

English Exposed: Vulnerability and Hope in Culture and Language

International Symposium October 8–10, 2026

Tallinn University

Day I, 8 October

13:00-14:00 A-104 (Astra lobby)	Registration, welcome coffee in the Astra building lobby
14:00-16:00 A-002	Opening Keynote I: Marco Caracciolo, “Embodiment and Vulnerability in Climate Fiction” Moderator: Julia Kuznetski
16:00-16.30 A-104	Coffee break in the Astra building lobby (registered participants)
16:30-18:30 M-648	Panel I: Spaces and Temporalities of Vulnerability and Hope Moderator: Iveta Aare
Panel I: speakers	Panel I: papers
María Porras Sánchez Complutense University of Madrid	Urban Landscapes of Waste in the Capitalocene: Nostalgic Hope in Julia Wertz’s Tenements, Towers and Trash
Carolina Sánchez-Palencia Carazo University of Seville	Keep Calm and Embrace Uncertainty: Sara Baume’s and Kerri Ni Dochartaigh’s Slow Temporalities of Hope
Cristina María Gámez Fernández Universidad de Córdoba	Chronicling Systemic Vulnerability: Dynamics of Hope and Attention in Katherine Boo’s Behind the Beautiful Forevers
Zuzanna Szatanik University of Bielsko-Biała	Spatial Anxiety and the Geography of Vulnerability in Wild Dark Shore and Heartwood
18:30 Mare Atrium	Reception and Poetry evening (registered participants)

Day II, 9 October

9:00-11:00 M-648	Panel II: Postcolonial Identities, Decolonial Hopes Moderator: Bernadette Merila
Panel II: speakers	Panel II: papers
Adesanya M. Alabi Karabuk University	Post-colonial Precarity and Vulnerability in Contemporary Literature: Reimagining Migration Exposure in Abdulrazak Gurnah's By the Sea
Henry Obi Ajumeze University of Galway, Ireland	Hydrographies of Englishness: Empire, Water, and Decolonial Poetics in Tares Oburumu's Origin of Syma Species
Ruslana Dovhanchyna Tallinn University	In Our Time, Hemingway Knows Nothing: Vulnerability and Hope from Ernest Hemingway to Artur Dron
Subarna De Tallinn University	From Vulnerability to Hope: Collecting as Bioregional Heritage Making in Sarita Mandanna's Tiger Hills
11:00-11:15 Mare Atrium	Coffee break (registered participants)
11:15-13:15 M-648	Panel III: Embodiment and Posthuman Care Moderator: Elizabeth Oakes
Panel III: speakers	Panel III: papers
Raili Marling TU Tartu University	F(r)ictions of vulnerability: affirmative brokenness in illness narratives
Katia Marcellin Université de Perpignan, France	Vulnerable Breathing: Experiencing Vulnerability and Hope in British Pandemic Narratives
Anne-Laure Tournes Le Mans Universite	Posthuman agency and non-human vulnerability in Machines Like Me by Ian McEwan and Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro
Amitie Lee Tallinn University	Relational Vulnerability and Posthuman Dependency: Reading AI Care through M3GAN (2022)
13:15-14:15 Mare Atrium	Lunch (registered participants)
14:15-15:45 A-325	Keynote II: Hannah Lowe, Vulnerable Lives, Precarious Histories: Fragments, Silence and Memory Work Moderator: Miriam McIlfatrick
15.45-16:00 Mare atrium	Coffee break (registered participants)

16:00-18.00 M-648	Panel IV: Vulnerability, Hope and Resistance in the Language Classroom and across Varieties of English Moderator: Alpo Honkapohja
Panel IV: speakers	Panel IV: papers
Dandyson Michael Jaja Sivas University of Science and Technology	The Vulnerable Classroom: Generative Artificial Intelligence, Linguistic Exposure, and Critical Hope in English Language Teaching
Ene Alas Tallinn University	Vulnerability of Multilingual Learners in Assessment Situations
Adedeji Adeniyi and Avneet Sharma Tallinn University	Language Choice in the Yoruba community: English as a site of resistance, solidarity or discrimination
Jayou (Thomas) Oh University of Innsbruck	Between fear and hope – I’m afraid, I fear and I hope as parenthetical stance markers across varieties of English
19:00	Conference Dinner (registered participants)

Day III, 10 October

9:00-11:30 M-648	Panel V: Vulnerable Waters: Relationality, Transformation, and Decolonial Futures Moderator: Marion Moussier
Panel V: speakers	Panel V: papers
Tomasz Dobrogoszcz University of Łódź	Troubled Waters: Vulnerability and Ecological Politics in Contemporary Indigenous and Postcolonial Literature
Polina Golovátina-Mora Norwegian University of Science and Technology	Oceanic Thinking in Conversation with Theory of Water by Leanne Betasamosake Simpson.
Anna Maria Karczewska University of Białystok	Robert Macfarlane's <i>Is a River Alive?</i> : Thinking with Rivers in Encounter and Imagination
Katarzyna Ostalska University of Łódź	Leaving Normative Humanity on Shore: The Palimpsest of the Land and the Deep, Queer Sea in Julia Armfield's <i>Our Wives under the Sea</i> and Deborah Levy's <i>Hot Milk</i>
Katarzyna Więckowska Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń	Uncertain Waters: Living with Climate Change and Contemporary Anglophone Fiction
11:30-11:45 Mare Atrium	Coffee break (registered participants)
11:45-13:15 M-648	Roundtable with Marco Caracciolo, Hannah Lowe, Raili Marling and Cristina María Gámez Fernández: From Vulnerability to Critical Hope Moderator: Julia Kuznetski and Iveta Aare Closing words
13:15-14:15 Mare Atrium	Lunch (registered participants)
15:00	Visit to KUMU art museum, guided tour (optional, registration required)