

## **America at 250: Narratives of Resistance and Change**

**Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Nova University of Lisbon**

**November 18-19, 2026**

**Call for Papers**

As the United States celebrates the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Declaration of Independence, at a time of perceived challenges to its promises of freedom and equality, this symposium invites a multidisciplinary reflection on the narrative strategies used to represent past and contemporary interpretations of experienced scenarios of crises, resistance and change.

The Symposium is particularly interested in the connections between contemporary political, social and cultural fractures and previous experiences of confrontation of opposing visions of the collective national project, which also tested the fulfillment of the ideals stated in the Declaration of Independence.

We welcome papers that discuss narratives of past and present resistance and change from a plurality of approaches, including literary studies, cultural studies, film, media, music and visual culture studies, history, sociology and political science.

Possible topics include (but are not limited) to:

- The promises and fragilities of the Declaration of Independence.
- Indigenous sovereignty, settler colonialism, and the constraints of independence.
- Migration policies and historical dynamics of inclusion and exclusion.

- The plurality and intersectional depth of the Civil Rights Movement.
- Populism and authoritarian trends in American politics.
- Wars of choice and discourses of resistance.
- Affirming and opposing gender equality: past and contemporary discourses on feminist, queer, and trans resistance.
- Dissent and repression of political difference.
- Media freedom and information manipulation in contemporary digital landscapes.
- Imagined futures in American utopias and dystopias.
- Environmental threats and negationist agendas.

Please submit an abstract for a 20-minute paper (up to 300 words), and a short bio (up to 150 words) by **September 15, 2026**, to these two emails:

[tdbs@fcsch.unl.pt](mailto:tdbs@fcsch.unl.pt) and [imom@fcsch.unl.pt](mailto:imom@fcsch.unl.pt)

Notification of acceptance will be sent by **September 31<sup>st</sup>**.

**Registration fees**

**Standard Rate:** 125 euros

**Student Rate:** 50 euros

For more information, consult the conference site:  
<https://america250.fcsch.unl.pt/>