

News, Announcements

**The National University of Ireland, Galway,
looks forward to welcoming you
to the 13th ESSE Conference in Galway, Ireland,
Monday 22 August – Friday 26 August 2016.**

Conference website: <http://www.esse2016.org>

DEADLINES

- For posters and individual papers at seminar and PhD students' sessions:
28 February 2016 (*new extended deadline*)
- Registration will begin on 1 March 2016

PROGRAMME FORMAT

SEMINARS

Proposals for seminars on specialised topics within our field should be submitted jointly by two ESSE members, preferably from two different National Associations. The degree of international appeal will be one of the selection criteria used by the APC. Proposals will not be entertained if they come from two people in the same institution. In exceptional cases, the APC may permit one of the two convenors not to be an ESSE member (e.g. because they come from outside Europe), if it is argued that their presence is especially important for the seminar. Seminar proposals must include the names, affiliations and e-mail addresses of the convenors and a 100-word description of the topic. Unlike round tables, seminars are not pre-constituted events and will therefore be included within the APC's future call for papers, although convenors may take an active role in approaching potential participants. The seminar format is intended to encourage lively participation on the part of both speakers and members of the audience. For this reason, papers will be orally presented in no longer than 15 minutes rather than read. Reduced versions of the papers will be circulated beforehand among participants. Further directions will follow in the call for papers.

NB: proposals for individual papers should NOT be submitted at this stage. The deadline for individual papers will be the 28 February 2016.

ROUND TABLES

The aim of round tables is to present topics and problems currently seen as shaping the nature of the discipline. At a round table a pre-constituted panel discusses issues of fairly general scholarly or professional interest in front of (and subsequently with) an audience. In other words, round tables are not sequences of papers, but debate sessions. Proposals should include a 100-word description of the topic and the names and affiliations of at least three participants (including the convenor), who must be drawn from more than one national association. The maximum number of speakers will be five.

LECTURES

A number of distinguished keynote speakers, including at least one representing each of the three main fields covered by ESSE (English Language, Literatures in English, and Cultural Studies), will give plenary lectures by direct invitation of the organisers. In addition, there will be approximately 12 parallel lectures given by ESSE members nominated by their National Associations. These parallel lectures are expected to have a wide appeal and to reflect recent developments in scholarship in one of the three areas mentioned above. They will be fifty minutes in length. National Associations should forward a description of their nominee's proposed topic together with a brief summary of his or her CV. Each national association can propose up to three lecturers, each of them in one of the three main fields mentioned above, so that the APC can have a wide range of options for the final selection. Please note that ESSE will not finance the parallel lecturers' costs of attending the conference, but that their conference fees will be waived.

POSTERS

Posters will be devoted to research-in-progress and project presentations. The aim is to provide additional opportunities for feedback and personal contacts. Further details will appear in a future issue of the Messenger and the deadline for posters will be the 31 January 2016.

SESSIONS FOR PhD STUDENTS

Young scholars who are writing their PhD theses in English studies may apply to make a brief presentation of their work-in-progress at one of three workshops in the fields of English Language, Literatures in English, and Cultural Studies respectively. These presentations should deal with the issues/hypotheses addressed in the thesis, the results so far obtained and above all the methodology applied, with the purpose of getting feedback from peers and established scholars in the field. Each workshop will be coordinated by two international experts, who will select from the applications and convene the corresponding sessions. Enquiries about this feature should be addressed to Professor J. Lachlan Mackenzie (VU University Amsterdam, NL and ILTEC, PT): <lachlan_mackenzie@hotmail.com>. Further details will appear in a future issue of *The Messenger*. The deadline for the submission of applications will be 28 February 2016.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

- Professor Patrick Lonergan (National University of Ireland, Galway) (Chair)
- Professor Lieven Buysse (University of Leuven, Belgium)
- Professor Claire Connolly (University College Cork, Ireland)
- Professor Anne Fogarty (University College Dublin, Ireland)
- Professor Irene Gilsenan Nordin (Dalarna University, Sweden)
- Dr Aoife Leahy (Independent Scholar, Ireland)
- Professor Biljana Mišić Ilić (University of Niš, Serbia)
- Professor Nóra Séllei (University of Debrecen, Hungary)
- Associate Professor Slávka Tomaščíková (P. J. Šafárik University in Košice, Slovakia)

The address for...

- GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ESSE 2016 CONFERENCE
<http://www.esse2016.org>
info@esse2016.org



The screenshot shows the website for the ESSE Galway 2016 conference. The header includes the ESSE Galway 2016 logo and a navigation menu with links for HOME, FOR ATTENDEES, PROGRAMME, REGISTER & SUBMISSIONS, and CONTACT. The main content area features a large image of a stone ruin in Galway, with the text: "ESSE Galway Monday 22nd – Friday 26th August 2016. The Society is a European federation of national higher educational associations for the study of English. The Society endeavours to reflect the cultural and geographical diversity of Europe in its institutions." Below this, there are two columns of text: "Welcome" and "Professional Conference Organisers". The "Welcome" section states: "We are delighted to welcome ESSE to Ireland, for what promises to be a memorable and stimulating conference. NB Galway is one of Ireland's oldest universities, and is located at the heart of Galway city – a place that is both compact and culturally rich. A visit to Galway will allow you to travel to sites associated with Ireland's major writers, from W.B. Yeats to James Joyce and beyond. But you will also have opportunities to experience the living literary and cultural activity of a city that is often spoken of as Ireland's unofficial cultural capital." The "Professional Conference Organisers" section states: "Conference Partners Ltd is the professional conference organiser assisting us with the organisation of ESSE 2016. www.conferencepartners.ie Tel: +353 1 25 8688". The Conference Partners Ltd logo is also visible at the bottom right.

**The European Association for American Studies
is pleased to announce that its next biennial
conference will take place in Constanta, Romania
from 22nd to 25th April, 2016.**

As President of the Romanian Association for American Studies (RAAS), it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2016 EAAS conference in Constanta, Romania.

Constanta is an ancient and beautiful resort city on the Black Sea coast, nowadays one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the country. A great attraction for the youth, in the summer it is a favorite holiday destination and for the rest of the year, a student metropolis. The ancient cultural tradition established in Tomis by Publius Ovidius Naso, the Roman poet exiled to the Greek-Roman city in the year 9 A.D., is continued today in the largest institution of higher education in the region, *Ovidius University*, the venue of the conference.

The easiest entry point for international visitors is Bucharest airport; accommodation and travel in Romania is not expensive and Constanta provides a great opportunity to add vacation and exploration time to your conference visit. This conference website will be expanded in due course to give full details of travel and accommodation options.

The EAAS officers and the local organizers are happy to announce the presence of three eminent key-note speakers who will focus on the latest developments in American Studies in their respective fields of expertise:

Rodica Mihaila

**Professor Emeritus, University of Bucharest
Director, Fulbright Commission Bucharest**

Garry Gerstle

Paul Mellon Professor of American Studies Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge

Linda Cox

Executive Director, Bronx River Alliance/Bronx River Administrator, New York

On behalf of the EAAS and RAAS, I look forward to welcoming you in Constanta in April 2016.

*Professor Adina Ciugureanu,
RAAS President
EAAS Treasurer
Professor of British and American Studies
Ovidius University Constanta, Romania*



EAAS Conference Call for Proposals

Open Call for Presentations

To highlight the range and diversity of American Studies in Europe the EAAS is issuing an open call for proposals for the 2016 conference.

Proposers may wish to identify and explore long-standing, current and emerging intellectual debates in American Studies; to explore critically the varying practices and methodologies in American Studies; to bring to life current discussions and to posit potential paradigms in American Studies.

The various anniversaries of 2016 provide a variety of potential foundations for proposals.

- 150 years earlier marked the start of post-Civil War Reconstruction.
- The 1860s was the era of the dime novel, and Seeley Regester's *The Dead Letter*, credited by some as the first full-length American crime novel, appeared in 1866.
- 125 years will have passed since Thomas Edison patented the motion camera.
- 1916 saw the creation of the US National Parks Service;
- the opening of the nation's first birth control clinic;
- the election from Montana of Jeanette Rankin, the first woman to sit in the US House of Representatives;
- the release of D.W. Griffith's *Intolerance*;
- the publication of Carl Sandburg's *Chicago Poems*.
- Shirley Jackson, Walker Percy, and Walter Cronkite were born in 1916.
- Henry James died in the same year.
- The National Organization for Women celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2016.
- Robert Heinlein's *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress*, its narrative echoing the American Revolution, also dates from 1966.
- *Star Trek* first reached TV screens in that same year.

<p style="text-align: center;">Open Call for Presentations</p>	<p>Contemporary American Studies topics could include, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discussion and exploration through various methodologies of the USA's strong, diverse and expanding literary canon; • the multi-dimensional character and seemingly endless inventiveness of America's cultural output; • the adaptability of American culture in an age offering radically new social media; • the heritage that might be left after the nation's first African-American presidency. <p>The EAAS conference encompasses topics across the disciplinary spectrum in American Studies, as well as interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary approaches to the subject. The themes mentioned above are only indicative, and not in any way intended to be a definitive list.</p> <p>The conference content will be defined by the range and breadth of your suggestions and the conference committee looks forward to receiving many different and stimulating proposals.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Format</p>	<p>The EAAS is moving away from its former Workshop format. Proposals are now invited that may use a variety of presentation styles. The conference structure is expected mainly to consist of traditional panel sessions with papers, and proposals for panels of papers are very welcome indeed, but submissions may also be proposed as roundtables, workshops, shop-talks, dialogues, interviews, performances, individual lecture presentations, readings or in other innovative formats. Proposals for individual papers are also welcome, and will be considered for inclusion in appropriate conference sessions. Anyone interested in putting together a panel would be welcome to use the EAAS e-list to seek panellists. It is expected that the conference will be made up mainly of sessions lasting 90 minutes or 2 hours, but there may be opportunity for shorter sessions. All proposals are expected to include the opportunity for discussion.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Session chairs</p>	<p>Volunteers are invited to fill the role of chairs or facilitators for sessions where these positions are vacant. Volunteers to chair sessions should indicate their willingness in the submission form and include keywords outlining their areas of expertise. The conference committee will gratefully call on volunteers to add them to appropriate sessions where possible.</p> <p>EAAS has established the practice of publishing a small number of papers from each conference in an edited collection. The local conference committee looks forward to continuing this tradition, and may request session chairs to nominate work for consideration by the editors.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Selection</p>	<p>The EAAS is committed to a conference that reflects the broadest disciplinary range within American Studies, the multinational membership of the EAAS, and the international participation that its biennial meetings attract.</p> <p>The conference committee will take these aims into account in reviewing proposals and in constructing the conference programme.</p>
	<p>Small grants may be awarded at a later date by EAAS to help some presenters attend the conference. Such awards will be in an amount no more than €200, and eligibility to compete for support will be restricted to such categories as presenters who are members of the American Studies associations in low GDP countries, and postgraduate students without other financial support. Acceptance on to the EAAS conference programme does not imply the award of any financial support.</p> <p><i>http://eaas.eu/eaas-grants/eaas-conference-travel-grants</i></p>