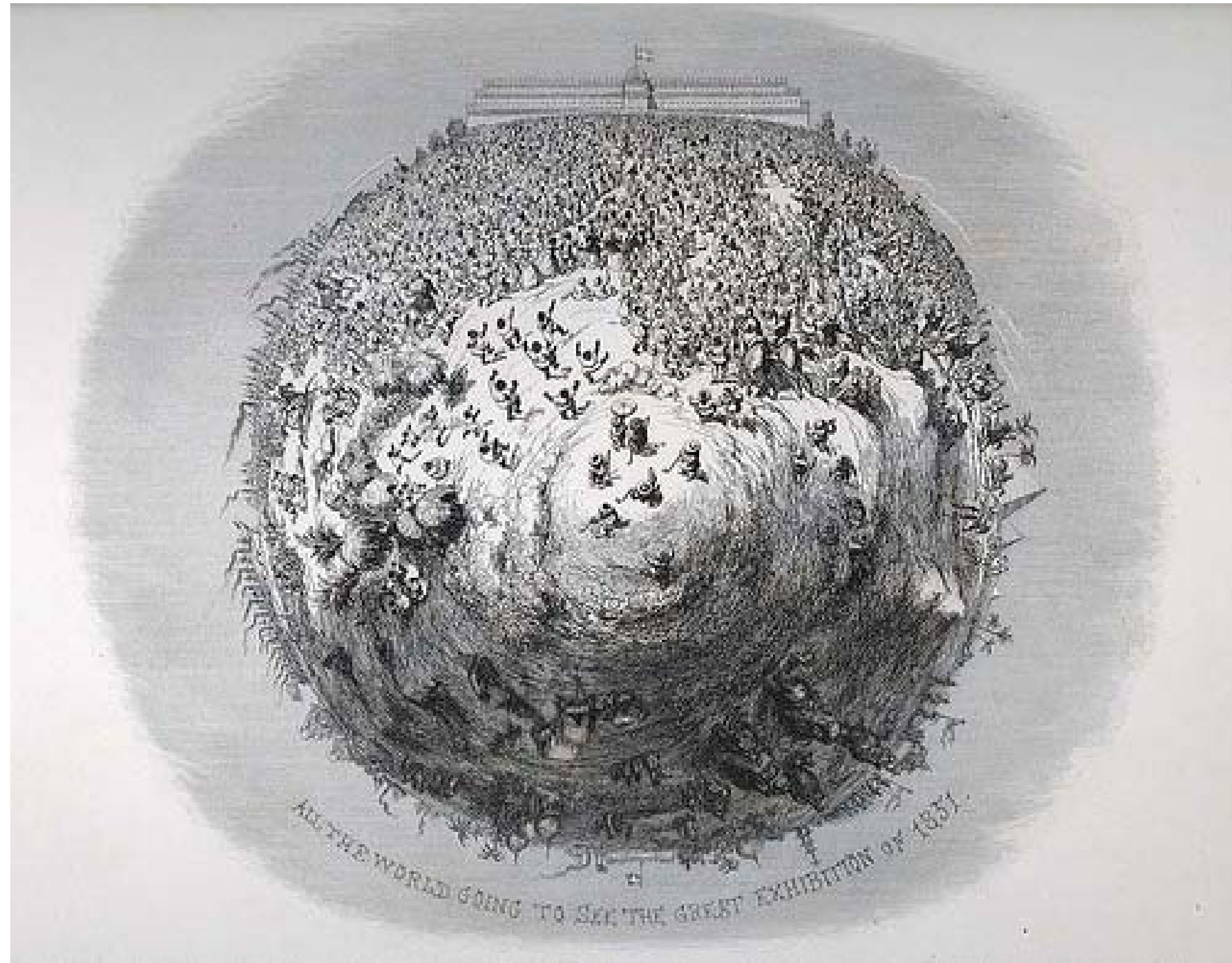


Text and the City: Writing Victorian London



Combining literary studies and urban theory, this project traces the impact of a modern metropolis on some of the signature forms of Victorian literature, from the newspaper to the novel. It further argues that the very notion of dialectical metropolitan modernity engendered by nineteenth-century London can be explained through the patterns of production and circulation of its texts.

My archival research examined troves of lesser known and ephemeral documents in Victorian literature and urban history, including broadside ballads, municipal committee and select Parliamentary reports, insurance reports, periodicals, guidebooks, satiric novels, pamphlets, and sketches from well-known and anonymous contributors.

This research informs my current book project *By Accident or Design: Writing the Victorian Metropolis* and establishes some groundwork for an upcoming book project on Victorian telecommunication, reconceiving the metropolis not as a place but as what urban theorist Manuel Castells calls an “informational city,” a networked “space of flows.” In exposing these networks and being transmitted through them, Victorian literature exemplifies changing concepts of text and information that have notable relevance to our own.



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