



TRANSITIONS SEMINAR NEWSLETTER 23

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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://janusgateliterature.com/>

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1. RECENT EVENTS

The *Ninth International Seminar on Liminality and Text (ISLT 9): Negotiating the Threshold*, organised by Manuel Aguirre and Verónica Frejo, was held at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid on 13-14 November, 2025, with contributions by the following:

Jochen Achilles (University of Würzburg)

“The Dynamics of Post- and Transhuman Liminalities: Theoretical Conceptions and Literary Prefigurations”

Manuel Aguirre (UAM, Spain)

“Threshold Landscapes: Traversing the Limen Chronotope”

Verónica Frejo (UAM, Spain)

“Liminal Negotiation in Video Games: Generating Narrative in an Interactive Medium”

Tareixa García de Polavieja (UAM, Spain)

“Navigating the Labyrinth: Oscillation and Negotiation in Paul Auster’s *City of Glass*.”

Andrés Guilló (UAM, Spain)

“An Approach to Rap as a Liminal Phenomenon”

Ineke Jolink (Université Catholique de Paris)

“Stylistic Manoeuvring of Thresholds towards Touching, Intersecting and perhaps Merging: The Case of Melanie Wallace’s *Blue Horse Dreaming*.”

Zoë Kinsley (Liverpool Hope University)

“Depth and Distance in the Liminal Coastal Dynamics of Early British Romantic Poetry”

Ana Manzanar (Universidad de Salamanca)

“Of Dragons and Inner Borders in Contemporary American Literature and Culture”

Ricki O’Rawe (Queen’s University Belfast)

“Failures of Absence and Failures of Presence in the Liminal Landscapes of Santiago Porter (1971-) and Max Gómez Canle (1972-)”

Robert Samuels (The Open University, UK)

“Negotiating the Threshold of Audibility: Music as a Text to Be Read”

Hein Viljoen (North-West University, Potchefstroom, South-Africa)

“States or moments of transition in some poems by the Afrikaans poet Uys Krige (1910-1987)”

The seminar was a great success, offering high-quality, thought-provoking discussions of liminality in fields ranging from poetry and novel to photography, videogames and music. In all cases the stress was on the heterogeneity and intricacies of thresholds, on the complexities of form and motion involved in liminal areas, and on the multiple negotiations that necessarily take place in threshold zones. The organisers wish to express their gratitude to the speakers who made this event possible. The plan now is to produce a volume of essays over the next few months, to be submitted to an international publisher.

2. THE TRANSITIONS SEMINAR, FIFTH SERIES (2025-26)

Due to preparatory work for the ISLT9, no time has been devoted to organising further encounters of the TS so far, but the will to continue is clear, and interested scholars are invited to propose talks for the coming months, starting January.

3. A NEW RESEARCH PROJECT

Within the overall *Transitions Project*, and as part of its effort to theorise the threshold, the LIMEN Research Group proposes to launch a new research project, *Forms of the Threshold Chronotope: A Liminalist Study of Speculative Fiction*. The general goal is to conduct a limited number of case studies in the field of speculative fiction in order to examine the structure and

dynamics of various chronotopes of the threshold and to reassess Bakhtin's concept. Four research areas are contemplated at present:

1. The Genre of Architectural Fantasy
2. Threshold Landscapes in the work of Ursula K. Le Guin
3. The Limen Chronotope of the Victorian Haunted House Genre
4. Cartographies of Paradise

Other areas to be considered include:

5. The Chronotope of the Labyrinth
6. Spacetime in Epic and Fantasy

As regards 3., it is proposed to initiate a seminar (monthly, online) on the genre of the Victorian Haunted House Short Story, to commence December 2025. Its purpose will be to outline the specific threshold chronotope that, it is hypothesised, underlies such narratives, and to propose a model for their study. Anyone interested is welcome to write to m.aguirre@uam.es for details.

4. PUBLICATIONS RELEVANT TO LIMINALITY STUDIES

- Katherine Bowers & Kate Holland (2025). 'The Failure of Form: Reading Liminality Computationally in Dostoevskii's *The Double*,' in *Slavic Review* 84, pp. 23-42.
<https://doi:10.1017/slr.2025.10149>
- Hazel Andrews & Les Roberts, eds. (2012). *Liminal Landscapes: Travel, Experience and Spaces In-Between* (London: Routledge).
- Dara Downey, Ian Kinane, & Elizabeth Parker, eds. (2016). *Landscapes of Liminality: Between Space and Place* (London: Bloomsbury).
- Laura A. Zander (2024). 'Pleasures of Liminality,' in *Law & Literature*, June, pp. 1–29.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/1535685X.2024.2354054>
- Ivana Prijatelj Pavičić et al. (2018). *Liminal Spaces of Art between Europe and Middle East* (Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Publishing).
- Jeffrey Willett, M.A. Mary Jo Deegan (2001). 'Liminality and Disability: Rites of Passage and Community in Hypermodern Society,' in *Disability Studies* 21:3, 137-152.
- Mihai I. Spariosu (2015). *Modernism and Exile: Play, Liminality, and the Exilic-Utopian Imagination* (Houndmills, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan).

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