

TWENTY-FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
**NEW DIRECTIONS IN THE HUMANITIES**

# **BEYOND BORDERS**

*The Role of the Humanities  
in Reimagining Communities*

NOVA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES  
**LISBON, PORTUGAL**

JULY 1-3  
**2026**



Twenty-fourth International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities

<https://thehumanities.com/2026-conference>

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# Welcome Letter



**New Thinking**

**New Practices**

**New Societies**

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1984



Dear Conference Participants,

On behalf of Common Ground Research Networks, I welcome you to the Twenty-fourth International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities.

Founded in 2003, the New Directions in the Humanities Research Network is brought together by a common interest in established traditions in the humanities while at the same time developing innovative practices and setting a renewed agenda for their future. We seek to build an epistemic community where we can make linkages across disciplinary, geographic, and cultural boundaries.

This truly international conference brings together a diverse group of scholars, practitioners, and thought leaders from around the world. We are proud to provide a platform for exchanging ideas, and presenting research, addressing some of the pressing issues of our time.

Our conference theme, "Beyond Borders: The Role of the Humanities in Reimagining Communities," reflects our commitment to exploring new frontiers in research and practice. Over the next few days, In-Person or Online, you will have the opportunity to attend keynotes, panel discussions, and other session types led by our Emerging Scholars. We encourage you to take full advantage of these sessions to gain new insights, expand your professional network, and find inspiration for your own work.

We want to thank our keynote speakers Luís Duarte de Almeida, Paulo Ferreira de Castro, Teresa Araújo, Asun López-Varela, João Luís Lisboa, Zsuzsanna Varga, Local Chair Dr. Inês Thomas Almeida, presenters, and volunteers whose dedication and hard work have made this conference possible. We also thank our host partner NOVA School of Social Sciences and Humanities for their generous support.

We hope you find this conference to be an intellectually stimulating and rewarding experience. Your active participation is crucial to the success of this event, and we look forward to the lively discussions and valuable connections that will emerge over the next few days.

Warm regards,

Dr. Phillip Kalantzis Cope  
Chief Social Scientist  
Common Ground Research Networks



New Directions  
in the Humanities  
**Research Network**

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## Humanities-Science-Technology

The western roots of techno-science are the Greek concept of 'techne', and its Latin equivalent 'ars'. These roots tell of a narrowing of definition in modern times, and of a particular kind. It is a narrowing which dehumanizes techno-science, reducing it to programs of merely instrumental rationality. More broadly, by contrast, 'techne' and 'ars' meant art, craft and science, a kind of practical wisdom involving both doing (application of technique, using tools) and reasoning (understanding the principles underlying the material and natural world). These 'arts' are the stuff of human artifice, and the result is always an aesthetic (those other 'arts') and human value-drenched, as well as instrumental. Such is an artfulness that can only be human, in the fullness of our species being.

Indeed, our times may well demand such a redefinition. The new technologies and sciences of informatics, for instance, are infused to a remarkable degree with the human of the humanities: the human-centered designs which aim at 'usability'; the visual aesthetics of screen designs; the language games of search and tag; the naming protocols and ontologies of the semantic web; the information architectures of new media representations; the accessibility and manipulability of information mashups that make our human intelligence irreducibly collective; and the literariness of the code that drives all these things. So too, new biomedical technologies and sciences uniquely inveigle the human—when considering, for instance, the ethics of bioscience and biotechnology, or the sustainability of the human presence in natural environments.

## Humanities-Economy-Commerce

Returning to roots again, the Greek 'oikonomi' or the Latin 'oconomia' integrate the human in ways now all-too-easily lost to the more narrowly understood contemporary understandings of econo-production. In the modern world, 'economy' and 'production' have come to refer to action and reflection pertaining to the domains of paid work, the production of goods and services, and their distribution and market exchange. At their etymological source, however, we find a broader realm of action—the realm of material sustenance, of domesticity (the Greek 'oikos'/household and 'nemein'/manage), of work as the collaborative project of meeting human needs, and of thrift (economizing), not just as a way of watching bottom lines, but of conserving human effort and natural resources.

Today more than ever, questions of the human arise in the domain of the econo-production, and these profoundly imbricate human interests, needs and purposes. Drawing on the insights of the humanities and a renewed sense of the human, we might for instance be able to address today's burning questions of economic globalization and the possible meanings and consequences of the 'knowledge economy.'

## The Humanities Themselves

To the world outside of education and academe, the humanities are considered by their critics to be at best esoteric, at worst ephemeral. They seem to have less practical 'value' than the domains of techno-science and econo-production.

But what could be more practical, more directly relevant to our very existence than disciplines which interrogate culture, place, time, subjectivity, consciousness, meaning, representation and change? These disciplines name themselves anthropology, archaeology, art, communication, arts, cultural studies, geography, government, history, languages, linguistics, literature, media studies, philosophy, politics, religion and sociology. This is an ambitious program even before mention of the social sciences and the professions of community service which can with equal justification be regarded as closely related to the humanities, or even subjects of the humanities, more broadly understood.

Within this highly generalized scope, the Humanities Conference, Journal Collection, Book Imprint and News Weblog have two particular interests:

**Interdisciplinarity:** The humanities is a domain of learning, reflection and action which require dialogue between and across discipline-defining epistemologies, perspectives and content areas.

**Globalism and Diversity:** The humanities are to be considered a space where recognizes the dynamics of differences in human history, thought and experience, and negotiates the contemporary paradoxes of globalization. This serves as a corrective to earlier modes of humanities thinking, where one-sided attempts were made to refine a singular essence for an agenda of humanism.

The humanities come into their own in unsettling spaces like these. These kinds of places require difficult dialogues, and here the humanities shine. It is in discussions like these that we might be able to unburden ourselves of restrictively narrow knowledge systems of techno-science and econo-production.

The conversations at the conference and the publications in the journals, book series and online network range from the broad and speculative to the microcosmic and empirical. Whatever their scope or perspective, the over-riding concern is to redefine the human and mount a case for the humanities. At a time when the dominant rationalisms are running a course that seems at times draw humanity towards ends that are less than satisfactory, the disciplines of the humanities reopen fundamental questions of the human—for pragmatic as well as redemptory reasons.

## Critical Cultural Studies

Exploring ways to broaden the scope of the humanities and creating a wider critical canvas through cultural studies. Examining critical perspectives on academic disciplines; how traditional disciplines remain constant or must respond to changes in humans' relationships to each other, to society, technology, and the environment. Considering ways of knowing, shifts in conceptual frameworks and research methodologies. Proposing new directions for humanities studies.

- Interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary humanities
- The relationship of humanities to other knowledge domains (technology, science, economics)
- Making knowledge: research in the humanities
- Subjectivity and objectivity, truth and relativity
- Philosophy, consciousness and the meanings of meaning
- Geographical and archeological perspectives on human place and movement
- The study of humans and humanity, past and present
- The future of humanities

## Communication and Linguistics Studies

Examining the forms and effects of human representation and communication.

- Human representations and expression through art, media, technology, design
- Communications in human interactions
- Linguistic and cultural diversity: its nature and meanings
- Language dynamics: global English, multilingualism, language death, language revival
- New media, new messages, new meanings in the "information society"

## Literary Humanities

Analyses of literatures and literary practices, to stabilize bodies of work in traditions and genres, or to unsettle received expressive forms and cultural contents. Examining changes over time in conceptual frameworks, ways of knowing, and ways of seeing.

- Critique in literary analysis; the role of the critic; perspectives on criticism
- Conceptual frameworks (modern, postmodern, neo-liberal, colonialism, post-colonialism, etc)
- Literatures: national, global and diasporic
- Literary forms (fiction, the novel, poetry, theater, non-fiction) and genres
- Literary forms of media: photography, film, video, internet
- Identity and difference in literature

## Civic, Political, and Community Studies

Social studies in the humanities, where the humanities meet the 'social sciences'.

Affinities and affiliations and their impacts on relationships within and across cultures.

Issues of policy, governance, and controls over populations within and across nations. The human condition in an era of globalization.

- Human formations: families, institutions, organizations, states and societies
- Human expressions: values, attitudes, dispositions, sensibilities
- Human differences: gender, sexuality, families, race, ethnicity, class, (dis)ability
- Affinities: citizenship and other forms of belonging
- Globalization and its discontents
- Diversity: dialogue as a local and global imperative
- The dynamics of identity in culture
- Immigration, refugees, minorities and diaspora
- Internationalism, globalism, multiculturalism, cosmopolitanism
- Human rights
- Human violence and peace
- Governance and politics in society

## Humanities Education

*On theories and practices of teaching and learning in the disciplines of the humanities and humanistic social sciences. General and subject-specific pedagogy.*

- *General and subject-specific pedagogy*
- *Language acquisition and language instruction*
- *Learning new languages (including second language instruction, multilingual)*
- *Professional development and teacher education*
- *Influence of learner characteristics on the educational process*
- *Education for a new humanity*

## Dr. Asun López-Varela

Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Madrid, Spain



**Asunción López-Varela Azcárate** is Assoc. Prof. in the Department of English Studies at Universidad Complutense Madrid, Spain. In 2007 she created the research program Studies on Intermediality and Intercultural Mediation SIIM which she still coordinates. The program has received funding from national and international sources. López-Varela has been awarded various grants, including a Fulbright Visiting Scholarship at Harvard University and a Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowship. A proactive member of the profession, López-Varela has been Vice-Chair at Marie Skłodowska-Curie European Postdoctoral Fellowships, Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC) and is a member of Marie Curie Alumni Association MCAA. She was also President of the European Society of Comparative Literature and is Research Chair of the New Directions in the Humanities Network since its creation. She has been founding editor of the journals of the network and continues to be chief editor of The International Journal of Literary Humanities (H-Index: 3- SCImago Journal Rank Q2; SJR 0.11) as well as its Spanish counterpart Revista Internacional de Humanidades. López-Varela coordinates the annual Seminar Series on Cross-cultural dialogue and Sustainability of the Eurasia Foundation. She has supervised 9 PhD dissertations. Her activities as editor and member of scientific committees in various academic journals are extensive and can be seen in her personal webpage at SIIM

Research lines: Critical Theory and Comparative Literature, Cultural Studies, Cognitive and Intermedial Semiotics, Mythcriticism, Green Humanities

The **New Directions in the Humanities Research Network** is grateful for the foundational contributions, ongoing support, and continued service of our Advisory Board.

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- Discount to the annual conference (or any other Common Ground Research Network Conference)
- Complimentary Online Only Audience Pass for Annual Conference (on request)
- Access to Digital Media for Past Conferences

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- Members receive 150,000 CGScholar Credits that can be applied in the Rights Agreement Phase to publish one journal article or upgrade to an Open Access Option
- Dedicated Managing Editor to review book manuscript applications
- Ability to serve as a peer reviewer and to become recognized on the Editorial Board

## Access to Content

- A one-year personal electronic subscription journal and book content published by the Research Network
- \$25 annual CGScholar Credit that can be used in the bookstore

## Virtual Programming: stay connected throughout the year

- Access to all of the Imagining Futures speaker series, and Meet the Author series content
- Learning Series: we offer educational, insightful, and relevant content on industry trends via online training sessions on book and journal publishing; navigating early career challenges; mentorship programs, and much more
- Partner Series: featured events by our network partners or local hosts

## Building Community: all electronic books, and discounts to print copies

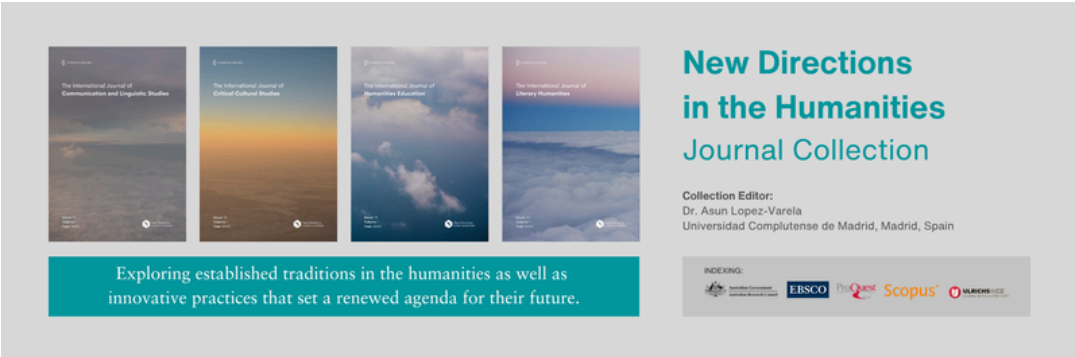
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- Quarterly Research Network email newsletter containing news and information about upcoming Events, new publications, and trending topics from the Research Network.

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The New Directions  
in the Humanities  
**Journal Collection**



**New Directions  
in the Humanities  
Journal Collection**

Collection Editor:  
Dr. Asun Lopez-Varela  
Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Madrid, Spain

Exploring established traditions in the humanities as well as innovative practices that set a renewed agenda for their future.

INDEXING:  





## The International Journal of Communication and Linguistic Studies



The International Journal of Communication and Linguistic Studies critically examines the exchange of human meaning, from the processes of representation or symbolic sense-making grounded in human cognition, outward manifestations of communication, and the dynamics of interpretation.

**Collection Founded:** 2003

**Serial Founded:** 2013 (Volume 10)

**ISSN:** 2327-7882 (Print) **ISSN:** 2327-8617 (Online)

**LCCN Permalink:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/2013201474>

**DOI:** <http://doi.org/10.18848/2327-7882/CGP>

**Publication Frequency:** Biannually

**Indexing:**

- Psychology (Cabell's)
- Communication Source (EBSCO)
- Linguistics Database (ProQuest)
- Scopus (Elsevier)
- Ulrich's Periodicals Directory

## The International Journal of Critical Cultural Studies



The International Journal of Critical Cultural Studies critically examines the social, political and ideological conditions of cultural production and offers a wide canvas for the examination of media, identities, politics, and cultural expression.

**Collection Founded:** 2003

**Serial Founded:** 2013 (Volume 10)

**ISSN:** 2327-0055 (Print) **ISSN:** 2327-2376 (Online)

**LCCN Permalink:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/2013201435>

**DOI:** <http://doi.org/10.18848/2327-0055/CGP>

**Publication Frequency:** Biannually

**Indexing:**

- Scopus (Elsevier)
- Social Science Journals (ProQuest)
- Ulrich's Periodicals Directory

## The International Journal of Communication and Linguistic Studies



The International Journal of Humanities Education explores teaching and learning in and through the humanities encompassing a broad domain of educational practice, including literature, language, social studies, and the arts.

**Collection Founded:** 2003

**Serial Founded:** 2013 (Volume 10)

**ISSN:** 2327-0063 (Print) **ISSN:** 2327-2457 (Online)

**LCCN Permalink:** <http://lccn.loc.gov/2013201436>

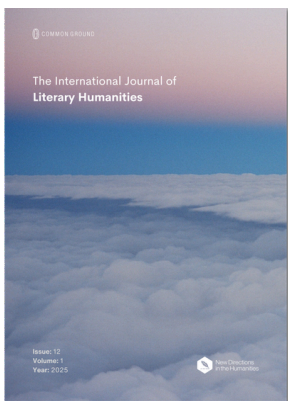
**DOI:** <http://doi.org/10.18848/2327-0063/CGP>

**Publication Frequency:** Biannually

**Indexing:**

- Educational Curriculum & Methods (Cabell's)
- Educational Psychology & Administration (Cabell's)
- Education Journals (ProQuest)
- Scopus (Elsevier)
- Ulrich's Periodicals Directory

## The International Journal of Literary Humanities



The International Journal of Literary Humanities analyzes and interprets literatures and literacy practices, seeking to unsettle received expressive forms and conventional interpretations.

**Collection Founded:** 2003

**Serial Founded:** 2013 (Volume 10)

**ISSN:** 2327-7912 (Print) **ISSN:** 2327-8676 (Online)

**LCCN Permalink:** <http://lccn.loc.gov/2013201475>

**DOI:** <http://doi.org/10.18848/2327-7912/CGP>

**Publication Frequency:** Biannually

**Indexing:**

- Literature (ProQuest)
- Fuente Académica Plus (EBSCO)
- Scopus (Elsevier)
- Ulrich's Periodicals Directory

## Dr. Asun López-Varela

Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Madrid, Spain



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Founded in 2003, the **International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities** is brought together by a common interest in established traditions while at the same time developing innovative practices and setting a renewed agenda for their future.

## Past Events

- 2003 - University of the Aegean, Rhodes, Greece
- 2004 - Monash University Centre in Prato, Italy
- 2005 - Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK
- 2006 - University of Carthage in Tunis, Tunisia
- 2007 - American University of Paris, France
- 2008 - Fatih University, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2009 - Friendship Palace, Beijing, China
- 2010 - University of California, Los Angeles, USA
- 2011 - Universidad de Granada, Granada, Spain
- 2012 - The Centre Mont-Royal, Montréal, Canada
- 2013 - Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary
- 2014 - Universidad CEU San Pablo, Madrid, Spain
- 2015 - University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada
- 2016 - University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, USA
- 2017 - Imperial College London, London, UK
- 2018 - University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA
- 2019 - University of Granada, Granada, Spain
- 2020 - Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Venice, Italy (Virtual)
- 2021 - Universidad Complutense Madrid, Spain
- 2022 - University of the Aegean, Rhodes, Greece
- 2023 - Sorbonne Université, Paris, France
- 2024 - Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy
- 2025 - University of Hawaii, Hilo, USA

The **New Directions in the Humanities Research Network** is thankful for the contributions and support of the follow organizations.



## Dra. Inês Thomas Almeida

Researcher, INET-md, NOVA School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Lisbon, Portugal



Inês Thomas Almeida holds a PhD in Historical Musicology from NOVA University of Lisbon (NOVA) and is a Visiting Assistant Professor at the same institution. In 2025, she was FLAD/Saab Visiting Professor at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, USA, and in 2026 she will be Visiting Professor at the Institute of Musicology of the University of Münster, Germany.

She is the creator and lecturer of the course Women Composers: A History of Composition in the Feminine from the Middle Ages to the 21st Century at the NOVA School of Social Sciences and Humanities. She is also a Visiting Professor in the PhD in Gender Studies (NOVA FCSH / ISCSP-UL / NOVA School of Law).

She is a researcher at the Institute of Ethnomusicology – Centre for Studies in Music and Dance (INET-md) at NOVA FCSH and Co-Coordinator of the Thematic Research Line in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Her research project FEMUS 18 – Spaces and Profiles of Women in Music in 18th-Century Portugal is funded by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) for 2024–2030. She is also Science Communication Coordinator of the COST Action Print Culture and Public Spheres in Central Europe (1500–1800), funded by the European Union for 2024–2028 and involving 203 researchers from 36 countries.

Her research areas in historical musicology focus on 18th-century music, travel accounts, women in music, early ballad traditions, Lusophone and postcolonial studies, and transnational cultural networks.

She was Associate Curator of the commemorative exhibition dedicated to Madalena de Azeredo Perdigão at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and co-author, with Rui Vieira Nery, of the book *Let’s Take Risks: Selected Texts by Madalena de Azeredo Perdigão (Tinta-da-China, 2023)*.

She has published widely in specialized journals and is a regular speaker at national and international conferences. She has been invited to give lectures at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and at Harvard, Yale, Brown, Madrid, and Vienna universities.

She was included by CIG – Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality in the Women for Equality list, which recognizes women in science, politics, culture, and activism.

## Luís Duarte de Almeida

Professor of Jurisprudence, Nova School of Law, NOVA University of Lisbon, Portugal;  
Honorary Professional Fellow, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom



### "Law is a Foreign Language (that You'll Likely Never Learn)"

Luís Duarte de Almeida is Professor of Jurisprudence (Full Professor) at NOVA University in Lisbon; Researcher at CEDIS — R&D Centre on Law and Society; and Honorary Professorial Fellow at the University of Edinburgh. He was educated at the University of Lisbon (BA, 1999; Masters, 2003) and Oxford University (DPhil, 2011). He specialises in legal theory and philosophy and legal argumentation and writes and teaches extensively in these fields. Before joining NOVA University in 2022, he was (since 2017) Professor of Jurisprudence (Full Professor), Reader (2015-2017), and Chancellor's Fellow (2012-2015) at the University of Edinburgh. Before that, he was Junior Research Fellow at Churchill College, Cambridge, and Research Fellow at the University of Girona. He was a Fernand Braudel Senior Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy (2016/17); he is (since 2017) Visiting Professor at KU Leuven University, Belgium; and was appointed as a Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, Germany, for 2025/26.

**July 1, 2:30 PM (Portugal Time)**

## Paulo Ferreira de Castro

Associate Professor of Musicology, CESEM, NOVA University of Lisbon, Portugal



### "On Belonging: What I Learned from Music"

Paulo Ferreira de Castro studied musicology in Strasbourg and London, obtaining his PhD from Royal Holloway, University of London. He is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Musicology at NOVA FCSH in Lisbon. Between 1992 and 2000, he served as Director at the Teatro Nacional de São Carlos (Lisbon Opera House). He was the inaugural President of the Portuguese Society for Music Research and President of CESEM (Centre for Music Studies at NOVA FCSH). Since 2022, he has been a member of the Directorium of the International Musicological Society. He has published music criticism and studies on 18th- to 21st-century music in several languages and has delivered numerous lectures and scholarly papers in Portugal, other European countries, and the USA, Canada, and Brazil. Among his recent publications is the co-edited volume *Intertextuality in Music: Dialogic Composition* (Routledge).

**July 2, 9:00 AM (Portugal Time)**

## Zsuzsanna Varga

Senior Lecturer, Central and East European Studies, Glasgow University



### *"Travel Writing and Social Change: Creating a Community of Readers"*

Zsuzsanna Varga studied English, Hungarian and Portuguese studies at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest and took her PhD in English literature at the University of Edinburgh. Since 2008, she has taught Central European history and cultural studies at the University of Glasgow. She also works as the curator of the Hungarian collection at the Taylorian Library, Oxford. Her research interests include Central European publishing history and travel writing studies. Her recent work has included *Worlds of Hungarian Writing* (2017), *Popular Cinemas in East Central Europe* (2017) and *Reflections in the Library: Selected Literary Essays of Antal Szerb* (2017). She has also published and lectured on the work of the Nobel Prize-winning author László Krasznahorkai (2025). In 2026, she acted as Visiting Professor at Sapienza University, Rome.

**July 3, 9:00 AM (Portugal Time)**

## Teresa Araújo

Full Professor at NOVA University Lisbon and scientific coordinator of the Institute for the Study of Literature and Tradition (IELT)



Teresa Araújo is Professor at the School of Social Sciences and Humanities of the NOVA University of Lisbon, where she received her PhD in Romance Literatures (2000). She has also taught several courses at Lumière-Lyon 2, Carlos III, Agostinho Neto, Salamanca and Oviedo universities, among others. She dedicates her teaching and research activity to Portuguese literature of the 17th and 18th centuries, but focuses mostly on the study of the ancient and modern romanceiro in Portugal from a pan-Hispanic perspective, as well as of theatre and fables. Among her most recent publications, there are "Silvestre ou jogo da (in)subordinação entre cinema & etnografia" (BLO, 2022) and the introductory study to the *Floresta de varios romances sacados de las historias antiguas de los hechos famosos de los doze Pares de Francia. En Valencia, 1642* (México, 2019). From her experience in scientific coordination, it currently stands out the coordination of the Research Project supported by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and the Foundation for Science and Technology *Literary revisions: the creative application of ancient ballads (15th-18th centuries)*. [Scientific outputs]

**July 3, 2:15 PM (Portugal Time)**

## Asun López-Varela

Associate Professor of Philology, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain (in Spanish)



### **La simbiosfera: comunidades sostenibles y el horizonte ético de los videojuegos (in Spanish)**

Asunción López-Varela Azcárate is an Associate Professor in the Department of English Studies at the Complutense University of Madrid and a member of the Editorial Board of the Humanities and Social Sciences journal at Springer Nature. In 2007 she created the research program Studies on Intermediality and Intercultural Mediation SIIM which she still coordinates. The program has received funding from national and international sources. López-Varela has been awarded various grants, including a Fulbright Visiting Scholarship at Harvard University and a Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowship. A proactive member of the profession, López-Varela has been Vice-Chair at Marie Skłodowska-Curie European Postdoctoral Fellowships, Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC) and is a member of Marie Curie Alumni Association MCAA. She was also President of the European Society of Comparative Literature and is Research Chair of the New Directions in the Humanities Network since its creation. She has been founding editor of the journals of the network and continues to be chief editor of The International Journal of Literary Humanities (H-Index: 3- SCImago Journal Rank Q2; SJR 0.11) as well as its Spanish counterpart Revista Internacional de Humanidades.

**July 2, 2:00 PM (Portugal Time)**

## João Luís Lisboa

Full Professor, Department of History, NOVA University Lisbon, Portugal



### **"Publishing as a fluid practice"**

João Luís Lisboa is Full Professor in the Department of History at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities of NOVA University Lisbon (NOVA FCSH). He received his PhD in History and Civilization from the European University Institute (Florence) in 1998 with the dissertation *Mots (dits) écrits. Formes et valeurs de la diffusion des idées au XVIIIe siècle au Portugal*.

His research focuses on the history of books and reading, particularly their material and formal dimensions, as well as on European networks of information circulation and their agents, with a special emphasis on early modern Europe. He has participated in several national and international research projects related to these topics.

He is currently a researcher and Head of the Board of the CHAM – Centre for the Humanities, a research centre of NOVA FCSH and the University of the Azores.

**July 1, 9:30 AM (Portugal Time)**

Each year, a small number of **Emerging Scholar Awards** are given to outstanding early-career scholars or graduate students. Here are our 2026 Emerging Scholar Award Winners.

**Ana Brígida Paiva**  
CETAPS/NOVA-FCSH,  
Portugal



**Shichang Chen**  
London School of Economics  
and Political Science,  
London



**Jaclyn Carter**  
University of Calgary,  
Canada



**Noemi Alfieri**  
NOVA-FCSH,  
Portugal



**Lina Yehia**  
The American University in  
Cairo, Egypt



**Luís M. Santos**  
NOVA FCSH,  
Portugal



**Deborah Ariyo**  
The University of Alabama,  
United States



**Ariadna García**  
University of Almería,  
Spain



**Marta Córias**  
University of Lisbon,  
Portugal



**Nikoloz Esitashvili**  
Georgian University of  
Public Affairs (GIPA),  
Georgia



**Maria Joseph**  
English and Foreign  
Languages University,  
India



**Edna Holywell**  
University of London,  
United Kingdom



**Georgiana Bodeanu**  
Babeş-Bolyai University  
of Cluj Napoca,  
Romania



**Neethu Mary Tomy**  
Mahatma Gandhi  
University, Kottayam,  
Kerala, India



**Lily Wei**  
Chung Yuan Christian  
University, Taiwan



**Małgorzata Fabrycy**  
Sorbonne University,  
France



**Alexánder Ramírez**  
Universidad del Valle,  
Colombia



**Aylin Dilek Walder**  
TU Braunschweig,  
Germany



## Pre-Conference Tour: Lisbon Hilltop Castle & Old Town Walking Tour

Our journey begins at the top of the hill, where we will step inside the historic castle and soak in breathtaking panoramic views over the inner bay of the Tagus. From there, we will descend through the charming old town, passing by the magnificent Medieval Cathedral, before ending in Lisbon's grand riverside square, the iconic 'Terreiro do Paço'.

**Date:** Tuesday, June 30

**Time:** 5:00 PM

**Meeting point:** Castelo de São Jorge ([Maps](#))

**Cost:** \$40USD

What's included:

- Castle ticket/entrance
- Transmission system
- Professional guide delivering the tour in English and Spanish

This tour is developed and guided by João Paulo Oliveira e Costa, a distinguished historian and full professor at NOVA FCSH in Lisbon. He holds the UNESCO Chair in Maritime Cultural Heritage and is a leading specialist in the History of Portuguese Expansion, Medieval and Early Modern History. João Paulo has published numerous academic works on Portuguese history and has been invited to lecture at universities across the world. His expertise brings depth and context to every step of this experience, making it both educational and unforgettable.

## Conference Dinner

Located in a majestic XVII-century palace, Casa do Alentejo is much more than a restaurant: it is a journey through the history and tradition of the Alentejo. Formerly an aristocratic palace and later the elegant Majestic Club, this building combines architectural beauty with the warmth of Alentejo culture.

Today, it is a living space that celebrates the roots and spirit of a unique region, hosting cultural events, exhibitions, recitals, and, of course, authentic cuisine that pays tribute to the flavors of southern Portugal.

Menu

Dinner will begin with a traditional Portuguese "couvert" (bread, olives, regional cheese, and cold cuts). From the selected menu, guests will enjoy:

Starter: Carrot and coriander soup

Main Course, Meat/Fish option:

- Salmon fillets with mustard sauce
- Chicken leg with Arabian rice

Main Course, Vegetarian option:

- Tofu and vegetable curry
- "À Brás"-style vegetables

Please select your preferred option (meat/fish or vegetarian) when making your reservation.

The meal will conclude with dessert. Wine and non-alcoholic beverages are included.

### Dinner Details

**Date:** Thursday, July 2, 2026

**Time:** 20:00 (8:00 PM)

**Location:** R. das Portas de Santo Antão 58, 1150-268

**Price:** \$80 USD

## Online Welcome and Training Session

Join other delegates for a pre-conference welcome reception and training session. This special event will walk you through the CGScholar Event Mircosite so you have a rich online experience by learning how to comment and participate online. It will also teach delegates how to update their profile and Presenter Pages in order to add digital media: video, sound, other files. This will be held "live" via Zoom.

**1 JULY 2026 - 16:00 PM (Portugal Time Zone) / 10:00AM (Central Standard Time USA)**

## Online Talking Circle

Talking Circles are a distinctive feature of our in-person conference, and this year we are also taking them online. Talking Circles offer an opportunity to meet other delegates face-to-face, and engage in extended discussion about the issues and concerns they feel are of utmost importance to that segment of the Research Network. Participation is open, encouraged, and supported.

**3 July 2026 - 16:00 PM (Portugal Time Zone) / 10:00AM (Central Standard Time USA)**

## Conference Closing Reception

International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities will be hosting a Closing Reception at the Colégio Almada Negreiros, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, directly following the Conference Closing and Award Ceremony. Join other delegates and plenary speakers to enjoy drinks and light hors d'oeuvres.

**Date:** 3 July 2026

**Time:** Directly following the last session of the day

**Cost:** Free to all conference delegates

**Location:** Colégio Almada Negreiros, Universidade Nova de Lisboa



Common  
Ground  
Research  
Networks

# COMMON GROUND

Founded in 1984, Common Ground is committed to building new kinds of knowledge communities, innovative in their media, and forward-thinking in their messages. Heritage knowledge systems are characterized by vertical separations--of discipline, professional association, institution, and country. Common Ground Research Networks takes some of the pivotal challenges of our time and curates research networks that cut horizontally across legacy knowledge structures. Sustainability, diversity, learning, the future of humanities, the nature of interdisciplinarity, the place of the arts in society, technology's connections with knowledge--these are deeply important questions of our time that require interdisciplinary thinking, global conversations, and cross-institutional intellectual collaborations.

Common Ground Research Networks are meeting places for people, ideas, and dialogue. However, the strength of ideas does not come from finding common denominators. Rather, the power and resilience of these ideas is that they are presented and tested in a shared space where differences can meet and safely connect--differences of perspective, experience, knowledge base, methodology, geographical or cultural origins, and institutional affiliation. These are the kinds of vigorous and sympathetic academic milieus in which the most productive deliberations about the future can be held. We strive to create places of intellectual interaction and imagination that our future deserves.

#### MEMBERS OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS



Common Ground Research Networks is not-for-profit corporation registered in the State of Illinois, USA, organized and operated pursuant to the General Not For Profit Corporation Act of 1986, 805 ILCS 105/101.01, et seq., (the "Act") or the corresponding section of any future Act.

[www.cgnetworks.org](http://www.cgnetworks.org)



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The Common Ground Media Lab is the research and technology arm of Common Ground Research Networks. Common Ground Research Networks has been researching knowledge ecologies and building scholarly communication technologies since 1984.

Since 2009, we have had the fortune of being based in the University of Illinois Research Park while building our latest platform – CGScholar. This is a suite of apps based on the theoretical work of world-renowned scholars from the College of Education and Department of Computer Science at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. CGScholar has been built with the support of funding from the US Department of Education, Illinois Ventures, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The CGScholar platform is being used today by knowledge workers as diverse as: faculty in universities to deliver e-learning experiences; innovative schools wishing to challenge the ways learning and assessment have traditionally worked; and government and non-government organizations connecting local knowledge and experience to wider policy objectives and measurable outcomes. Each of these use cases illustrates the differing of knowledge that CGScholar serves while also opening spaces for new and emerging voices in the world of scholarly communication.

We aim to synthesize these use cases to build a platform that can become a trusted marketplace for knowledge work, one that rigorously democratizes the process of knowledge-making, rewards participants, and offers a secure basis for the sustainable creation and distribution of digital knowledge artifacts.

Our premise has been that media platforms—pre-digital and now also digital—have often not been designed to structure and facilitate a rigorous, democratic, and a sustainable knowledge economy. The Common Ground Media Lab seeks to leverage our own platform – CGScholar – to explore alternatives based on extended dialogue, reflexive feedback, and formal knowledge ontologies. We are developing AI-informed measures of knowledge artifacts, knowledge actors, and digital knowledge communities. We aim to build a trusted marketplace for knowledge work, that rewards participants and sustains knowledge production.

With 27,000 published works and 200,000 users, we have come a long way since our first web app twenty years ago. But we still only see this as the beginning.

As a not-for-profit, we are fundamentally guided by mission: to support the building of better societies and informed citizenries through rigorous and inclusive social knowledge practices, offering in-person and online scholarly communication spaces

## Supporters & Partners

As they say, "it takes a village." We are thankful for the generous support of:



And to our Research Network members!

[www.cgnetworks.org/medialab](http://www.cgnetworks.org/medialab)



Climate change is one of the most pressing problems facing our world today. It is in the interests of everyone that we engage in systemic change that averts climate catastrophe. At Common Ground Research Networks, we are committed to playing our part as an agent of transformation, promoting awareness, and making every attempt to lead by example. Our Climate Change: Impacts and Responses Research Network has been a forum for sharing critical findings and engaging scientific, theoretical, and practical issues that are raised by the realities of climate change. We've been a part of global policy debates as official observers at COP26 in Glasgow. And we are signatories of the United Nations Sustainability Publishers Compact and the United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative.

## Measuring

In 2022 we start the process of tracking and measuring emissions for all aspects of what we do. The aim is to build a comprehensive picture of our baselines to identify areas where emissions can be reduced and construct a long-term plan of action based on the GHG Emissions Calculation Tool and standard established by the United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative.

## Reducing

At the same time, we are not waiting to act. Here are some of the "low hanging fruit" initiatives we are moving on immediately: all conference programs from print to electronic-only; removing single-use cups and offering reusable bottles at all our conferences; working closely with all vendors, suppliers, and distributors on how we can work together to reduce waste; offering robust online options as a pathway to minimize travel. And this is only a small sample of what we'll be doing in the short term.

## Contributing

As we work towards establishing and setting net-zero targets by 2050, as enshrined in the Paris Agreement and United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative, and to make further inroads in mitigating our impacts today, we are participating in the United Nations Carbon Offset program. As we see climate change as having broad social, economic, and political consequences, we are investing in the following projects.

- Fiji Nadarivatu Hydropower Project
- DelAgua Public Health Program in Eastern Africa
- Jangi Wind Farm in Gujarat

## Long Term Goals

We're committing to long-term science-based net-zero targets for our operations – and we believe we can do this much sooner than 2050. We'll be reporting annually via The Climate Neutral Now reporting mechanism to transparently communicate how we are meeting our commitments to climate action.