

Conférences

# HYPOTHESES

Symposia

AU MUSÉE DES BEAUX-ARTS DE MONTRÉAL

AT THE MONTREAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS



Fred Judge, *Rough Sea, New Caroline Parade, Hastings*. C1905



Charles Williams, *The Grand Bubble*, 1813 (détail)

*Who's Afraid of Bubbling Images ?*

**John Toohey**

(PhD Candidate, Concordia University)

FRED JUDGE'S LANDSCAPES OF FEAR

Among the postcard views of Britain that Fred Judge produced between 1904 and 1924 are scenes that reveal profound shifts in nineteenth century perceptions of the landscape. Tracts of wilderness that had once been considered dangerous were now popular picnic spots, with little physical change to the site taking place. Other fears, of imminent invasion and of the weather wreaking havoc, have survived. Applying current theories of landscape history relevant to how the landscape has been perceived, we will see that within apparently innocuous images aimed at the tourist market lies evidence of a society's anxieties and vulnerabilities.

**Shana Cooperstein**

(PhD Candidate, McGill University)

HOW BUBBLES GAINED CURRENCY

REALISM, PERCEPTION AND SPECULATION IN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY BRITAIN

I argue that in eighteenth-century Britain, bubbles became a metaphor referring both to the fatuous and deceptive. Satirists often exploited the ephemeral, allusive nature of these phenomena to symbolize delusion, or a species of mere appearance that only fools mistake for substance. Thus, this paper maps a particular domain of the symbolic as this concerns representations of the deceit and cunning capable of capturing and misleading the popular imagination. Overall, I reveal how the characteristics of bubbles, such as that they are reflective, wet and generate ephemeral and optical illusions, allowed them to serve as a way to think about particular operations of the intellect and imagination, and became a signifier for financial speculation.

PRÉSIDENT | CHAIR : DANIEL FISET (3<sup>e</sup> cycle, Université de Montréal)

**Mercredi 18 février 2015 à 16h | Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 4 pm**

Le Salon | The Lounge, Pavillon J.-N. Desmarais (niveau 2), 1380 rue Sherbrooke Ouest

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