



**Eastern Questions: New Perspectives on British Orientalism**  
**Conference Report**

*Eastern Questions: New Perspectives on British Orientalism* was held on 16-17 October 2019. The first day was held at the Watts Gallery-Artists' Village and the second day at Royal Holloway, University of London. The conference was organised in conjunction with the exhibition *John Frederick Lewis: Facing Fame*, and with the curatorial teams at the Watts and Royal Holloway.

Across both days, we heard from 23 speakers who came from a wide range of UK and international institutions and included museum professionals as well as senior academics and postgraduate students. As you can see from the attached programme, topics were wide ranging and there was plenty of opportunity for networking and discussion amongst scholars. In total, we hosted 42 delegates including speakers, 11 of whom benefited from bursaries from ASTENE or the British Association of Victorian Studies (BAVS).

Delegates were able to enjoy a private view of *John Frederick Lewis: Facing Fame* accompanied by curators, Cicley Robinson and Briony Llewellyn. At the Royal Holloway, papers were heard in their incredible nineteenth-century picture gallery which includes important British Orientalist works such as Edwin Long's *Babylonian Marriage Market* (1875) and works by William Müller and David Roberts. The curators also arranged for a special viewing of original lithographs from Roberts' *The Holy Land, Syria, Idumea, Arabia, Egypt, Nubia*. This provided an opportunity for our postgraduate speakers to deliver their papers in front of the works, which generated a lot of discussion and interest amongst the delegates.

In the new year, I will be pursuing opportunities to publish the proceedings from the conference in an edited volume. I will keep the ASTENE committee abreast of any developments, but it is my hope that this conference has a legacy at this important moment for studies of Orientalism and the Near East.

On behalf of the organising committee, I extend our sincere thanks to ASTENE for their support. The bursaries enabled half of our speakers to attend so it isn't an exaggeration to say without the committee's support, this event would not have been possible. I am also grateful to BAVS, the British Art Research School at the University of York, the Watts Gallery-Artists' Village and Royal Holloway for their support in this event as well.