

## **CfP: Enchanted Reading across Languages, Cultures, and Times (one-day workshop at University of Warwick)**

We are organising a one-day workshop at University of Warwick on 5 October 2026 on the topic of 'Enchanted Reading across Languages, Cultures, and Times' where scholars working on related fields are invited to present their research. The main aim of the workshop is to explore the ways that reading fictional works originating in a foreign language, culture, or time period can engender enchanted or obsessed states in readers.

The latest debates in the fields of literary studies, comparative literature, and translation studies have probed the phenomenology of reading, subverting the conventional dismissal of enchanted reading as a state of naivety or a lack of critical distance (Felski, Moi, Landy, Scott, He). This approach re-affirms the role of literature in shaping the self-knowledge and worldviews of readers. Yet few have studied the intensive, or obsessive reading of world literature and translated literature across times and geographical locations, or questioned the unique yet powerful potential of literary works with different linguistic and cultural origins to change the vocabularies, identities, imaginaries, and life paths of readers. The workshop aims to address this gap by approaching these issues from an interdisciplinary approach, combining fields such as comparative literature, translation studies, literary sociology and the psychology of reading. We want to ask: what does obsessive, or enchanted, reading of fictional works that originate in a different language, culture, or time period do to the reader? How does such an experience of reading shape the reader's engagement with the text and with the world beyond it? More broadly, does the obsessive consumption of narratives through other media (short videos, films, TV, and theatre performances) fulfil similar functions?

Potential topics can include but are not limited to:

1. the meaning and effect of reading in translation
2. obsessive reading by lay readers and more 'professional' readers
3. historical evidence of enchanted reading
4. psychological analyses of obsessive, or 'addicted', reading
5. enchanted reading as a shared experience (through e.g. reading groups and book clubs)
6. the enchanted viewing of short videos, films, and TV series that changes the viewer's life paths
7. the enchanted viewing of theatre performances that changes the audience's life paths

Following the workshop, we will select papers from the participants to propose a special issue to a peer-reviewed journal with a target publication date of summer 2027.

We will be able to cover lunch and refreshments for the day, and we may be able to offer a travel reimbursement up to £50 for speakers (pending final funding outcome). An optional conference dinner will follow the workshop (at participants' own expense). The workshop will be held in person. Remote participation may be possible for presenters based outside of Europe—please indicate in your proposal if this applies to you.

**If you are interested in presenting at the workshop, please send us a 250-word abstract, a title, and a short bio by 15 May 2026.**

**Contact Information**

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