

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### *Minding the Present: Bodies, Places, Matter in and between Australia and Europe*

17-19 September 2025

Department of Linguistic and Literary Studies, University of Padova  
(Via Vendramini, 13, Padova, Italy)

We are pleased to announce the call for papers for the conference *Minding the Present: Bodies, Places, Matter in and between Australia and Europe*, to be held on 17-19 September 2025, at the University of Padova (Italy). In this conference we aim to explore the demands of the present, the actions and interactions we are all bound to set into motion in order to engage in political and art-activistic practices to start caring for and curing our vulnerable planet and our insecure standing on and with it. Central to our exploration is the ontology of the present—the *hic et nunc* (here and now)—together with the concepts of present orientation and the re-figurations of time/s. We will focus on how, through discourse, art, literature and geopolitical praxis, we can understand, experience, and potentially reshape both our perception of time, particularly in relation to the present moment. We are especially interested in investigating the present as a dynamic space situated between archives of the past (Hall, 2001) and what P. Saint-Amour has defined as traumatic anticipations of the future (Saint-Amour, 2015), taking into account nonlinear, non-Western and Indigenous cosmologies and heterotopias. In this way, we assert that, as Hodgson suggests, “the present moment is not... a static fixed coalescence but a super complexity, the dynamism of which determines its ability for anticipation” (2013, p. 31).

We seek to examine the shaping experiences, identities, and perceptions of the present as a catalyst to urgent action both in Australia—with a special alertness to the very rooted cultures of Indigenous Australia—and in the complex relations between Europe and Australia. The conference particularly welcomes contributions from literature, linguistics, the performing arts, anthropology, cultural geography, memory studies, political and legal studies. We also encourage interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary approaches.

We invite contributions that address the following topics (but are not limited to them):

- The role of cultural, literary, artistic archives in shaping present understandings and future projections
- Temporal re-configurations in literature, performing arts, anthropology and politics
- Anticipatory practices and their impact on literature and art
- Nonlinear and alternative conceptions of time in artistic, cultural and literary practices
- Present-oriented practices in various disciplines and contexts
- Performing arts as a medium for exploring and transforming the present
- Corporeality and embodiment in relation to time and cultural contexts
- Geographies of the present: making and claiming places and spaces in and between Australia and Europe

- Migrations and diasporas: bodies in motion through time and space
- Resurgence of Indigenous knowledge systems and practices, including temporal philosophies, relational cosmologies, and storytelling
- Regeneration initiatives: rethinking time in ecological contexts and texts
- Relationality: how do Indigenous epistemologies challenge and expand Western notions of the time, especially the concept of the present?
- Ecologies and environment: comparing Australian and European perspectives on orientation, the immediate present, care, and rootedness
- Environmental resurgence and regeneration initiatives as forms of immediate care and reorientation
- Cultural and literary approaches to the ontology of the present
- Activist strategies and calls for action in contemporary Australia and in Australia-Europe relations
- Collective memory and forgetting and their role in shaping present anxieties and actions

#### **Deadlines:**

Abstract (300-400 words) and a short bio-note (200 words): **8 June 2025**

Notification of acceptance: **20 June 2025**

Registration (please note that panelists must be or become regular EASA members):

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| Early bird | by <b>31 July 2025</b> | 200 euros |
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|  | between <b>1 August and 10 September 2025</b> | 280 euros |
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| PhD students: |  | 100 euros |
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| Students and PhD students of the University of Padova: |  | no fees |
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Fees include coffee and lunch breaks, plus a conference set.

The conference dinner will take place on 18 September (more info on costs and the location will be offered at a later stage on the dedicated website).

Scientific Committee: Dany Adone, Valérie-Anne Belleflamme, Salhia Ben-Messahel, Matthew Graves, Marie Herbillon, Irma Krčan, Maggie Nolan, Claudia Novosivschei, Marilena Parlati, Iva Polak, Geoff Rodoreda, Astrid Schwegler Castañer

Organising Committee: Maria Renata Dolce (University of Lecce), Eleonora Federici (University of Ferrara), Francesca Mussi (University of Pisa), Marilena Parlati (University of Padova)

The Conference website is under construction, more information will be posted on the EASA website.

The Conference is meant as an **in-person** event for accepted **speakers**, but the conference will be available on zoom for external attendees.

Contact: [marilena.parlati@unipd.it](mailto:marilena.parlati@unipd.it) (for proposals, please use the heading “EASA 2025 Padova”)