

CFP for Volume 30 of the *European Journal of English Studies* to be published in 2026

“Medical Objects in Illness Narratives”

Guest editors: Cristina Hurtado-Botella (University of Murcia), Joanne ‘Bob’ Whalley (University of the Arts London), Teresa Casal (University of Lisbon)

This special issue will explore the depiction of medical objects (speculum, needles, scan machines, surgical instruments, wheelchairs, ventilators, hospital beds, etc.) in pathographies, that is illness narratives from patients’ perspectives. We will consider both life writing and fictional pathographies in this investigation, and will seek to include essays on literature, art and film. The special issue’s main aim will be to investigate the ways in which encounters with medical objects disrupt the narrative, and how they become a useful focal point through which authors negotiate issues such as the self as a subject and/or object, embodied experience in unfamiliar medical environments, or the patient’s confrontation with new technologies.

We anticipate three major areas of interest within this overarching focus. The first of these is the encounter narrative, in which patients are confronted by, build relationships with, incorporate, or otherwise portray medical objects in their stories. The second will emphasize object theory, looking at the objectification of the patient’s body, as the process of illness and treatment moves it from the category of subject to being a part of the hospital apparatus. The third strand will focus on the disruption of narrative caused by medical objects, thinking through a narratological lens.

Possible topics include but are not limited to:

- The affective potential of encounters with medical objects
- Re-imagined/re-purposed medical objects (e.g. as artefacts)
- What is gained/lost in the encounter with medical objects
- The patient’s body as a medical object
- Re-imagining the relationship of the doctor to the medical object
- Medical objects and femininity/masculinity
- Medical objects in the European context vs in other environments
- The historical circumstances medical objects invoke and how they are negotiated/challenged (e.g. the medical object as a symbol of colonialism in (post)colonial spaces)
- The medical object as a symbol of knowledge/power
- Material encounters with medical objects focusing on physical contact
- Analysis of patients’ attachments or sense of dependency on medical objects
- Medical objects as symbols of transience
- How futuristic medical objects are imagined in science fiction or narratives focused on AI

Detailed proposals (up to 1,000 words) for full essays (6000-8000 words), as well as a short biography (max. 100 words) should be sent to the editors by **15 November 2025**: Cristina Hurtado-Botella (University of the Balearic Islands): cristina.hurtado@uib.cat; Joanne 'Bob' Whalley: b.whalley@arts.ac.uk; and Teresa Casal, mcasal@edu.ulisboa.pt

Selected authors should be able to submit a full-length draft by the end of May 2026, and a final version by mid-September. This issue will be part of **volume 30 (2026)**. All inquiries regarding this issue can be sent to the three guest editors.

EJES operates in a three-stage review process.

1. Contributors are invited to submit proposals (**15 November 2025**, extended deadline).

The guest editors make a selection of proposals in consultation with the editorial board and invite shortlisted authors to **submit a full-length version by 15 January 2026**.

2. The contributors' full-length drafts are reviewed by the special issue editors, who may ask for revisions, and retain the right to reject an article if it does not meet the standards of the journal. Contributors are expected to **submit a revised text by 15 April 2026**.

3. The revised articles are subject to a double-blind peer review (carried out on ScholarOne, the Taylor & Francis platform). On the basis of the peer review, editors formulate final advice (accept, minor revisions, major revisions, reject). In case revisions are called for, authors should be able to **provide their final, fully revised version by 30 September 2026**.

EJES employs Chicago Style ([T&F Chicago AD](#)) and British English conventions for spelling. For more information about EJES, see: <http://www.essenglish.org/ejes.html> and <https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/neje20>