

Paris Cité Anglophone Studies Graduate Symposium 2026

The History and Civilization of the English-Speaking World program at Université Paris Cité invites graduate students to participate in our 2026 Graduate Symposium. The symposium will take place on **January 15**, at the Grands Moulins campus of Université Paris Cité, Paris, France.

We welcome submissions from Master's and doctoral students working across the disciplines of anglophone history, social and cultural studies, political science, sociology, anthropology, and beyond. We encourage interdisciplinary approaches and welcome creative, comparative, and critical engagements.

Our theme for this year is *Haunting(s)*

"A ghost never dies, it remains always to come and to come-back."

— Jacques Derrida, *Specters of Marx*

Ours is a time profoundly haunted by its own pasts and futures. From the incessant recycling of cultural forms (movie remakes, aesthetic revivals, nostalgic aesthetics...) to the global resurgence of reactionary politics and the lingering afterlives of empire, the present often feels suspended between repetition and amnesia. The march forward increasingly resembles a return: to familiar narratives, to spectral ideologies, to worlds we thought we had outgrown. This temporal disorientation, the coexistence of the obsolete and the imminent, renders the language of haunting newly urgent.

To think of haunting is to engage with what persists beyond its own supposed end: with histories that will not stay buried, futures that failed to arrive, and absences that exert a disturbing presence. Haunting unsettles linear time and stable categories of being; it makes visible what structures disavow, what institutions repress, what archives cannot contain. In this sense, the spectral is not only a metaphor but a condition—political, historical, affective—through which we might apprehend the unresolved contradictions of modernity.

In the context of the anglophone world, *haunting(s)* evokes the revenants of empire, slavery, and colonial modernity; the suppressed within collective memory; the recurring gestures of cultural production that betray our inability to imagine otherwise. It speaks as much to the ghosts that populate our imaginaries as to the structures that sustain them, showing how repetition maintains power yet how critical acts of remembrance may also make transformation possible. This symposium proposes to think with and through haunting: as concept, method, and sensibility. We invite reflections on the spectral dimensions of history, art, and culture, and what it means to live and think in the company of ghosts.

We welcome abstracts encompassing a broad and evocative set of concerns which might include, but are not limited to:

- spectral presences, ghosts and the paranormal in anglophone cultures
- memory, trauma, and haunted landscapes
- the afterlives of colonialism, slavery, or dispossession
- ghostwritings, unreadable traces, archives, and erasures
- technological hauntings (AI, digital afterlives, post-human spectrality)
- temporal hauntologies, futurities that haunt the present
- cultural, social or political phenomena that return, linger, appear as traces
- metaphorical hauntings in literature, film, performance, art
- the haunted city, haunted self, haunted nation

We invite you to think broadly, imaginatively and critically about *haunting(s)* in the anglophone world and its intersections with other regions and disciplines.

Proposal Submission

Please send the following:

- ➔ A 300-word abstract, in English, outlining your research question, methodology, and how your topic relates to the theme of *haunting(s)*.
- ➔ A short CV (max one page) including your current institution, degree, field of study, and any relevant publications or presentations.

Important Dates

- Abstract submission deadline: **December 5th**
- Notification of acceptance: **December 10th**
- Symposium date: **January 15th**

Format and Language

All submissions must be in English. Presentations will be 20 minutes long, followed by a 10-minute Q&A. Those who wish to propose a full panel (three papers + chair/ discussant) should submit all three abstracts (one document) and individual CVs for each participant.

Submission Address & Enquiries

Please submit your abstract and CV, with the subject line “Anglophone Studies Graduate Symposium – [Your Name]” to: **cfp.history.upc@proton.me**

For any further questions, please contact: **cfp.history.upc@proton.me**

Accessibility and Health Safety

This symposium is committed to fostering an accessible and safe environment for all participants. We recognize that accessibility is integral to intellectual exchange and community care. The event will take place in a mask-friendly space; FFP2 masks will be provided on site, and an air purifier will be in operation throughout the day. For those who cannot attend in person, a Zoom link can be made available upon request, and we are exploring the possibility of remote presentations to accommodate participants facing travel or health constraints. We warmly encourage prospective speakers to let us know of any accessibility needs when submitting their proposals.

We look forward to your proposals and to engaging with the many ways in which *haunting(s)* shape and unsettle our understandings of anglophone civilizations.

Organising Committee

Eleni Belmehdi, Carla Da Costa Goncalves, Nina Lefrançois, Floriane Olivares, Lena Sebbar-Imbert

M2 LLCER – History and Civilization of the English-Speaking World , Université Paris Cité.

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