

IMAGINATION//TECHNOLOGY
TEXT ≠ AUTHOR
NARRATIVE / DATA / FICTION



Imagination and/or Technology



The Happening of Literature in the Twenty-First Century

Contact: kostovapan@uni-sofia.bg |
Hybrid Mode

29 May 2026 - Sofia University
3-4 October 2026 - Bukhara State University
Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Sofia,
Bulgaria
Department of English and American Studies

CALL FOR PAPERS

THE HAPPENING OF LITERATURE

“The Happening of Literature in the Twenty-First Century: Imagination and/or Technology”

A travelling conference

Hosted by the Department of English and American Studies, Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski

Conference Theme

The contemporary conditions under which literature “happens” in the twenty-first century require thorough interrogation. Such an endeavor foregrounds the different ways in which we can try to think and read a literary text in an epoch increasingly structured by digital mediation, LLMs (large language models), and algorithmic production. Instead of assuming that literature presents a stable textual object or, for that matter, a passive object which we merely consume, the forum approaches the literary text as an “event” with its own distinct game rules and interplay between imagination, technological infrastructures, and discursive regimes.

The name of “literature”, as a textual phenomenon, is at stake. What has changed in the 21st century is not merely the transformation of how literature is “produced”, but also the manner in which we, as readers, negotiate a number of discursive and epistemological boundaries. The lines between fiction and fact, authorship and automation, narrative and data, human and posthuman agency have blurred. The conference invites participants to share their expertise and views on how literary form itself has recently become a site where competing truth-claims, narrative logics, and symbolic economies are negotiated, destabilized, or reconstituted.

Topics of Interest

We welcome contributions that engage (but are not limited to) the following areas:

- The ontology of the literary text in the age of artificial intelligence
- Authorship, agency, and the “death” or mutation of the author under algorithmic conditions
 - Narrative, fictionality, and post-truth epistemologies
- The relation between imagination and technological mediation
 - Genre instability, hybridity, and post-digital literary forms
 - AI-generated literature and the ethics of textual production

- Intersections of literature, media theory, and digital humanities
- The transformation of narrative temporality and focalization in digital environments
 - Literature as epistemological inquiry in the posthuman condition
 - Metafiction, simulation, and the collapse of referential regimes
- The politics of representation in technologically mediated literary systems
- Peripheral, transnational, and cross-cultural literary dynamics in the 21st century

Keywords

21st-century literature; contemporary literature; imagination; technology; artificial intelligence; authorship; posthumanism; narrative; epistemology; discourse; fictionality; digital humanities; post-truth; representation

Proposal / Abstract

Please submit an abstract of **up to 500 words** outlining your research question, theoretical framework, and methodological approach. Abstracts should clearly articulate the conceptual stakes of the proposed paper and its relevance to the conference theme.

Biographical Information

Submissions must include a **short biographical note** (approx. 100-150 words), indicating institutional affiliation, research interests, and key publications (if applicable).

Important Dates

- **Deadline for submission of abstracts and short bio-note:** 7 May
 - **Notification of acceptance/rejection:** 11 May

Location and Mode

The conference will take place at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Sofia, Bulgaria: 29 May, 2026. Followed by a Round Table discussion at Bukhara State University, Bukhara: 3-4 October, 2026

Mode: Hybrid (in-person and online participation available)

Contact and Submission

Please send abstracts and biographical notes to: kostovapan@uni-sofia.bg

Manuscript Submission Format

All materials submitted for publication **MUST** meet the following requirements.

Manuscript Format: MS Word

Maximum length: articles – 15 standard pages

Margins (top, bottom, right and left): 2.54 centimeters

Alignment: Justified

Paragraph indentation: 1.25 centimetres

Font type and size: Times New Roman, 11 pt

Line spacing: Single

Manuscript structure and content

1. **Title of the paper:** Font size: 12 pt; All Caps; Bold.

2. **Author's (authors') name(s) and surname(s):** Font size: 11 pt; All Caps (for surname/s) Ital. **Institutional affiliation and e-mail address:** Font size: 11 pt; Italics.

3. **Title of the paper in English:** Alignment: Left; All Caps; Font size: 10 pt; Bold.

4. **Author's (authors') name(s) and surname(s) in English:** Alignment: Left; All Caps; Font size: 10 pt.

5. **Abstract in English** (no abstract is required for reviews): Alignment: Justified; Font size: 9 pt; Length: 200 - 250 words.

6. **Keywords in English:** 7 - 10 keywords (not more than 10); Font size: 10 pt.

The academic text must contain the following basic parts: introduction, body, and conclusion. Technical requirements: **Font type and size:** Times New Roman 11 pt; **Line spacing:** Single; **Alignment:** Justified.

1. **Footnotes:** **Font type and size:** Times New Roman 10 pt; **Line spacing:** Single; **Alignment:** Justified.

2. **In-text citations:**

- **Direct citations** must contain the author's (authors') surname, the year of publication, and page number in the language of the quoted source.

(Derrida, 1993, p. 31)

Indirect citations must be referenced as follows:

Panova (1980) states that criticism is of extreme importance in decision-making.

Citation of multiple publications by the same author in the same year: after the year of publication, with small letters (Cyrillic or Latin), no interval.

Example: According to Vasileva (2009b)...

References: **Font type and size:** Times New Roman 10 pt; **Alignment:** Justified.

References must appear in **alphabetical** order of the authors' **surnames** (beginning with the authors in Cyrillic). In case the same author is quoted more than once, the references must follow chronological order from the earliest to the latest publication. References should be put in a table like the one below.

Bibliographical units in script different from Latin must be **transliterated into Latin script** according to the rules of the specific language. The transliterated titles must be put in brackets after the title in the original language. The table below provides a model of the arrangement of the different types of bibliographical units (book, chapter, article, internet source), as well as their transliteration.

APA STYLE