

Abstract:
**Do Wilde's Trials still Haunt us? A Close Look at Neo-Victorian
Representations of Romance and Desire between Men.**

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On the 26th of April 1895 a series of judicial proceedings concerning the author and aesthete Oscar Wilde began at the Old Bailey in London. Wilde was convicted to two years of imprisonment with hard labour, the maximum sentence contemplated by Britain's legal code at the time for the crime of "gross indecency". In this paper I aim to pose a question and to share the concerns it implies with you: is Wilde's conviction, and the trials leading to it, still haunting the genre of fiction we have come to know as neo-Victorian? Of course, I do not intend to provide a definitive answer to this question, but rather I would like to consider a series of contexts that may imply, upon further research, that this "haunting" has accompanied neo-Victorianism for a long time and is still, now, an important part of many of the novels depicting same-sex love or desire between men that fit within it. Furthermore, I'd also like to explore, in a tentative way, since this is still research in a very early stage, how this haunting can be defied through the use of fantastic elements in neo-Victorian narratives, offering a more liberating account of Victorian dissident sexualities.