



The Ian Fletcher Memorial Lecture

'a mild erection of the head' **the meaning of the blush in** **nineteenth-century Britain**

Albert Brick Professor **Pamela K. Gilbert** University of Florida

Tuesday, **April 14, 2015, 5:30 p.m. University Club (UCLUB)**
Arizona State University, Tempe campus

One might assume that the frequent mention of blushing in British nineteenth-century literature is simply part of an emphasis on female modesty. In fact, both self-consciousness and the blush were embroiled in a history of contentious discussion in the period: on materialism, the human-animal divide, the embodied mind, the function of the nervous system, evolution, criminology, and even theology. Gilbert's talk will trace several aspects of this discussion through the period, with special attention to the anatomist Charles Bell and Charles Darwin.

Pamela K. Gilbert, PhD, is the Albert Brick Professor in the Department of English at the University of Florida. She has published widely in the areas of Victorian literature, cultural studies and the history of medicine. Her first book, *Disease, Desire and the Body in Victorian Women's Popular Novels*, was published by Cambridge University Press in 1997, followed by *Mapping the Victorian Social Body* (SUNY Press, 2004), *The Citizen's Body* (Ohio State University Press, 2007), and *Cholera and Nation* (SUNY Press, 2008). Gilbert's most recent articles include "Disease and the Body" in *The Victorian World*; "Women and Medicine in the Age of Empire" in *The Cultural History of Women in The Age of Empire (1800-1920)*; and "A Nation of Good Animals': Popular Beliefs and the Body," in *A Cultural History of the Body*.

The Ian Fletcher Memorial Lecture is proudly presented by the
Department of English at ASU and is part of its **2015 Edgework Series**.

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