

ESSE 18, SANTIAGO

THE SEMINAR OF THE GENDER STUDIES NETWORK

56.- Gender and Women's Studies in English across European Academia: Mobilisation, Backlash, and Geopolitical Tensions

Hosted by the Gender Studies Network, this seminar seeks to critically examine the current state of Gender and Women's Studies within European academia. In an increasingly polarised geopolitical climate—marked by anti-gender rhetoric, political backlash, and cultural contestation—the place of feminist and queer scholarship in the humanities calls for renewed and urgent attention. The seminar provides a space to reflect on the challenges and possibilities for engagement with gender at a time when academic freedom, critical thought, and inclusivity are under growing pressure.

We invite contributions that explore how questions of gender are being addressed, challenged, or reimagined across European universities, from curricula and research agendas to institutional policies and public discourse. How is English Studies engaging with the legacies and complexities of the #MeToo movement, intersectional feminism, and queer theory? What risks and opportunities arise for gender-focused research and teaching in a moment of institutional precariousness and cultural resistance? What methodologies and epistemologies are emerging to respond to shifting cultural and institutional landscapes? How are feminist and queer approaches being integrated, resisted, or transformed within academic structures?

Papers may approach these questions through literary, linguistic, historical, cultural, or interdisciplinary lenses. We are particularly interested in work that explores the dynamics and/or collaborations between activism and academia, addresses issues of precarity and resistance within institutions, and considers the evolving role of feminist pedagogy. Contributions that provide comparative perspectives or highlight localised experiences across different European contexts are especially encouraged. The seminar aims to foster dialogue across national and academic contexts, mapping both the constraints and the transformative potential of English and Gender Studies in the shifting terrain of contemporary European higher education.

[In the **online Meeting of the Gender Studies Network about two weeks later**, the discussions initiated in Santiago will be taken up with a view to shaping a possible agenda for action. This will be an open event for anyone interested in Anglicist Gender Studies in Europe, and the link will be available from the seminar convenors.]

CONVENORS:

- Işıl Baş de Oliveira (İstinye University, Turkey)
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- Florence Binard (Paris Cité University, France)

- florence.binard@u-paris.fr
- Renate Haas (University of Kiel, Germany)
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- Alejandra Moreno Álvarez (University of Oviedo, Spain)
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FURTHER SEMINARS WITH GSN CONVENORS

For details see https://www.esse2026.com/media/uploads/1759481142_PDF1.pdf

13.- From Crisis to Change: Language and Discourse in the Face of the Ecological Emergency

- Daniela Francesca Viridis (University of Cagliari, Italy)
dfviridis@unica.it
- Agata Rozumko (University of Białystok, Poland)
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22.- The Response of Anglophone Fiction to the New Age of Denial

- Jean-Michel Ganteau (University of Montpellier Paul-Valéry, France)
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- Susana Onega (University of Zaragoza, Spain)
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23.- The Reception of the Brontës in Europe

- María Jesús Lorenzo-Modia (University of A Coruña, Spain)
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- Marie Nedregotten Sørbo (Volda University College, Norway)
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24.- Reimagining History: Subjectivity and Marginalized Voices in Contemporary Historical Novels

- Alberto Lázaro (University of Alcalá, Spain)
alberto.lazaro@uah.es
- Vassiliki Markidou (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece)
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27.- Neo-Victorian Deviant Minds

- Maria Isabel Romero-Ruiz (University of Málaga, Spain)
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- Helen Davies (University of Wolverhampton, UK)
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30.- Mental Illness in Contemporary Anglophone Literature: New Narrative Perspectives

- Laura de la Parra Fernández (Complutense University of Madrid, Spain)

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- David Lombard (Research Foundation Flanders (FWO) and KU Leuven, Belgium)

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35.- British Women Writers and Travel Writing (1770-1910): Hybridity, Transcultural Contributions and Pilgrimage

- Antonella Braida (University of Lorraine, France)
- Laurence Roussillon-Constanty (University of Pau and the Adour Region, France)

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- Elisabetta Marino (University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy)

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49.- Advances and Limits of Auto/Biography: Old and New Perspectives

- Irena Grubica (University of Rijeka, Croatia)

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- Aoife Leahy (N.A.E.S., Ireland)

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52.- In Search of Hope in the Anglosphere: Narratives and Cultural Practices of Resilience and Transformation

- Chiara Battisti (University of Verona, Italy)
- Julia Kuznetski (Tallinn University, Estonia)
- Silvia Pellicer-Ortín (University of Zaragoza, Spain)

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53.- Food and Women in Anglophone Literature and Film from the 1950s to the Present

- Ludmilla Kostova (University of Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria)
- Oana Cogeanu-Haraga (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Romania)

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55.- Liminal Spaces and Dark Metaphors in Indian Gothic Fiction

- Elisabetta Marino (University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy)
- Daniela Rogobete (University of Craiova, Romania)

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58.- Infrastructures of Feeling: The European City in Contemporary Literature and Visual Media

- Ágnes Györke (Károli Gáspár University, Hungary)
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- Ana Cristina Mendes (University of Lisbon, Portugal)
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59.- Heroes on the Edge: Beyond the Limits of Nature and Culture

- Seda Arikan (Firat University, Elazig, Turkey)
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- Francesca Saggini (Tuscia University, Viterbo, Italy)
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