

Call for Papers

Deadline for abstracts: March 31st, 2026

Journeying Between Thresholds and Metamorphoses International Conference

May 8th-9th, 2026

Tallinn University, Narva mnt 29, Room S-529 (Tallinn, Estonia)

Journey and journeying shape social practices, forms of knowledge, narrative devices and experiences of the world at large. They can be ordinary yet unsettling processes, thresholds and metamorphoses, movements that open up, dislocate and transform. Crossing different spaces and temporalities introduces discontinuities in ways of perceiving, narrating and thinking. Transformation, however, is not automatic. Journeying may involve waiting, suspension, or blockage, as experienced by migrants or by those living under conditions of forced immobility. Change and the reworking of experience are never linear or immediate. Journeys often produce partial, ambiguous, or reversible transformations, placing identities, interpretive categories and regimes of meaning under tension. Every movement fractures the continuity of everyday life, requiring the renegotiation of languages, positions and perspectives. Alongside desired or socially valued journeys, the conference also addresses mobilities marked by inequality, constraint and asymmetry: migration, forced displacement, exile, waiting and imposed immobility. In these cases, journeying brings thresholds and metamorphoses into sharp relief, while also revealing fractures in experience and narration: interrupted narratives, silences, delegated or impossible stories and suspended temporalities. We invite theoretical and empirical contributions addressing “journeying” from multiple perspectives, in line with the themes outlined above. We will pay particular attention to the relationship between experience and narration: the journey is also conceived as story, reworked memory and situated, relational experience. Possible subjects include:

1. **Openings and Closures, Continuity and Discontinuity**
Rupture, transformation and liminal states, including waiting, suspension or blockage
2. **Experience and Narration**
How narration shapes, organizes and transforms experience, including interrupted narratives, silences and fragmented forms
3. **Mobility and Inequality**
Desired, valued or forced journeys, including migration, exile, immobility and suspension as integral dimensions of experience
4. **Transformations of Identity and Perception**
Partial, ambiguous and reversible changes linked to movement and liminal dislocations that require renegotiations of belonging, role and perspective
5. **Language, Semiotics and Narration**
Translation, misunderstanding, silence and other ways in which language shapes and directs the experience of journeying
6. **Anthropology and Fieldwork**
Journeying as a mode of knowledge production and as a reflection on the researcher’s positionality and the nomadism of thought
7. **Interdisciplinary Approaches**
Contributions from literature, philosophy, anthropology, sociology, semiotics, cultural studies, visual and performing arts, including methodological and narrative experimentation

Related topics are also welcome.

Scientific board:

Jacob Bessen, University of Toronto, Canada

Massimo Canevacci, University of Rome “La Sapienza”, Italy

Vincent Crapanzano, Graduate Center of the City University of New York, USA

Ilenia Del Popolo Marchitto, Tallinn University, Estonia

Nesma Elsakaan, University of Palermo, Italy

Hanna Geara, artist

Giancarlo Germanà, Accademia di Belle Arti, Palermo, Italy

Salvatore Giusto, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain

Claudio Gnoffo, Università degli Studi Guglielmo Marconi, Unimarconi, Italy

Stefano Montes, University of Palermo, Italy

Arrigo Musti, artist

Lucya Passiatore, Tallinn University, Estonia

Alessandro Perissinotto, University of Turin, Italy

Kristiina Rebane, Tallinn University, Estonia

Luisa Revelli, University of the Aosta Valley, Italy

Roberta Sapino, University of Turin, Italy

Paul Stoller, Friedrich Alexander University, Erlangen/Nuremberg and University of Pennsylvania

Michael Taussig, Columbia University, USA

Enrico Valseriati, University of Padua, Italy

Modalities of participation and deadline:

Send abstracts by March 31st, 2026, to the organizers: Stefano Montes (stefano.montes@unipa.it) and Kristiina Rebane (kristiina.rebane@tlu.ee). Abstracts, max 300 words, include title, 3 key-words and a short biography (max 5 lines, not to be counted among the 300 words). The conference will take place, in-person, in Tallinn (Estonia). Admitted languages are English and Italian. Each speech is 20 minutes. Registration to the Conference is free of cost. Grants are not foreseen. Travel, accommodation and food costs are to be covered by participants.