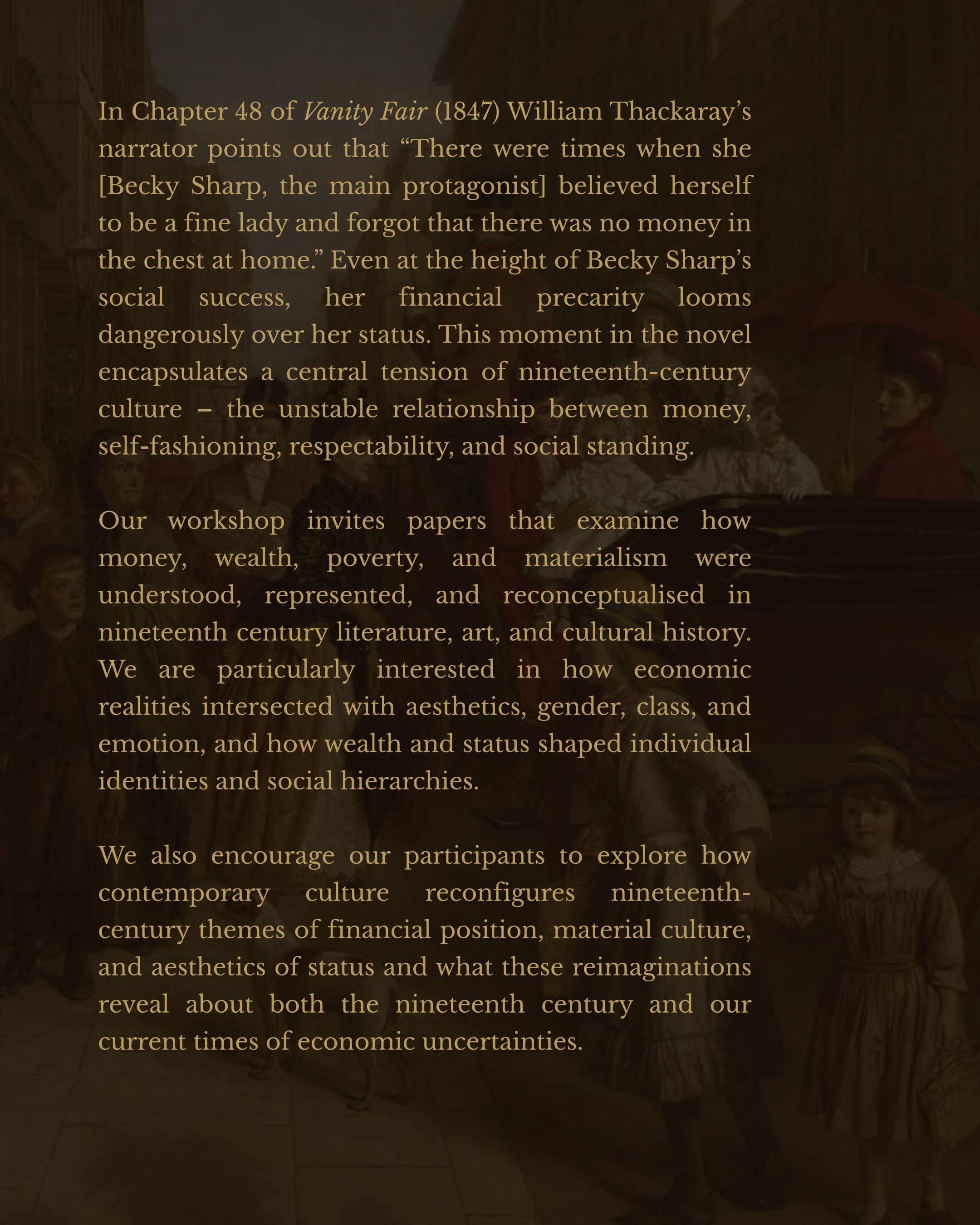




WARSAW LITERARY MEETINGS  
RISING STARS 4

The (Un)deserving:  
Visions of Wealth and Status  
in Nineteenth-Century  
Literature, History, and Culture

From Queen Anne to Queen Victoria  
research group, University of Warsaw



In Chapter 48 of *Vanity Fair* (1847) William Thackeray's narrator points out that "There were times when she [Becky Sharp, the main protagonist] believed herself to be a fine lady and forgot that there was no money in the chest at home." Even at the height of Becky Sharp's social success, her financial precarity looms dangerously over her status. This moment in the novel encapsulates a central tension of nineteenth-century culture – the unstable relationship between money, self-fashioning, respectability, and social standing.

Our workshop invites papers that examine how money, wealth, poverty, and materialism were understood, represented, and reconceptualised in nineteenth century literature, art, and cultural history. We are particularly interested in how economic realities intersected with aesthetics, gender, class, and emotion, and how wealth and status shaped individual identities and social hierarchies.

We also encourage our participants to explore how contemporary culture reconfigures nineteenth-century themes of financial position, material culture, and aesthetics of status and what these reimaginations reveal about both the nineteenth century and our current times of economic uncertainties.



THE TOPICS MAY INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

- representations and parodies of status, wealth, and social aspirations
- aesthetics of abundance, luxury, and excess
- material culture – objects and interiors
- fashion
- poetics of poverty, wealth, and precarity
- Victorian capitalism and its reimagining
- legal aspects of wealth, inheritance bankruptcy, and property
- wealth and gender
- writing about money and possessions
- imperial/postcolonial/decolonial approaches towards wealth and poverty
- ecocritical approaches to money, resources, and extraction
- representations of consumer markets
- social mobility and class boundaries
- economy and banking in nineteenth century culture
- representations of materialism
- economics and emotions (anxiety, desire, shame, ambition)

Submit a 250-word proposal by 20.09.2026  
using the form

Notification of acceptance: 30.09.2026

Deadline for paper submission: 15.11.2026

WHEN: 26.11.2026

WHERE: online, ZOOM [link will be sent before  
the workshop]

Presented papers can be later published in our  
FOLIO Journal

Keynote speaker to be announced soon!

Contact us: [qaqv@uw.edu.pl](mailto:qaqv@uw.edu.pl)