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Public Lecture

Thursday, 10 November, 12:00 noon – 1:00 pm
T1, 75 Seater Auditorium, North Side
O.P. Jindal Global University
Sonipat Narela Road, Sonipat - 131001, Haryana (NCR of Delhi)



**Jindal School of
Liberal Arts & Humanities**
India's First Transnational Humanities School

"Titanic, Myth and Memory"



SPEAKER

Dr. Leon Litvack
Professor of Victorian Studies
Queen's University of Belfast

Leon Litvack is Professor of Victorian Studies at Queen's University, Belfast, Principal Editor of the Charles Dickens Letters project, and a Trustee of the Charles Dickens Museum in London. He has published extensively on Dickens's letters and manuscripts, his reading habits and book collections, and on photographs and paintings of Dickens and his circle. He is currently working on the authoritative Clarendon edition of *Our Mutual Friend*, and is planning an exhibition at the Charles Dickens Museum on the photographic portraits of Dickens, to mark the 200th anniversary of the author's death in 2020. He has just published an edited collection of poetry and short prose entitled *On the Grass When I Arrive: An Anthology of New Writing from Northern Ireland on Place, Home, and Belonging*.

Abstract:

This illustrated lecture will consider why Titanic has been the source of universal interest, as an object to be memorialised and mythologised, as a telling example of hubris and nemesis, as a vehicle for cultural expression, as a source of economic regeneration, and even as a physical structure to be replicated, as both an oceangoing liner, and a floating theme park. Everyone seems to want a 'piece' of Titanic – whether it be a physical object associated with the ship, or some other tangible way in which Titanic can be experienced, so that it 'means' something to people completely dissociated from the events of a century ago. The lecture will also treat some of the ethical considerations involved in the choices individuals and communities made in their approaches to myth and memory, and will make observations on how these relate to our ideas about culture, identity, history, exclusivity, inclusivity, technology, and education.

RSVP: Ms. Simarjeet Kaur, Assistant Manager, JSLH, simarjeet@jgu.edu.in, +91-8396907242



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