

**29–30
OCTOBER 2026**

II COLLOQUIUM ON ISLAND LITERATURES AND CULTURES

**THE ISLAND AS A CROSSROADS: MOBILITY,
DOMINATION, AND HYBRIDISM**

**UNIVERSIDADE DOS AÇORES
CAMPUS DE PONTA DELGADA**

Long conceived as isolated or peripheral spaces, islands are today understood as strategic sites of travel, contact, and interconnection. Located at the intersection of commercial, migratory, and tourist routes, island territories function both as spaces of circulation and of anchorage, as points of departure and arrival for migrations, exiles, diasporas, and tourist flows. At the same time, climate change is placing a large proportion of the world's islands at risk as a result of rising sea levels. To this environmental threat is added the legacy of the fundamental role that certain islands played in the histories of colonization — a legacy that continues today to shape the unequal distribution of environmental risk experienced in some archipelagic and insular territories.

This colloquium — an initiative associated with the PhD program in Island Literatures and Cultures (University of the Azores, University of Madeira, University of Corsica, INALCO) and with CHAM Açores – Centre for the Humanities (FCSH NOVA/UAc) — aims to examine this conception of the island as a space of circulation, conflict, cultural reconfiguration, and vulnerability, taking the Azores archipelago as its point of departure.

Within the field of Island Studies, scholars such as Godfrey Baldacchino (2013) and Pete Hay (2006) have emphasized insularity as a specific historical, political, economic, and cultural condition, while also highlighting that it is simultaneously shaped by relationships of dependence, circulation, and negotiation with continental and transnational spaces.

The strategic position of many islands has made them privileged sites of dynamics of domination, conflict, and tension, as well as laboratories of ecological transformation—processes that literature and culture help to problematize. By thematizing relations between center and periphery, domination and resistance, memory and reappropriation—as illustrated by the works of Aimé Césaire, Édouard Glissant, and Homi Bhabha—literary and artistic representations turn the island into a site for negotiating the traces of the past, symbolic and material violence, and struggles for cultural and political emancipation.

These dynamics have contributed to the formation of island societies marked by linguistic, cultural, and identity-based plurality. From this perspective, the island can be conceived as a “third space” (Bhabha, 1994), that is, an in-between space of cultural translation and negotiation, in which hybrid forms of identity, language, and artistic expression emerge, challenging essentialist conceptions of culture and belonging. Numerous scholars have examined how literature and culture reflect these processes across different periods and geographical contexts (Fougère, 1995, 2004, 2024; Bernardie-Tahir, 2011; Fletcher, 2011; McMahon, 2016; McMahon & André, 2018; Crane & Fletcher, 2017), both from perspectives rooted in insular contexts themselves and from continental viewpoints. Other scholars have likewise focused on the Portuguese Atlantic context, shaped by the historical and cultural specificities of the Azores and Madeira archipelagos (Almeida, 1983, 1989, 2011; Carneiro et al., 2016; Espínola et al., 2014; Freitas, 2013; Nemésio, 1932, 2023; Pires, 2013; Santos, 2013; Vieira, 2009, 2010).

We invite papers and perspectives that examine the ways in which literatures and cultures think about, construct/deconstruct, and/or propose alternatives to insular identities and cultures.

The following thematic axes are proposed on an indicative basis. Proposals that, from other theoretical, disciplinary, or geographical perspectives, engage in dialogue with the general theme of the colloquium will also be welcome.

Axis 1 – Island Literatures and Cultures: Mobility, Memory, and Refuge

- Narratives of migration, exile, and transoceanic circulation
- Insularity, identity, and cultural belonging

Axis 2 – Hybridisms, Translation, and the Circulation of Knowledge

- Plurilingualism and languages in contact in insular contexts
- Transnational circulation of insular works and authors

Axis 3 – Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Insularity

- Mobility, tourism, and globalization
- Ecology, environment, toxicity and insular environmental risk

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Important Information

Paper proposals must include:

1. the name(s) of the author(s), with institutional affiliation;
2. an indication of the thematic axis;
3. the title;
4. an abstract (up to 300 words);
5. keywords (maximum of 6).

A short biographical note (up to 250 words) must be sent as an attachment.

All proposals should be sent to the following email address: cham.secretariado@uac.pt, with the subject line: II Colloquium on Island Literatures and Cultures.

Presentations will be limited to 20 minutes.

Although the colloquium will be held in person, a limited number of remote presentations may be accepted, with priority given to doctoral candidates.

Schedule

31 May 2026 – Submission deadline for proposals

30 June 2026 – Notification of acceptance

29–30 October 2026 – Colloquium

Publication

The publication of a selection of papers from the colloquium is planned. Articles will be subject to a double-blind peer-review process.

Final versions of the papers must be submitted by 31 January 2027.

Registration Fees

Speakers holding a doctoral degree – €85

Doctoral candidates and grant holders – €20

Members of CHAM and faculty from the Universities of the Azores, Madeira, Corsica, and INALCO – exempt from registration fees.

Travel, accommodation, and meals are the responsibility of the participants.

Organizing Committee

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