollegiate Feminist Center for Teaching, Research and Engagement, English Department, Scripps College, and Humanities, Social Sciences, and the Arts Department, Harvey Mudd College.



George Eliot



Hannah Arendt

Rachel Teukolsky is Associate Professor of English at Vanderbilt University. Her early work focused on aesthetics, visual culture, and media history in 19th-century Britain. Her 2009 book, *The Literate Eye: Victorian Art Writing and Modernist Aesthetics*, received the Northwest Victorian Studies Association's Sonya Rudikoff Prize. Her recently-completed manuscript, *Picture World*, examines the rise of new visual media in the 19th-century, from illustrated newspapers to stereographic photographs to advertising posters. Her new project brings together literature and political philosophy, using the writings of Hannah Arendt as a lens through which to study 19th-century aesthetics, ethics, and politics.

Thursday, February 28, 2019, 4:15 p.m.
Clark Humanities Museum, Scripps College

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The event is free and open to the public.