

17th SAAS Conference

American Dreams, American Nightmares, American Fantasies

8-10 April 2025

University of Alicante



SAAS2025

UA

UNIVERSIDAD DE ALICANTE
Vicerrectorado de Investigación
Facultad de Filosofía y Letras
Departamento de Filología Inglesa

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Transhistorical Anglophone
Literary Studies

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17th SAAS Conference: American Dreams, American Nightmares, American Fantasies

Useful information

Venues:

Sede Universitaria Ciudad de Alicante / Fundación Mediterráneo / MACA

Conference map:



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Line bus from/to Airport: C-6 | [Route & schedule](#)

Welcome from SAAS President

Dear SAAS members,

As President of SAAS, I welcome you to Alicante to celebrate the 17th conference of the association. Founded in 1993, SAAS is now 32 years old and has almost 400 members. The many publications, dissertations, and different events produced yearly by SAAS members are proof of the vitality of the study of the United States in Spain. This conference is undoubtedly the result of the excellent health of the discipline in our country.

Organized by the University of Alicante with an enthusiastic and energetic team, the conference that joins us here is already a great accomplishment. The large number of proposals received and accepted attests to the success of the call. These days, we gather in Alicante to discuss and debate a classic topic in U.S. studies: the American Dream, with a twist to it: American Nightmares, American Fantasies. As scholars, with expertise in the culture and the history of the U.S., we have the opportunity here to debate and try to elucidate the past, the present, and the future of the country. Our endeavor is not small or insignificant, especially in the times we are living. We are witnessing a world where the role of culture, the respect for

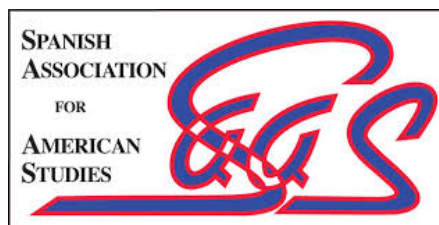
others, and the relevance of science and education are under threat, and where the dreams of many are turning into nightmares.

SAAS conferences have always propitiated healthy debate. Moreover, besides intellectual exchange, SAAS conferences enhance the interaction among members in different social events. The conference in Alicante will, no doubt, be one to continue this tradition. Now it is our turn to participate actively and ensure we contribute to fostering the SAAS community.

Have a great conference!

Cristina Garrigós

On behalf of the SAAS board



Greetings from the Organizing Committee

Dear participants in the 17th SAAS Conference,

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, it is our great pleasure to welcome you to the 17th SAAS Conference, a gathering dedicated to advancing scholarship and research in the field of U.S. Studies. We are honored to host in Alicante such a distinguished assembly of researchers, academics, and professionals who share a passion for exploring the complexities of American literature, history, culture, and society. The title of the conference, "American Dreams, American Nightmares, American Fantasies", pays tribute to the centennial anniversary of *The Great Gatsby*. The novel has proved to reflect that the U.S. has crumbled in the last decades, and its utopian potential has been challenged by the new Trump era, the economic crisis, the political turmoil, the pandemic, and the environmental and military crises, among others.

This conference serves as a platform for intellectual exchange, thought-provoking discussions, and meaningful collaborations. As we engage with groundbreaking research and diverse perspectives, we encourage you to participate actively in panels, discussions, and networking opportunities, as well as in our social events. We are confident that the insights

shared throughout this event will contribute to the ongoing evolution of U.S. Studies in Spain and inspire new directions for future scholarship.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our keynote speakers, panelists, and all participants who have contributed their expertise to make this conference a success. We also appreciate the support of our sponsors, partners, institutions and the SAAS Board that have helped bring this event to fruition. We hope you find the sessions enriching and the discussions stimulating. May this conference not only deepen our academic engagements but also foster lasting professional connections.

Once again, welcome to the University of Alicante, and we wish you a productive and inspiring experience.

Looking forward to a great conference!

Isabel Díaz & Sara Prieto (Chairs)

On behalf of the Organizing Committee



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Alicante City Tour
Wine Reception
Conference Dinner
Kara Walker Exhibition at MACA

Plenary sessions

Plenary Session I

PUTINOIKA*, a dramatic reading by Giannina Braschi, introduced by Nuria Morgado*Room: Salón de actos (MACA)****Date & time:** 08/04/2025 · 18:00-19:15**Nuria Morgado** (College of Staten Island & Graduate Center, CUNY; ANLE):*"Merriments of Nightmarishment: Giannina Braschi's PUTINOIKA and the Surreal Dance of American Dreams"***Giannina Braschi** (Poet & novelist):***PUTINOIKA***

Matching the SAAS 2025 conference themes like hand-in-glove, Giannina Braschi's new work *PUTINOIKA* dramatizes the American dream turned nightmare, with overlapping motifs of collusion, delusion, and pollution. Nuria Morgado, Director of the North American Academy of the Spanish Language, will introduce Puerto Rican author and radical thinker Giannina Braschi, while contextualizing her new work *PUTINOIKA* within the framework of the SAAS 2025 conference themes: "American Dreams, American Nightmares, American Fantasies".

Tess O'Dwyer (Academy of American Poets):**Post-performance & Q&A**

Plenary Session 2

Stepping out of the house: radical unhousing as political resistance to the “American Dream” in George Saunder’s short stories**Cristina Alsina** (Universitat de Barcelona)**Room: Salón de actos (Fundación Mediterráneo)****Date & time:** 09/04/2025 · 13:15-14:30

If the American dream has so often been identified with the goal of owning a house in which to build a home for a predominantly normative family, US literature has also been the repository of all forms of contestations to that dream and its limitations and oppressions. George Sauders’s criticism of the effects of capitalism on the lives and the bodies of what David P. Rando has called the postmodern working class —“the losers of American history—the dispossessed, the oppressed, or merely those whom history’s winners have walked all over on their paths to glory, fame, or terrific wealth” (437)— gravitates around his representation of the way his characters relate to their homes/dwelling places. A significant number of Saunders’ short stories are set either in homes turned into units of production and population control or in workplaces that are examples of the “experience economy” paradigm (Pine & Gilmore), featuring among them, particularly, an array of decadent and surreal theme parks. These unconventional homes are markers of the forces of dispossession and the processes of unwilling unhousing/ unhoming inflicted on the working and middle classes by the social and economic structures

at play in US society. In a few of his stories, though, he includes characters that manage to step aside from the structure that is crushing them. Interestingly, that gesture is not a nostalgic return to the normative, traditional household, but a step further toward a more radical unhousing: these characters become free from the structures that hold and dehumanize them but also completely ineffectual and irrelevant to those structures. This paper reads those apparently futile gestures as political and propositive of a new collective subjectivity.

Plenary Session 3

The Great Gatsby, seismographs and American dreams**Philip McGowan** (Queen's University of Belfast)**Room: Salón de actos (Fundación Mediterráneo)****Date & time:** 10/04/2025 · 13:15-14:30

This plenary celebrates the 100th anniversary of F. Scott Fitzgerald's most famous work by examining it anew through the novel's interest in materiality (the physical components of daily life) as opposed to materialism (the standard reading of the book as one of financial excess and routines of conspicuous consumption). Shortly after the book opens, Nick Caraway refers to Gatsby as "one of those intricate machines that register earthquakes ten thousand miles away," but little has been done until now about this reference to seismographs. This paper delves a little more into seismographic activity in the novel and how this links to Carraway's retelling of a very singular American dream, one which he sets against a wider series of shocks and tremors that map the fissures of American social and cultural reality in the 1920s.

Panels & sessions

All sessions will be held at the Sede de la
Universidad de Alicante building

Av. de Ramón y Cajal, 4
(03001 Alicante)

Panel I

**“American Dreams, Hospitable Fantasies?”
Migrant stories in American literature, culture, and
film**

Room: Rafael Altamira

Dates: 08/04/2025 & 09/04/2025

Chairs: Paula Barba Guerrero & Ana M^a Manzanas
Calvo (Universidad de Salamanca)

Session 1**Time: 09:15-10:45**

Teresa García Salcedo (Universidad de Córdoba)

Cruel Meritocracy and the Tyranny of Conformity: Sefi
Atta's *The Bad Immigrant*

Teresa Martínez Quiles (Universidad de Alicante)

“To enter into, and remain in, any promised land,
one has to conform”: The Policing of Black Female
Migrant Bodies in Nicole Dennis-Benn's *Patsy*

Carla Abella Rodríguez (Universidad de Salamanca)

(Un)Earthing Familial Roots: Reverse Migration through
a Hospitality Lens in Natalie Baszile's *Queen Sugar*

Session 2**Time: 11:15-12:45**

Esther Álvarez López (Universidad de Oviedo)

From Nightmare to Refuge: Hospitality, Solidarity and
the American Dream in Isabel Allende's *The Wind
Knows My Name*

[Panel 1, Session 2 continues; same room]

Beatriz Carrobles Sánchez (UNED)

Struggling for Identity: The Diasporic Experience and the Broken Promise of the American Dream in *Drown* by Junot Díaz

Session 3

Time: 16:00-17:45

Martyna Bryla (Universidad de Málaga)

Problematizing the Narrative of Triumph in Akhil Sharma's *Family Life* (2014)

Leila Marandi López (Universidad de Salamanca)

Exploring Identity Trauma and (De)Construction in U.S. Migrant Narratives through Firoozeh Dumas' *It Ain't so Awful, Falafel*

Parisa Delshad (Universidad de Burgos)

Imperial Dreams, Missionary Virtue, and Domesticity: The Perkins Family in Persia

Mikel Barea Pérez (University of the Basque Country – UPV/EHU)

Disrupted Dreams: *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, 9/11, and the Quest for Belonging

[Panel I continues on **09/04/2025**; same room]

Session 4**Time: 16:00-17:45**

Patricia San José Rico (Universidad de Valladolid)

Speaking the Dream: Moulding the Self through
Language Acquisition in Asian American Literature

Tugba Duzak (Social Sciences University of Ankara)

Living In-Between: Liminality and Identity in Kiik Araki-
Kawaguchi's *The Book of Kane* and *Margaret*

Beatriz Hermida Ramos (Universidad de Salamanca)

Gendered Spaces of Queer Exclusion in Ryka Aoki's
Light from Uncommon Stars

Aitor Ibarrola-Armendariz (Universidad de Deusto)

Sebastian Barry's *Days Without End*: A Migrant's
Account of the Birth of a Nation

Panel 2

**The ecological awakening in American Literature:
Dream or nightmare?**

Room: Miguel Hernández

Date: 08/04/2025

Chair: Imelda Martín Junquera (Universidad de León-
GEHUMECO/GIECO-Franklin/UAH)

Session 1

Time: 13:00-14:45

Juan Ignacio Oliva Cruz (U. La Laguna/GIECO-
Franklin-UAH/Ratnakara)

“Gardening Soiled Words”: Norma E. Cantú & the
Ecological Awakening of Contestation

Guillermo Ortiz García (Universidad de Sevilla)

From pencils to branches: a comparison between the
narratives of nature in Thoreau's works

Melania Rodríguez Román (Universitat Jaume I)

“Time, it had transpired, was of the essence”: James
Merrill's Ecological Awakening

Panel 3

Mothers of the American Dream: Re-creations of motherhood and intersectional maternities in American Literature**Room: 5****Dates:** 08/04/2025 & 09/04/2025**Chair:** Isabel Castelao-Gómez (UNED)**Session 1****Time: 13:00-14:45****María Laura Arce Álvarez** (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)Mothering The American Dream: Surrogate Mothers In Joanne Ramos' *The Farm***Patricia García Medina** (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)

The Other Mother: Notions of sapphic motherhood in US modern fiction

Miguel Ángel Tamargo Del Pozo (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)Motherhood as Compass: Diasporic Mothers and the Performance of a Queer Identity in Elaine Castillo's *America Is Not the Heart* and Zaina Ararat's *You Exist Too Much***Maria Ivars Giner** (Universitat de València)Beyond the Mid-century American Dream Mother: Reconceiving Mothering(s) in Maya Angelou's *Mom & Me & Mom* (2013)

[Panel 3, Session 2 continues; same room]

Session 2

Time: 16:00-17:45

Andrea Herrera (University of Colorado Springs)

*Silence is My Mother: Memory and Storytelling as Path
Toward Healing*

Elisa Fernández Rodríguez (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)

A Borderland Comparison Between the Mother-Daughter and the Mother-Son Bond in Angie Cruz's *Dominicana* (2019) and *How Not to Drown in a Glass of Water* (2022)

Saša Simovic (University of Montenegro)

Hester's Pearl of Great Price

[Panel 3 continues on **09/04/2025**; same room]

Session 3**Time:** 16:00-17:45

Eulalia C. Piñero Gil (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)

Breaking the Taboos of Motherhood in Kate Chopin's
"A Pair of Silk Stockings" and *The Awakening*: The
New American Mother

Sonia Chen Zhou (UNED)

Reimagining Motherhood and Domestic Space in
Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *Herland*

Isabel Castelao-Gómez (UNED)

A Bohemian American Dream of Motherhood: The
Heroic Matricentric Narrative in Diane di Prima's
Recollections of my Life as a Woman

Paula Serrano Elena (Universidad de Zaragoza)

Of Mothers, Nightmares and Dystopia: An Analysis of
The School for Good Mothers by Jessamine Chan

Panel 4

Transfuturism: Alternative futures and black utopias

Room: 6

Date: 09/04/2025

Chair: Rocío Cobo-Piñero (Universidad de Sevilla)

Session 1

Time: 11:30-13:00

Víctor Junco Ezquerro (Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria)

(Do Not) "Stick to the Script": Race, Class, and Capitalism in Boots Riley's *Sorry to Bother You*

Rocío Cobo-Piñero (Universidad de Sevilla)

Transfuturism and Black Atlantic Utopia in Rivers Solomon's *The Deep*

Session 2

Time: 16:00-17:45

María Grau Perejoan (Universitat de Barcelona)

Alternative Futures in Contemporary Puerto Rican Poetry

Paula Barba Guerrero (Universidad de Salamanca)

Monsters Within: Intimate Horror in Tananarive Due's "Supperime" (2023)

Aida Rosende Pérez (Universidade de Vigo)

Tides Are Rising: Alexis Pauline Gumbs on Being Ocean at the End of the World (as We Know It)

Panel 5

**(Un)dreamed houses: domestic utopias, dystopias
& heterotopias****Room: 5****Dates:** 08/04/2025 & 09/04/2025**Chair:** Arturo Corujo (Universitat de Barcelona)**Session 1****Time: 09:15-10:45**

Dolores Resano (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)
Vanishing Houses, Vanishing Selves: Paul Auster's *Sunset Park*

Rodrigo Andrés (Universitat de Barcelona)
Extinct houses for extant figures: Herman Melville's
Israel Potter and Rip Van Winkle

Session 2**Time: 11:15-12:45**

David Fontanals (Universitat de Barcelona)
Heterotopia, Deviation and Radical Unhousing in Henry
James's "The Patagonia"

Marina Bernardo (Universitat de Barcelona)
Unhousing Borders, Unbuilding Walls: Transient
Subjectivities in Chicana Children's Picturebooks

Paula Martín Salván (Universidad de Córdoba)
Going Home: The construction of the unhomely and
the rhetoric of transparency in Jesmyn Ward's *Sing*,
Unburied, *Sing*

[Panel 5 continues on **09/04/2025**; also room 5]

Session 3

Time: 09:30-11:00

Vicent Cucarella Ramón (Universitat de València)

(Dis)Possessing American Space: Black “geo-graphing” of Space and Heterotopias of Difference in Diane Oliver’s *Neighbors and Other*

Anna Pochmara (University of Warsaw)

Unhoused and Unhousing: Black Women’s Era Fiction Reimagines Domesticity

Gloria Lizana Iglesias (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)

Subverting Space: Spatial Dynamics and Subjectivity in Kate Chopin’s *Work*

Session 4

Time: 11:30-13:00

Michael Jonik (University of Sussex)

“emphatic uninhabitableness”: infrastructure and dwelling in Melville’s *The Piazza Tales*

Tanguy Harma (University of Warwick)

A Mostly Romantic Shack in the Woods: Kerouac’s American Fantasy

María Rosa Valle Sánchez (Universidad de Salamanca)

The Alienating Effects of American Society: Heterotopic Retreats in Ottessa Moshfegh’s *My Year of Rest and Relaxation*

Panel 6

The music of American Dreams, American Nightmares & American Fantasies**Room:** Rafael Altamira**Date:** 09/04/2025**Chairs:** Angel Chaparro Sainz (UPV/EHU)**Session 1****Time: 09:30-11:00****Ángel Chaparro Sainz** (UPV/EHU)Home of the American Dream: On Willy Vlautin's
Songwriting**Donal Ryan** (ESIC University - UCM)

Improvisation as Ontological Expression

Session 2**Time: 11:30-13:00****Antoni Monserrat Ferrer** (UIB - UPV/EHU)Devils and Dust on the Desert Highway: Springsteen's
Lyrics and the American Dream**Amanda Correa** (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)In My Eras Era: An Analysis of Taylor Swift and Halsey's
Visual and Sonic Transformation

Panel 7

Matters of care: Dreams and nightmares in contemporary illness narratives

Room: Miguel Hernández

Dates: 08/04/2025 & 09/04/2025

Chairs: **Laura Rodríguez Arnaiz** (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

Session 1

Time: 11:15-12:45

Claudia Alea Parrondo (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

Cancer Metaphors in Anne Boyer's *The Undying* (2021):
A Cognitive Poetics Analysis

Itisha Giri (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

Care, Cure, and Curation in Anne Boyer's *The Undying*

Laura Rodríguez Arnaiz (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

Rising Voices in the Literary Page: Health Struggles and
the Capitalized Post-9/11 Context

[Panel 7 continues on **09/04/2025**; same room]

Session 2**Time: 09:30-11:00**

Chair: Carmen Méndez García (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

Isabel Durán Giménez-Rico (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

When the Skin I Inhabit Becomes a Stigmatizing Nightmare: Illness, Stigma, and Monstrosity in Two Cross-cultural Illness Narratives

Elsa del Campo Ramírez (Universidad Nebrija)

Deaths of Despair: Addiction and Redemption in Barbara Kingsolver's *Demon Copperhead*

Cristina Hurtado Botella (Universidad de Murcia)

Reimagining Mental Health Discourses on Self-Improvement: A Relational Approach to Terese Marie Mailhot's "Regal Grief"

Session 3**Time: 11:30-13:00**

Chair: Laura de la Parra Fernández (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

Carmen Méndez García (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

A Crisis of Care: Caregiving as American Nightmare in COVID Fiction

[Panel 7, Session 3 continues; same room]

Laura de la Parra Fernández (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

“But the wind was full of spring”: Economies of Care in Kate Zambreno's *To Write As If Already Dead* and *The Light Room*

Rebeca Gualberto Valverde (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

“I See Devils in His Eyes”: Nightmares of Caring in Catherine Cho's *Inferno, A Memoir of Motherhood and Madness*

Panel 8

Posthuman fantasies: Dreaming America along the utopian-dystopian arch**Room:** Institucional**Dates:** 08/04/2025 & 09/04/2025**Chairs:** **Miriam Fernández Santiago** (Universidad de Granada)**Session 1****Time: 09:15-10:45****Esther Muñoz González** (Universidad de Zaragoza)Disrupting Identity: Posthumanism and the Evolution of the Gothic in Catherine Lacey's *Pew* (2020)**Ángel Mateos-Aparicio Martín-Albo** (Universidad de Castilla La Mancha)

Civil War 2.0: Envisioning the American Nightmare in Recent SF Narratives of National Discord

Alejandro Rivero Vadillo (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)Posthuman Vampirism and Mechanistic Inhumanism: Gothic Inhumanism and the Collapse of Agency in Peter Watts's *Blindsight*

[Panel 8, Session 2 continues; same room]

Session 2

Time: 11:15-12:45

Rubén Peinado Abarrio (Universidad de Zaragoza)

New Materialism and the Wounded Self in Ruth Ozeki's
The Book of Form and Emptiness

M^a Isabel Pérez Ramos (Universidad de Oviedo/GIECO,
Instituto Franklin-UAH)

Rasquache Dreams, Posthuman Voices, and
Environmental Injustice Nightmares in *Luz at Midnight*

Amaya Fernández Menicucci (UPV/EHU)

Human-Eyed Dolphins: Humanist Nightmares and
Posthumanist Ecosystems in Jeff Vander Meer's
Southern Reach Tetralogy

[Panel 8 continues on **09/04/2025**; same room]

Session 3

Time: 11:30-13:00

Juan Carlos García Romero (Universidad de Granada)

The American Dream Deconstructed: Posthumanism
and Dystopia in *Bioshock*

Lucia Bennett Ortega (Universidad de Granada)

"I Only Want My Life Back": Spectacle, Surveillance,
and Mass Media in Richard Powers' *Generosity*

Richard Hardack (Independent Scholar)

Do Corporations Dream of MAGA Sheep? The
Uncanny Unconscious of Corporations and AI

Session 4

Time: 16:00-17:45

Carmen Laguarda Bueno (Universidad de Zaragoza)

Ted Chiang's "It's 2059, and the Rich Kids Are Still Winning": Transhumanism, Cognitive Enhancement, and the American Dream

Ana Chapman (Universidad de Málaga)

Dreaming in the Digital Age: Constructing a Personal Narrative in *The Sleepless*

Cansu Özge Özmen (Tekirdag Namık Kemal University)

Human Agency in an Outbreak Narrative: *To Paradise* by Hanya Yanagihara

M^a Inmaculada Parra Martínez (Universidad de Murcia)

Performing After the End: Exploring the Post-Apocalypse through the girls of *Station 11* and *The Hunger Games: Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes*

Panel 9

Reel reflections: Culture wars in film and TV and the mythos of the American Dream**Room:** Rafael Altamira**Date:** 10/04/2025**Chairs: Cristina Casado Presa** (Universidad Antonio de Nebrija)**Session 1****Time: 09:30-11:00****Cristina Casado Presa** (Universidad Antonio de Nebrija)
Monsters, Women, and Magic: Intersecting Hierarchies of Gender and Religion in *The Witch***Elena N. Romea Parente** (UNED/UAM)
Revisiting Joe Dante's *Homecoming*: A Satirical Critique of War, Politics, and Media in Post-9/11 America**Sara Familiar Rodríguez** (Universidad de León)
"America tells you that the only things worth knowing are those which can be known. America is wrong": The Dynamics of Ambivalence and Otherness in Outer Range as the Epitome of the American (Non)-Dream**M^a Luisa Sánchez Rivas** (Universidad de Nebrija)
Mo and María Dream in the Borderlands: An Exploration of the American Dream/Nightmare in the TV Series *Mo*

Session 2

Time: 11:30-13:00

Rubén Jarazo (University of Santiago de Compostela)
Subverting the Trajectory of Happiness: The American Dream and Road Movie Tropes in *Drive-Away Dolls* (2024)

Douglas Higbee (University of South Carolina, Aiken)
The Boxing Film and the American Dream: From *Rocky* to *Million Dollar Baby*

Sarah Wagstaffe (Lancaster University)
“You Need Me to Save You”: The Fall of *Superman* and the Death of the American Dream

Panel IO

The American West & the American Dream**Room:** 6**Dates:** 08/04/2025 & 09/04/2025**Chairs:** **Jesús Ángel González López** (Universidad de Cantabria) & **Amaia Ibarra-Bigalondo** (UPV/EHU)**Session 1****Time: 09:15-10:45****Maja Daniel** (UPV/EHU)

The American Dream of being as Dis(able) as a Cowboy: Exploring Disability in the American West

Sophie Vallas (Aix-Marseille Université)The West as a metaphor of the original artistic gesture: reading *Moon Palace* as an echo of Paul Auster's early essays**Amaia Ibarra-Bigalondo** (UPV/EHU)

The West is (not) a Dream for (Barren) Women

Session 2**Time: 11:45-12:45****Consuelo Forés** (Independent Scholar)*Sons of Anarchy*: A Shakespearean vision on the crumbling of the American Dream**Jesús Ángel González** (Universidad de Cantabria)European and American Dreams: *Western* (1997) vs. *Western* (2017)

[Panel 10 continues on **09/04/2025**; same room]

Session 3**Time: 09:30-11:00**

Jennifer Cowe (University of British Columbia)

Progressive, Future and Restorative Nostalgia for a Utopian America through the lens of Project 2025 and the 2024 Presidential Election in Geoff Ryman's 'No Point Talking'

Pasquale Concilio (University of Naples "L'Orientale")

The Country of Dreams and Dust: California and the Imagination of Disaster

Claire Sorin-Depuech (Aix-Marseille Université)

"California is the world's nursery of freedom": Eliza Farnham's gendered vision of California as the American dream

Panel II

Edgar Allan Poe's dreams, nightmares, and fantasies

Room: Miguel Hernández

Date: 10/04/2025

Chairs: **María Isabel Jiménez González** (Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha)

Session 1

Time: 09:30-11:00

Ana Belén Doménech García (Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha)

Reimagining Poe for Young Minds: Dreams, Nightmares, and Fantasies in Rosa Moya's Adaptation of "The Purloined Letter"

María Isabel Jiménez González (Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha)

From Page to Screen: The Enduring Impact of Edgar Allan Poe in Netflix

Santiago Rodríguez Guerrero-Strachan (Universidad de Valladolid)

The Uncanny Grotesque in Edgar Allan Poe and Joyce Carol Oates

Session 2

Time: 16:00-17:45

María Victoria Arenas Vela (Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha)

Arthur Gordon Pym's Nightmare: The Representation of Extreme Hunger and its Physical and Psychological Manifestation in Human Nature

Maria-Simona Bica (West University of Timisoara)

A Narrative within a Narrative: The Role of Trauma in Shaping and Reshaping Edgar Allan Poe's Imagery

Eusebio Llàcer Llorca (Universitat de València)

The American Nightmare in Edgar Allan Poe: *The Fall of the House of Usher*

Panel 12

Reproducing American dreams & nightmares

Room: 2.1

Date: 10/04/2025

Chair: **Heather Latimer** (University of British Columbia)

Session 1

Time: 09:30-11:00

Heather Latimer (University of British Columbia)

Border Politics are Reproductive Politics: Nationalist
Fantasies and American Speculative Fiction

Carolin Jesussek (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz)

Fruiting Bodies: Fungal Infections and Reproduction in
Rivers Solomon's Sorrowland

María Benítez Utrera (Universidad de Sevilla)

When a Patriarchal Dystopia Becomes America's
Reality

Panel 13

American eugenic fantasies**Room:** 2.1**Date:** 08/04/2025**Chair:** Ewa Barbara Luczak (University of Warsaw)**Session 1****Time: 13:00-14:45****Karen Weingarten** (Queen's College, City University of New York)

On the Brink of Utopia: The Dystopian Reproductive Culture of the 1960s US

Maren Linett (Purdue University)

"Mere Repetition": Charlotte Perkins Gilman's Feminist Eugenics

Ewa Barbara Luczak (University of Warsaw)For "the betterment of the human family"? California Sterilizations, Wallace Thurman, and *Tomorrow's Children*

Panel 14

**Indigenous dreams for the Colonial nightmare: 21st
Century Native American Literature & Art**

Room: Emilio Varela

Dates: 08/04/2025 & 09/04/2025

Chairs: **Silvia Martínez-Falquina** (Universidad de Zaragoza)

Session 1

Time: 09:15-10:45

Rosa Segarra Montero (Universitat de València)

Healing the Polluted Body through Indigenous
Women's Curative Literature: An Analysis of Therese
Marie Mailhot's *Heart Berries: A Memoir*

Silvia Martínez-Falquina (asas)

"Native Women Who Rise to the Challenge": MMIW,
Running, and Survivance in Marcie Rendon's *Where
They Last Saw Her*

Session 2

Time: 11:15-12:45

Andrew Douglas Mackay (University of Glasgow)

"I have honor wherever I go": Parody in Larry McNeil's
Visual Art as Resistance to American Dreams of the
Native American

Michel Feith (Nantes University)

Nightmare on Elk Street: Supernatural Retribution in
Stephen Graham Jones's *The Only Good Indians*
(2020)

Susan Bernardin (Oregon State University)

Words Like Beads: Beth Piatote's *The Beadworkers* and
Indigenous Futurities

[Panel 14 continues on **09/04/2025**; same room]

Session 3

Time: 09:30-11:00

Martín Praga (Universidade da Coruña)

LOL. Socially Engaged Humor in the Poetry of Tommy
Pico

Elena Cortés Farrujia (Universitat de Barcelona)

Reclaiming ImagiNATION: Dreaming and Embodying
the Dragon

Ewelina Banka (John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin)

"SOVERYEMPTY TO ME": Margo Tamez's Creative
Manifestations of Sovereignty

Panel 15

**Stories from the Underside of the American Dream:
the American gothic imagination**

Room: 2.1

Dates: 08 - 10/04/2025

Chairs: Inés Ordiz (UNED)

Session 1

Time: 09:15-10:45

José Manuel Correoso Ródenas (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

Dreams and Nightmares of (In)Formal Education in Flannery O'Connor's Short Fiction

Rosa María Díez Cobo (Universidad de Burgos)

The Ambiguous Role of Nature in Shirley Jackson's Fictions

Session 2

Time: 11:15-12:45

Paula Granda Menéndez (Universidad de Valladolid)

Gothic Ghosts of Trauma from the South

Marta M^a Gutiérrez Rodríguez (Universidad de Valladolid)

Dreaming about Salem: Hauntings of America's Colonial Past

[Panel 15, Session 2 continues; same room]

Inés Ordiz (UNED)

Dream House as Conference Paper: Carmen Maria Machado's Gothic Storytelling

[Sessions 3 & 4 continue on **09/04/2025**; same room]

Session 3

Time: 09:30-11:00

Rodrigo Vega Ochoa (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

"I Know What You Did. It Makes Me Sick. I'm Going to Tell": Desperate Housewives as a Paradigmatic Case of Suburban Gothic in American Popular Culture

Álex González Charro (UNED)

A Nightmare on Elm Street: A Transposition of the Gothic to the American Suburbia

Slawomir Studniarz (University of Warmia and Mazury)

The Making of a Monster. Character and spatiality in Thomas Harris's *Red Dragon*

Session 4

Time: 11:30-13:00

Anna Ferrari (Sapienza Università di Roma)

The Shining City on a Hill and The Upside Down: American Myths and Counternarratives in *Stranger Things*

[Panel 15, Session 4 continues; same room]

Laura Álvarez Trigo (Universidad de Valladolid)

It's not the Midnight Realm, it's just the Suburbs:
The World Beyond the Screen as a Metaphor of
Entrapment in *I Saw the TV Glow*

Cristina Santos (Brock University)

Whose American Dream/Nightmare? Contemporary
Feminist Politics and Misogyny in the Netflix Series
Chilling Adventures of Sabrina

[Sessions 5 continues on **10/04/2025**; same room]

Session 5

Time: 11:30-13:00

Tom Byers (University of Louisville)

Looking Back, Looking Forward: Gothic Pasts and
Futures in Southern Landscape Photography

Paula Currás-Prada (Universidade da Coruña)

Deviant Eye Sockets: C.D. Wright's (New) Southern
Gothic Poetry

Denise Burge (University of Cincinnati)

Lafcadio Hearn and the Troubled Psyche of Place

Panel 16

The poetics of dreams

Room: Institucional

Dates: 08 - 10/04/2025

Chair: **Viorica Patea** (Universidad de Salamanca)

Session 1**Time:13:00-14:45**

Nathalie Cochoy (Université Toulouse-Jean Jaurès)

“The Door aja” (P 640) – Renunciation as an Art of Expectation in Emily Dickinson's Poetry

Ariadna Belmonte (Universidad de Salamanca)

I had no Cause to be awake —”: Exploring the Cosmicity of Visionary Daydreaming in Emily Dickinson's Poetry

Ivona Lausevik (Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje, North Macedonia)

“It's Prudenter to Dream”: Reverie and Escapism in Three Poems by Emily Dickinson, John Ashbery, and Wallace Stevens

Session 2**Time:16:00-17:45**

Dídac Llorens Cubedo (UNED)

Dreams of Glamor and Success in T. S. Eliot's *The Cocktail Party*

[Panel 16, Session 2 continues; same room]

Natalia Carbajosa (Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena)

The Dream of Poetry Onstage: The choruses from *The Rock* by T. S. Eliot

Andrea Isabel Ingelmo Pérez (Universidad de Salamanca)

“Unreal City”: The Nightmarish Realm in T. S. Eliot's *The Waste Land* (1922)

[Session 3 continues on **09/04/2025**; same room]

Session 3

Time: 09:30-11:00

Carles Granell Sales (UNED)

The Centrality of Dreams in H.D.'s Poetics and its Neglect in Anthologies

Don Bogen (University of Cincinnati)

“Deep in the Brain, far Back”: Theodore Roethke's Evolving Sense of Dreams

Leonor María Martínez Serrano (Universidad de Córdoba)

Mark Strand on the Weather of Dreams

[Sessions 4 & 5 continue on **10/04/2025**; same room]

Session 4

Time: 09:30-11:00

Ester Díaz Morillo (UNED)

“Of sulfurous dreamscapes”: Plathian Echoes in Musical Transmediations

María González Rodríguez (Universidad de Salamanca)

Spinning Tales and Weaving Dreams: Lyn Hejinian's Postmodern Poetics of Composition in *The Book of a Thousand Eyes*

Ana María Gavilá Valls (UNED)

The Fiction of A Dream. Mark Strand and the Poetics of Daydreams

Session 5

Time: 11:30-13:00

Aitana Monzón Blasco (Universidad de Zaragoza)

Dreaming the American Pond: Quivering Waters and Fenced Gardens in Three American Poets

Matthew Roth (Messiah University)

Dreaming Beyond the American Dream: Alice Notley's *Poetic Subversions*

Incihan Hotaman (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)

“And You Just Woke Up”: Unpacking the Dream and the Nightmare in Olivia Gatwood's “Manic Pixie Dream Girl”

[Session 6 continues on **10/04/2025**; same room]

Session 6**Time: 16:00-17:45**

Monica Manolachi (University of Bucharest)

Dreams and Realities in the Poetry of American Poets of Caribbean Origin

Ariadna García Carreño (Universidad de Almería)

The Poetics of the Socialist Dream in George Sterling's Early Lyrical Production (1896-1907)

Carla Palací Jover (Universidad de Alicante)

The American Dream Deferred: Amanda Gorman's reimagining of the Dream through the Puritan Heritage in *Call Us What We Carry*

Panel 17

The Great Gatsby* today*Room:** 5**Date:** 10/04/2025**Chairs:** **Patricia Fra** (Universidad de Santiago de Compostela)**Session 1****Time: 09:30-11:00****Elena Miriam Dobre** (Universitat Jaume I)Southern Gatsby: Gothic Reverberations and the American Dream in Faulkner's *Absalom, Absalom!***Cristina Brugues Mellado** (Universidad Rovira y Virgili)The Evolution of the American Dream: A Comparative Analysis of *The Great Gatsby*, Social Media, and Pop Culture

Panel 18

**Forever faithful to the American Dream?
Post-modern narratives of an impossible myth**

Room: Emilio Varela

Dates: 08/04/2025 & 09/04/2025

Chairs: **Virginia Pignagnoli** (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) & **Laura Roldán-Sevillano** (Universidad de Zaragoza)

Session 1

Time: 13:00-14:45

Begoña Simal (Universidade da Coruña)

"Smelling that American Dream, Baby": Post-
Postmodern Visions of the American Dream/
Nightmare in George Saunders' Short Fiction

Andrianna Hughes (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)

Opting Out of the American Dream: Ottessa
Moshfegh's *My Year of Rest and Relaxation*

Virginia Pignagnoli (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

Reading for the Political Crossovers: Xochitl Gonzalez's
Olga Dies Dreaming

Session 2**Time: 16:00-17:45****Laura Roldán-Sevillano** (Universidad de Zaragoza)

Portraying the (Post-)Recession American Nightmare:
An Exploration of the Realist Turn in 21C Immigrant
Novels Countering the American Dream

Miguel Sanz Jiménez (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

Beyond the City: Precarity and Crime in Noir Fiction by
Whitehead and Iglesias

Irene Izquierdo (Universitat de València)

A Disaffected Present: Unfeeling the American Dream
in *Luster* by Raven Leilani and *The Guest* by Emma
Cline

[Panel 18 continues on **09/04/2025**; same room]

Session 3**Time: 11:30-13:00****Ioannis Antzus Ramos** (American University in Dubai)

The work of George Saunders as a Requiem of the
American Dream

Oisín Meenan (University of Oxford)

The Representative Author: Creative Writing Programs,
Identity and Inclusion in the Contemporary US
Campus Novel

[Panel 18, Session 3 continues; same room]

Charlie Jeffries (University of Sussex)

From Girlfriends to Brides: Queer Publishing, Power, and the American Dream in the 1990s and 2000s

Panel 19

**American Nightmares and the future of the Nation
in “Jacksonian” America 1824-1848: race, politics
and the environment****Room:** Miguel Hernández**Date:** 08/04/2025**Chairs:** **Marie-Jeanne Rossignol** (Université Paris Cité)**Session 1****Time: 16:00-17:45****Marie-Jeanne Rossignol** (Université Paris Cité)

“some of them will curse the day they ever saw us”:
Racial warfare and the future of democracy in the
writings of David Walker, Alexis de Tocqueville, and
Gustave de Beaumont 1829-1835

Patrice Dallaire (Université Laval / Université Paris Cité)

“A stranger in my own country”: The tragic fate of
Patriot Tejanos in the wake of the Texas Revolution

Panel 20

American dreams and transcultural visions**Room:** Emilio Varela**Date:** 09/04/2025 & 10/04/2025**Chairs:** **Theodora Tsimpouki** (National & Kapodistrian University of Athens) & **Aristi Trendel** (Le Mans University)**Session 1****Time: 16:00-17:45****Andriana Kiczkowski** (UNED)

The American Dream in post 9/11 fiction. A transcultural experience in *Homeland Elegies* by Ayad Akhtar

Sara Soler i Arjona Soler (Universitat de Barcelona)

"To be awake in American bones": Failed Dreams, Diasporic Legacies, and Transcultural Identity in Ocean Vuong's Work

Elena Ortells Montón (Universitat Jaume I)

The Great Gatsby as a "Nigerian Story": Deconstructing the American Dream in Seffi Atta's *The Bad Immigrant*

[Panel 20 continues on **10/04/2025**; same room]

Session 2

Time: 09:30-11:00

Theodora Tsimpouki (Dept. of English Studies, National & Kapodistrian U of Athens, Greece)

A modest proposal: Transcultural engagements with the US national imaginary in Teju Cole's *Tremor* (2024)

Inés García Saillard (Institute of International Legal Studies, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos)

The Perverse Mutation of the American Dream

Session 3

Time: 11:30-13:00

Aristi Trendel (Le Mans University)

The American Dream in Imbolo Mbue's *Behold the Dreamers*: The Transculturality Shift

Nicole Ollier (Bordeaux-Montaigne University)

Elia Kazan's ever reborn, ever pure and corrupted American dream

Marek Paryz (University of Warsaw)

An American Dream Fulfilled: Jerzy Kosinski as a Biographical Hero

Panel 2I

Miscellaneous

Room: 6

Dates: 08/04/2025 & 10/04/2025

Chairs: **Laura Arce** (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)
& **Martín Urdiales** (Universidad de Vigo)

MSC Session 1: Gender and sexual identity/orientation

Time: 13:00-14:45

Alvaro Delgado Ordás (Universidad de León)

An American Queer Nightmare: Conversion Camps
and Supernatural Horror in *Camp Damascus*

William R. Handley (University of Southern California)

"Are We Doomed?" The Ecology of Democracy in Tony
Kushner's "Gay Fantasia on National Themes," *Angels
in America*

Tuula Kolehmainen (University of Turku)

Fellows and Their Fellow Dreamers: Vulnerability, Male
Bonding, and Dreams on the Stand-up Stage

MSC Session 2: American environments: race, politics and the Nation**Time: 16:00-17:45****Constante González Groba** (Universidad de Santiago)Percival Everett writes the novel *Twain couldn't write*:The dream of Black escape in *James***Ludmila Martanovschi** (Ovidius University of Constanta)

The Fight for a Better Education: Revisiting the

Nightmare of Segregation in Nikkole Salter's *Lines in the Dust***Jesús Blanco Hidalgo** (University of Córdoba)

"All manners of monsters": A Liberal Apocalypse in Hari

Kunzru's *Red Pill***Gian Maria di Cristofaro** (University of Siena, Italy)Toxic Nightmares in Richard Power's *Gain*[Panel 21 continues on **10/04/2025**; same room]**MSC Session 3: Fantasy, monstrosity, and the weird****Time: 09:30-11:00****Imelda Martín Junquera** (Universidad de León)Journeys of self-discovery in *Poor Things* and *The**Patchwork Girl***Manuel Martín González** (Universidad de Málaga)

The Sublime and the Demise of Anthropocentrism in

H. P. Lovecraft's Cthulhu Mythos: "The Haunter of the Dark" (1936) and the Fading of the Time Dimension"

[Panel 21 continues on **10/04/2025**; same room]

MSC Session 4: HIV/AIDS and Activism on Stage

Time: 11:30-13:00

J. Javier Torres Fernández (Universidad de Almería)

The Nightmare of HIV/AIDS in the American Stage:
Between Cultural Amnesia and the Gentrification of
AIDS

Álvaro Albarrán Gutiérrez (Universidad de Sevilla)

Sharing the Nightmare: Josep Costa, U.S. Drama, and
the Rise of Anti-AIDS Activism in Spain

Juan Carlos Ontiveros (Universidad de Oviedo)

Black Women in a Crooked World: Overcoming
Violence Against the Black Female Body in Three
Contemporary Neo-Slave Narratives

Full panels

All sessions will be held at the Sede de la
Universidad de Alicante building

Av. de Ramón y Cajal, 4
(03001 Alicante)

Full Panel n. I

Unsettling the Anthropocene: From American nightmares of environmental crises to more-than-human relationality

Room: Rafael Altamira

Date: 08/04/2025

Coordinator: Dr. Katarzyna Paszkiewicz (University of the Balearic Islands)

Session 1

Time: 13:00-14:45

Katarzyna Paszkiewicz (University of the Balearic Islands)

Hauntological landscapes of the Anthropocene

Stephanie Rincón Ramos (University of the Balearic Islands)

Postcolonial Fears and Post-Apocalyptic Imagery in
Kipo and the Age of Wonderbeasts

Andrea Ruthven (University of the Balearic Islands)

Plant Agency and Vegetal Narratives: Rewriting the
Fantasy of the New World

Full Panel n. 2

Technological Nightmares and posthumanity in Contemporary U.S. Fiction

Room: Miguel Hernández

Date: 09/04/2025

Coordinator: Mónica Carolina Calvo Pascual
(Universidad de Zaragoza)

Session 1

Time: 16:00-17:45

Sonia María Baelo Allué (Universidad de Zaragoza)

From Dreams to Nightmares: The Posthuman Trauma
Novel in 21st century US Fiction

Mónica Carolina Calvo Pascual (Universidad de
Zaragoza)

American Nightmares, Trauma and Posthumanity in
Rivers Solomon's *Sorrowland*

Rocío Carrasco Carrasco (Universidad de Huelva)

Alternative Possibilities for Critical Times: Posthumanity
and Affirmative Relations in *The Peripheral* (Prime
Video 2022-)

Full Panel n. 3

Challenging the American Nightmare: Storied ecologies, migrant narratives, and healing tools in 21st Century ethnic minority literatures

Room: 2.1

Date: 08/04/2025 & 09/04/2025

Coordinators: **Anna M. Brígido-Corachán** (Universitat de València) & **Ana Fernández-Caparrós Turina** (Universitat de València)

Session 1

Time:16:00-17:45

Chair: **Anna M. Brígido-Corachán** (Universitat de València)

Audrey Goodman (Georgia State University)

"You Are Here": Ada Limón's Locational & Collaborative Poetry

Mònica Bru (Universitat de València)

Dreaming Antarctic Ice: The Hopeful Ecodramaturgy of Caridad Svich's *Ushuaia Blue*

Anna M. Brígido (Universitat de València)

Ocean Poetics and the Ethics of Un/Care in Leslie Marmon Silko's *Oceanstory*

[Full Panel n. 3 continues on **09/04/2025**; same room]

Session 2**Time: 16:00-17:45**

Chair: Ana Fernández-Caparrós Turina (Universitat de València)

Samir Dayal (Bentley University)

Unhomely Healing in a Nightmare Homeland

Anesa Muslimovic (Universitat de València)

An Analysis of Alternative Un-American Dreams in Ismet
Prcic's *Unspeakable Home*

Ana Fernández-Caparrós (Universitat de València)

Reconfiguring Inequality, Exclusion, and
Undocumentedness on the Contemporary American
Stage: On Diversity and Hope

Full Panel n. 4

**Graphic Dreams, Sequential Nightmares:
Interrogating the American Utopia through the
comics medium**

Room: Miguel Hernández

Date: 10/04/2025

Coordinator: Christina Dokou (National and
Kapodistrian University of Athens)

Session 1

Time: 11:30-13:00

Christina Dokou (National and Kapodistrian University
of Athens)

From “E uni plures”: The Ultimate American Dream as
Nightmare in Josh Finney and Kat Rocha’s *Utopiates*

Avgerinos Tsalikis (National and Kapodistrian University
of Athens)

Maritime Nightmares of Fatherhood in Jeff Lemire’s *The
Underwater Welder*

Eirini Vasila (National and Kapodistrian University of
Athens)

Issei Nightmares, Nisei Frontier Hero Dreams: Healing
the Trauma of American Injustice

WORKSHOP

One hundred years of solitude: Teaching F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* in Spanish universities in the Age of TikTok

Coordinator:

Juan Ignacio Guijarro González
(Universidad de Sevilla)

Room: Emilio Varela

Date & Time: 10/04/2025 · 16:00-17:45

Participants:

Eulalia Piñero Gil (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)

David Río Rigadas (Universidad del País Vasco)

Patricia Fra López (Universidad de Santiago de Compostela)

Round table:

Resisting the Capitalocene: Narratives of hope in the 21st Century

Coordinator:

Cristina María Gámez Fernández
(Universidad de Córdoba)

Room: Rafael Altamira

Date & Time: 10/04/2025 · 16:00-17:45

Participants:

Belén Cornejo Daza (Universidad de Granada and University of Bologna)

Zihan Zhou (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

Mar Gallego Durán (Universidad de Huelva)

Lucía Ramírez Garcías (Universidad de Málaga)

Macarena Martín Martínez (Universidad de Sevilla)

SAAS young scholars – Meet&Greet

Coordinator:
Macarena Martín
(Universidad de Sevilla)

Room: 5

Date & Time: 10/04/2025 · 11:30-13:00

Book Presentations

Room: 5

Date & Time: 10/04/2025 · 16:00-17:45

Participants:

***Indigenous Journeys, Transatlantic Perspectives:
Relational Worlds in Contemporary Native American
Literature***

Authors/editors: **Anna M. Brígido-Corachán**

Presented by: Anna M. Brígido-Corachán

Women in Rock Memoirs: Music, History, and Life-Writing

Authors/editors: **Cristina Garrigós and Marika Ahonen**

Presented by: Cristina Garrigós

(In)Hospitable Encounters in Chicanx and Latinx Literature, Culture, and Thought

Authors/editors: **Maria Antònia Oliver-Rotger & Pere Gifra-Adroher**

Presented by: Esther Álvarez López

Spanish perspectives on the American West in 21st Century literature, cinema and culture

Authors/editors: **Amaia Ibarraran-Bigalondo**

Presented by: Amaia Ibarraran-Bigalondo

Cinema of/for the Anthropocene: Affect, Ecology, and More-Than-Human Kinship

Authors/editors: **Katarzyna Paszkiewicz & Andrea Ruthven**

Presented by: Katarzyna Paszkiewicz & Andrea Ruthven

No Single Trajectory: Transnational and Transmedia Explorations of the American West

Authors/editors: **Ángel Chaparro Sainz & Jesús Ángel González**

Presented by: Ángel Chaparro Sainz & Jesús Ángel González

Social events

Social events

Alicante City Tour

Tuesday 08/04/2025 · 19:30

After our first plenary session at the [Museo de Arte Contemporáneo \(MACA\)](#), we will offer a short city tour. Our guides will pick us up from the square in front of MACA and share stories about the history and legends of Alicante. The tour will conclude at Hotel Meliá Alicante, where we will host our welcome reception.

This tour is free for all conference attendees, and **no registration is required.**

Wine Reception

Tuesday 08/04/2025 · 20:30

After the city tour, we invite you to join us for the Wine Reception at [Hotel Meliá Alicante](#).

The reception is free for all conference attendees, but **advance registration is required.**

Conference Dinner

Wednesday 09/04/2025 · 21:00

The conference dinner will be held at [Restaurante Poniente](#). A form will be sent to those who have confirmed their attendance, where you can select your main course choice of either meat or fish. **Vegan and non-dairy options will also be available.**

The cost for the conference dinner is 40 euros. You should **pay for the dinner when completing your conference registration.**

Kara Walker Exhibition at MACA

(free entrance)

Permanent exhibition

The MACA presents [the largest exhibition of Kara Walker's work to date in Spain](#). The exhibition, which can be visited until 7 September, is curated by Rosa Castells, and offers an overview of her career over the last four decades. Kara Walker is one of the most outstanding artists of her generation and one of the most interesting on the international art scene, with a complex work that analyses, in sometimes chaotic scenes, questions of race, identity, power and desire, always used as systems of oppression and subjugation, across centuries and continents.

Her work addresses issues of violence, identity, race and sexuality in the context of the ongoing psychological wound caused by the tragic legacy of slavery, taking a critical look at the historical past and examining racial and gender stereotypes in our society today.



SAAS2025

Spanish Association of American Studies

American Dreams, American Nightmares
American Fantasies