



TRANSITIONS SEMINAR NEWSLETTER 21

Bimonthly, edited by M. Aguirre

July 2025

The *Transitions Seminar* is a permanent initiative set up in 2019 by the LIMEN Research Group. It convenes approximately on a bi-monthly basis, online since 2020. It provides a forum for debate on liminality and related issues, and a research-training ground for PhD candidates, as well as functioning as a venue for the current *Transitions Project*. It is linked to The Gateway Press and the websites *LIMEN & TEXT*, *The Northanger Library*, and *The Janus Gate Project*.

<http://www.limenandtext.com/rst.html>
<http://www.limenandtext.com/index.html>
<https://northangerlibrary.com/>
<http://janusgate literature.com/>

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1. FORTHCOMING EVENTS (update)

The *Ninth International Seminar on Liminality and Text*

(ISLT 9)

NEGOTIATING THE THRESHOLD

organised by Belén Piqueras and Manuel Aguirre,
will be held at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

on 13-14 November, 2025.

Professors Jochen Achilles (Würzburg and Mainz), Ineke Jolink (Paris), Zoë Kinsley (Liverpool), Ana Manzanás (Salamanca) and Hein Viljoen (South-Africa) have already confirmed their participation as keynote speakers.

2. NOTES

This section is open to notes from readers, and contributions are welcome. They should not exceed by much the 1000-word limit.
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3. The Transitions Seminar, fourth series (2024-25)

This was a fruitful academic year, with no less than seven speakers gracing our screens with their contributions. This is the place to sum up the encounters of the *Transitions Seminar* since October.

- TS14. 24 October 2024 Francisco Fuentes
'The Re-Imagined Identity of Diasporic Writers:
Coping with a Perpetual Liminality in *exiledwriters.co.uk*'
- TS15. 10 December 2024 Celia Marqués Amorós
'Driving on a Road of Heartbroken Uncertainty:
What the Limen Brought Together in a Eurovision Song'
- TS16. 24 January 2025 Parisa Delshad Rezaee
'Captured *en Passant*: Realism and the Limits of Representation in
Mediations of Europe's Southernmost Borders.'
- TS17. 18 February 2025 Lourdes Salgado Viñal
'Liminality and Heterotopia in G. W. M. Reynolds's Servant Novels'
- TS18. 18 March 2025 Tareixa García de Polavieja
'Navigating the Labyrinth:
Oscillation and Negotiation in Paul Auster's *City of Glass*'
- TS19. 1 April 2025 Verónica Frejo
'Liminal Negotiation in Video Games:
Generating Narrative in an Interactive Medium'
- TS20. 17 June 2025 Jennifer Harding
'The Curious Case of the Haunted Mead-hall:
An Examination of Threshold Dynamics and the Otherworld as a Pollutant in *Beowulf*'

Our thanks to all speakers. Video recordings will be appearing in *LIMEN & TEXT* by and by. Proposals for future talks are welcome for the academic year 2025-26.

4. PUBLICATIONS RELEVANT TO LIMINALITY STUDIES

- **Judith Klinger**
'Visualizing the Never-Seen: Models of Time, Space and History in Fantasy Cartography,' in Hans Rudolph Velten & Joseph Imorde, eds., *Fantasy Aesthetics: Visualising Myth and Middle Ages, 1880-2020* (Bielefeld: Transcript Verlag, 2024), 81-119.
<https://uplopen.com/books/e/10.1515/9783839470589>

(Looks at Tolkien, Martin, film fantasies and others in the light of medieval maps).
'Fantasy maps thus shape a very distinct liminal zone, characterized by a transitionality between divergent constructs of space and time, which yet awaits systematical description' (p. 82).
- **Verónica Frejo**, Manuel Aguirre, Elena Bermejo, Tareixa García de Polavieja, Andrés Guilló, Jennifer Harding, Belén Piqueras, Trevor Westmoreland (The LIMEN Research Group).
'A Conceptual Framework for the Study of Liminality and Transitions,' in *The TRELIS Papers* 18 (2025), http://www.limenandtext.com/publishing_thetrellispapers.html
- **L. A. Zander**
'Pleasures of Liminality,' in *Law & Literature*, 1–29, 20 June 2024 (not yet assigned to a volume or issue), <https://doi.org/10.1080/1535685X.2024.2354054>
- **Isabelle Gadoin & Annie Ramel**
'Liminality – Introduction,' in *The Hardy Review*, 15:1 (2013), pp. 5–10. *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/45301764>.
- **Sara Van den Bossche & Sophie Wennerscheid**
'Editorial. Border Crossings, Rites of Passage, and Liminal Experiences in Contemporary Literature,' in *DiGeSt. Journal of Diversity and Gender Studies*, 5:2 (2018), pp. 1–6. *JSTOR*, <https://doi.org/10.11116/digest.5.2.0>.
- **Kristen McQuinn**
'Not at Home: Liminal Space and Personal Identity in *The Hobbit* and *Coraline*,' in *Mallorn: The Journal of the Tolkien Society*, 60 (2020), pp. 14–18. *JSTOR*, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/48614899>.
- **Ray Land, Julie Ratray, & Peter Vivian**
'Learning in the Liminal Space: A Semiotic Approach to Threshold Concepts,' in *Higher Education*, 67:2 (2014), pp. 199–217. *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/43648647>.
- **Stefan L. Brandt**
'The City as Liminal Space: Urban Visuality and Aesthetic Experience in Postmodern U.S. Literature and Cinema,' in *Amerikastudien / American Studies*, 54:4 (2009), pp. 553–81. *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41158465>.
(deals with Auster, DeLillo, Pynchon and other postmodern writers; describes our *Margins and Thresholds* as 'a path-breaking study').
- **June Boyce-Tillman**
'The Transformative Qualities of a Liminal Space Created by Musicking,' in *Philosophy of Music Education Review* 17:2 (2009), pp. 184–202. *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40495499>.

- **Bonnie S. Sunstein**
'Moveable Feasts, Liminal Spaces: Writing Centers and the State of In-Betweenness,' in *The Writing Center Journal* 18:2 (1998), pp. 7–26. *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/43442045>.
- **Claudia Mueller-Greene**
'The Concept of Liminality as a Theoretical Tool in Literary Memory Studies: Liminal Aspects of Memory in Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*,' in *Journal of Literary Theory*, 16:2 (2022), pp. 264-288. <https://doi.org/10.1515/jlt-2022-2025>

A survey of the items listed in this section over ten Newsletters since the tally began in September 2023 reveals that the concept of liminality is being applied in the following fields:

Anthropology
 Biblical studies
 Border studies
 Cartography
 Children's literature
 Chronotope studies
 Consumption studies
 Cultural anthropology
 Cultural studies
 Geography
 International relations
 Law
 Literary theory
 Medicine
 Medieval literature
 Memory studies
 Migration and refugee studies
 Organization studies
 Paranormal studies
 Psychology
 Sociology and social studies
 Theatre studies
 Travel studies
 Urban planning
 Women's literature

While it is not always easy to identify a discipline, the list testifies to the transversal usefulness of the concept.

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