



TRANSITIONS SEMINAR NEWSLETTER 4

September 2022

Bimonthly, edited by M. Aguirre (for now)

The *Transitions Seminar* is a permanent initiative set up in 2019 by the LIMEN Research Group. It convenes approximately on a monthly basis. 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/>

LIMINALITY SCHOLARS

Who are the scholars who keep attending the Transitions Seminar or who have taken an interest in the study of liminality? The following is a provisional roster. If you are aware of any omissions or errors please contact me.

The LIMEN Research Group

Acronym:	"LIMEN" (Liminalist Investigations in Modern English Narrative)
Code:	UAM-F051
Institution:	Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM), Spain
Registered:	2007 (confirmed 11 December 2017)
ERC area:	SH5 (Cultures and Cultural Production)
ANEP area:	FFI (Philology and Philosophy)
Official website:	<i>LIMEN & TEXT</i> (http://www.limenandtext.com)
Online platform:	ZOOM

The group emerged from a research project ("Systemic Analysis of 'Marginal' Literatures", 1994-97) and has given rise to a number of others ("The Liminality Seminars", 1998-2006; "Threshold and Text", 2000-03; "The TRELLIS Project", 2002-06; "The Gothic Library", 2004-06; "The Northanger Library Project", 2006-09; "The Madrid Gothic Seminar", 2010-17; "The Madrid Fantasy Seminar", since 2017; "Transitions", since 2019). The first *International Seminar on Liminality and Text (ISLT)* was set up in 1999, and has convened seven more times since (in Norway in 2014, courtesy of the Arctic University of Norway at Tromsø). For four years now, MA and PhD students have run their own successful *Postgraduate Seminar in Liminality Studies (PS[L]S)*. In 2000, the Gateway Press was founded, an independent outfit which remains, so far as we know, the only editorial venue in Europe devoted to publishing research on liminality in text.

Research Team

Manuel Aguirre, Professor Emeritus in English Literature (UAM)
Francisco Fuentes, Assistant Lecturer in English literature (Universidad Alfonso X el Sabio),
and Associate Professor (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)
Belén Piqueras, Senior Lecturer in American Studies (UAM)
Beatriz Sánchez Santos, Head of the English Department (Escuela Oficial de Idiomas, EOI San
Sebastián de los Reyes, Madrid)
Robert K. Shepherd, Senior Lecturer in Medieval and Renaissance Studies (UAM)
Isabel Soto, Senior Lecturer in British and North-American literatures (Universidad Nacional
de Educación a Distancia, UNED, retired)
Trevor Westmoreland, Assistant Lecturer in British and North-American literature (UAM)

PhD Candidates (as of September 2022)

Elena Bermejo (UAM)
Tareixa García de Polavieja (UAM)
Andrés Guilló Seuthe (UAM)
Jennifer Harding (UAM)
Lina Lavallo (UAM)
Simon Pritchard (UAM)
M^a Luisa Sánchez-Rivas (Universidad Antonio de Nebrija)
Melisa Teves (Universidad Antonio de Nebrija)
Marta Vega Trijueque (UAM)

MA Students (during 2021-22)

Ali Adhab (UAM)
Verónica Frejo (UAM)
Carlos Velasco (UAM)

Research Fellows

Jesús Benito (Universidad de Valladolid)
Nancy Bredendick (retired, UAM)
Paola del Zoppo (Tuscia University, Viterbo, Italy)
Mary Farrell (retired, Universitat Jaume I)
Mar Gallego (Universidad de Huelva)
Ineke Jolink (Professor Emeritus, Catholic University of Paris)
Miriam Mandel (Professor Emeritus, Tel-Aviv University)
Ana Manzananas (Universidad de Salamanca)
Richard O'Rawe (Queen's University Belfast)
Esteban Pujals (retired, UAM)
Roberta Quance (retired, Queen's University Belfast)
Philip Sutton (independent scholar)

Webmaster

Ina Böttger (Pressig, Germany)

Other participants in the *Transitions Seminar* 2021-22

Carla Abella Rodríguez (Universidad de Salamanca)
Jochen Achilles (University of Würzburg, Germany)
Heilna du Plooy (Northwest University, Potchefstroom, South-Africa)
Sandor Klapcsik (Technical University of Liberec, Czech Republic)
Laura Lojo (Universidade de Santiago de Compostela)
Cristina Martín Hernández (Universidad de Salamanca)
Manuela Neuwirth (University of Graz, Austria)

Sabela Pérez (Universidade de Santiago de Compostela)
Regina Ponciano (Universidade de Santiago de Compostela)
Robert Samuels (Open University, UK)
Hein Viljoen (Northwest University, Potchefstroom, South-Africa)

Participants in the *ISLT* and/or the *PS[L]S* over the years

Carlos Henrique Alves de Souza (UAM)
Alba Beltrán Flaño (independent scholar)
Lucía Bennett Ortega (Universidad de Granada)
Gerd Bjørhovde (Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø)
Natalia Botonaki (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid)
Esme Broadbent (Universidad de Salamanca)
Susan Broadhurst (Brunel University)
Berndt Díetz (Universidad de Córdoba)
Elena Dobre (Universitat Jaume I)
Dick Ellis (University of Chichester)
Cyril Edwards † (Oxford University)
Paul Giles (Australian Catholic University, Melbourne)
Thomas Healy (University of Sussex)
Valeria Iglesias (KU Leuven)
Greta Kaisen (Humboldt University of Berlin)
Yael Levin (Hebrew University, Jerusalem)
Evie Lewis (University of Leeds)
Tony Lopez (University of Plymouth)
Isabel Marqués (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)
Peter Messent (University of Nottingham)
David Murray (University of Nottingham)
Alina Oboza (Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø)
Holger Pötzsch (Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø)
Alan Rice (University of Central Lancashire)
Clemens Ruthner (Trinity College Dublin)
Helena Sánchez Gayoso (independent scholar)
Johan Schimanski (University of Oslo)
Gwyn Thomas † (University College Bangor, Wales)
Marita Wenzel (Northwest University, Potchefstroom, South-Africa)
Stephen Wolfe (Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø)

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Talks. The *Transitions Seminar* welcomes proposals for online talks centred on the theory, methodology and applications of liminality. Some of these may eventually appear in *The TRELIS Papers* (limenandtext.com/publishing_thetrellispapers.html).

Papers. Two of us (Andrés Guilló and Jennifer Harding) are trying to put together a much needed database of relevant publications in the field. They will be grateful for standard references of any liminality-related books or papers, by yourselves or others, that you would care to bring to their notice. Contact a.gseuthe@gmail.com or jharding@duolingo.com.

Work groups. The project welcomes the composition of small groups (similar to the previous) with specific proposals for research, papers, or talks that they would like to present in the seminar. Contact belen.piqueras@uam.es.

A PROPOSAL FOR OCTOBER 2022

How many 'liminalities' must we reckon with? Are there sundry types, and should they go under different names? What do we exclude from the semantic range of this term? Should 'limen' be distinguished from, say, 'border', the liminal from the hybrid, 'liminal' from 'liminoid'? *Ad hoc* solutions or equivocal approaches to the term—now letting it designate one type of phenomenon, now using it to identify several types—breed inconsistency and are to be avoided. Ockham's razor favours the simplest explanation. I postulate one single kind of phenomenon which may display different facets in different fields and situations—one concept susceptible of many (though predictable) variations, rather than an indeterminate number of concepts mutually incompatible in use.

But these variations often lead to inconsistent, ambiguous, paradoxical or contradictory 'behaviours' of the limen. By the side of its forms, then, we need to examine its motions. In my February talk I proposed the concept of 'inflexion' to account for limen dynamics; the various transitions that our project is busy with would amount then to so many manifestations of one single principle, the dynamics of the inflected limen. For our opening session this October, I propose to elaborate these points in a short talk which I title provisionally "A Typology of Transitions". As usual, we shall meet online via ZOOM. Details (date and time, link) will be made available soon.

ONSITE/ONLINE SESSIONS

The question has been raised whether we should return to onsite meetings now that the pandemic situation seems under control. Virtual encounters, as the above roster shows, have given us the opportunity of establishing or recovering rewarding contacts with many scholars from both Spain and abroad. I propose that online sessions be maintained, while additional onsite ones can be organised for matters more directly affecting the LIMEN Group's projects. Both types of sessions can be recorded and uploaded, though this requires a know-how which I do not possess. Please let me know your views.

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