

THE LAST MAN TODAY

16 September 2026, 6.30pm - 8.30pm (UK time)

<https://uni-mainz-de.zoom.us/meeting/register/sUS7ykTmRLyX0v1H2ZjMiQ>

The year 2026 marks the bicentenary of *The Last Man* (1826), Mary Shelley's visionary novel of pandemic, extinction, and survival. To celebrate this landmark, and to launch the forthcoming *Oxford Complete Works of Mary Shelley* (15 vols., 2029–35), co-edited by Sharon Ruston and Daniel Cook, BARS will host a special digital event dedicated to new research, teaching practices, and cultural engagements with this extraordinary text. Long overshadowed by *Frankenstein* (1818), *The Last Man* has become newly resonant in an age defined by environmental crisis, global pandemic, and anxieties about the future of humanity. This event showcases the novel's enduring relevance while revealing fresh insights from the forthcoming scholarly edition.

Sharon Ruston and Daniel Cook will chair '*The Last Man Today*' with papers from Fuson Wang and Omar F. Miranda, both of whom draw on their editorial experience working with *The Last Man*. Following a short break, we will continue discussions with papers from Young-ok An and Simon Bainbridge addressing themes such as classroom strategies, challenges, and contemporary resonances.

Speakers: Young-ok An, Simon Bainbridge, Daniel Cook, Fuson Wang, Omar F Miranda, and Sharon Ruston