Shannon Russell teaches English Literature at John Cabot University in Rome. She has published on the relationship between domesticity and imperialism in the works of Dickens and Elizabeth Gaskell, and has edited Elizabeth Hamilton's Translations of the Letter of a Hindoo Rajah for Broadview Press and Thomas Hardy's Far from the Madding Crowd for Penguin. She is currently conducting research for two related projects -- a book on the Victorians and Italy and a book on Failure and the Victorian novel.