

University of Coimbra

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Challenging Literary and Cultural Practices, Now: Contemporary Approaches to the Humanities

26-27 March 2026

Call for Papers:

We are pleased to announce the first edition of the Postgraduate Symposium “Challenging Literary and Cultural Practices, Now: Contemporary Approaches to the Humanities”, to be held on 26-27 March 2026 at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Coimbra (FLUC), Portugal. This symposium intends to bring together postgraduate students (MA and PhD levels) and early-career researchers from various academic backgrounds in the Humanities and Liberal Arts to discuss their research projects or other works in progress related to literatures and cultures in the different languages taught in the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures (English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese), but we keep English and Portuguese as the working languages. This symposium will also serve as a platform for networking and sharing experiences as early career academic researchers, in a supportive and collaborative environment.

The program will include both lectures and panels, alongside other less formal discussion formats and will take place in person, at FLUC.

We welcome proposals that explore a range of topics in the areas of Anglo-American, Portuguese, Italian, French, Spanish, German and French, as well as Classic literary and cultural studies (and their diverse linguistic communities). Proposals for papers can relate, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- Interdisciplinary approaches to literature and culture
- Global and diaspora literatures
- Postmodern and postcolonial perspectives on literature and culture
- Gender, queer and sexuality studies
- Literature and politics/social criticism
- Poetics of dissent
- Activism
- Contemporary approaches to literary genres (i.e. sci-fi, fantasy, children's literature)
- Age and disability studies
- Animal studies
- Intersections between science, literature, and culture (i.e. ecocriticism, medical humanities)
- Literary adaptations and intermedia narratives (i.e. film, TV, videogames)
- Digital Humanities (and the challenges of artificial intelligence)
- Translation studies

Please note that this list is not exhaustive, and we welcome innovative and interdisciplinary proposals on any topic related to literary and cultural studies.

Submission Guidelines:

- Submissions must be sent to challengingsymposium@gmail.com, and include an abstract (between 250-300 words) and a brief biographical note (max. 150 words),

including the participant's name, affiliation, academic status, and email address.

The **deadline for submissions is 31 December 2025**.

- Notification of acceptance will be sent by **15 January 2026**.
- Participants may present their projects/papers in a 20-min talk either in English or Portuguese.
- Accepted presenters will be required to register and pay a conference fee (30 €).
- A Certificate of Participation will be issued to each participant.

We look forward to receiving your proposals. Should you have any inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us at the same email address.