

Program for 2021

The Australian Brontë Association meets in Sydney five times a year. Meetings are held at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, 169 Castlereagh Street (near Park Street) at 10:30am, though we serve morning tea from 10:00am. Those who wish to do so, have a light lunch at the hotel after the meeting. At each meeting, a paper on some aspect of the Brontës' life and work is presented. There is a meeting charge of \$5 (members) and \$10 (non-members).

Saturday 13th March 2021 Tasarla Harman

Some contemporary perspectives on the Brontë sisters

How do the three Brontë sisters compare to the three Kardishian sisters? What were the effects on 19th century lives of tuberculosis when compared to Covid-19 in the 21st century? How did the public and private sphere affect the lives of the Brontë sisters? Tasarla will also question the influence of the Brontës in the pop culture of today. She will be exploring the Brontës as never before, producing a session which will certainly provide much food for thought!

Saturday 8th May 2021 Christine Alexander

Exploring Juvenilia: the Brontës and other early writers

This talk will look at features of early writing in an attempt to provide insight into what led particular children to become authors and why we might find it worthwhile to read their juvenilia.

Saturday 10th July 2021 Christine Jack

The Trauma Testimonies of Charlotte Brontë, Jane Eyre and Adèle Varens

Charlotte Brontë experienced significant trauma across her life and incorporated many aspects of it into *Jane Eyre*. Her understanding of the experience of trauma including that arising from abuse as well as the journey of recovery is remarkable given that it was well before the development of any relevant theory. The project being discussed in this talk involves application of contemporary trauma theory to aspects of the lives of Charlotte's and her fictional characters, Jane Eyre and Adèle Varens. After a brief coverage of the methodology being used in the project and some key theoretical understandings, examples related to each of the characters will be presented. They illustrate her insights as well as a blind spot that exemplifies intergenerational trauma.

Saturday 11th September 2021 Alison Hoddinott

How to be a Good Wife: Charlotte Brontë and Charles Dickens

Villette and *Bleak House* were both published in book form in 1853. At the time the two novelists were thinking about marriage and the situation of the Victorian wife. Charlotte Brontë (born 1816) was wondering which of her suitors, if any, to choose. Charles Dickens (born 1812) was considering the incompatibility of his marriage to Catherine, which had taken place in 1836, when she was six weeks short of being of age. Their reflections on marriage are mirrored in their biographies, which quote freely from their letters, and in both novels.

Saturday 13th November 2021 Anne Collett

TBA

Saturday 4th December Christmas Lunch

Cellos Restaurant, Castlereagh Boutique Hotel