

Call for Papers

« New Francophone and Anglophone cross-perspectives on travel writing »

**Borders and Crossings Conference,
16th-18th September 2026, Aix-Marseille University
Centre de Recherches sur la Littérature des Voyages (CRLV)
Société d'Étude de la Littérature de Voyages du Monde Anglophone (SELVA)**

Conference language: English and French

Deadline for abstracts: February, 15th, 2026

Notification of acceptance: March, 13th, 2026

We invite scholars with an interest in the study of travel writing to the 2026 edition of the Borders and Crossings Conference series. The conference will be held in Marseille, - a town that was shaped by travels - and in Aix-en-Provence, France.

Proposals for 20-minute papers and for panels of 3 speakers are sought from scholars working in all areas of travel studies, including literary studies, history, geography, blue studies, green studies, art history, translation studies, anthropology, history and media studies. The event is also open to the creative arts, and we are actively seeking expressions of interests from artists, working in any medium, who would like to link their activity to the conference.

Paper proposals from any time period or geographic context are warmly welcome as are proposals from established scholars, early career researchers, graduate students and independent scholars.

There is no restrictions on French or English texts. The conference language will be English or French, but proposals may relate to texts in foreign languages.

The organizers can consider a limited number of additional proposals for this conference. In-person attendance is preferred for proposals, but the conference will be widely broadcast and a hybrid format may be considered.

The evolution of travel literature requires a historiographical approach that supports the analysis of renewed epistemologies in the field of travel writing studies. This international conference of Borders and Crossings will therefore provide an opportunity to reflect on the epistemology of travel literature as a genre, as well as on the epistemology of travel literature studies. It aims to explore recent travel writings and revisit classic travelogues in light of diverse modes of reading.

Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Borders and crossings: journeys, exile, refuge, migration, borders, movement
- Nature in travel writing
- Women's travel narratives
- Shifting perspectives
- Travellers and Travellees
- Travel and race
- The senses of travel: hearing, sight, touch, smell, taste
- Indigenous voices in travel writing

- Emotions in motion
- Travel knowledge and ignorance: knowing the unknown
- The « belles infidèles » : translating transcripts
- Travel and identities
- Wandering vs. organized travel
- Travel and health
- Travel and disability (critical disability studies)
- Return trips to countries of origin (travelling home)
- Reception: the audience for travel writing
- The traveller's library
- The world of travel writing: travelers, translators, illustrators, publishers, critics
- Travel and creativity
- Travel and digital technology
- Travel and AI
- Travel and foreign language learning
- Theories of travel and travel writing
- The art of travelling
- Travel and children's literature
- Travel and teaching: travel in novels designed for foreign language learning
- Travel and graphic arts
- Travel and the decolonial turn
- Blue and green studies: travel and the environment

The papers will be published. The place of publication will be decided by a vote of the scientific committee at the end of the conference, after hearing the presentations.

Please send proposals of approximately 250 words for a single paper or up to 500 words for a panel proposal, along with a short bio note and your academic affiliation must be submitted on the website <https://voyage.sciencesconf.org/?lang=fr> before February 15th 2026.

Organizing committee:

Sylvie Requemora (AmU), Emmanuelle Peraldo (AmU), Charles Forsdick (Cambridge Univ., UK), Viktoria Kokonova (AmU), Capucine Zgraja (AmU),
Lauriana Dumont (AmU et UniCA).

Administrator : DRV, Campus d'Aix - Absa d'AGARO

Scientific committee:

Sylvie Requemora, AmU, France.

Emmanuelle Peraldo, AmU, France.

Charles Forsdick, Cambridge Univ., Royaume-Uni.

Luigi Marfè, Padova Univ., Italie.

Javier Alonso Prieto, Univ. de Valladolid, Espagne.

Christina Kullberg, Uppsala Univ., Suède.

Burghart Schmidt, ZHfL, Allemagne

Vanezia Parlea, Bucarest univ., Roumanie

Irini Apostolou, Nationale et Capodistrienne Univ. d'Athènes, Grèce

Gábor Gelléri, Université d'Aberystwyth, Pays de Galles