

**Relational Forms X**  
**1925, 2025: Which Twenties?**  
**Empathy and Estrangement Across Time**  
**in Literature and the Arts**

**an international conference hosted by the**  
**Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Porto, Portugal**  
**and organised by CETAPS**  
**4-6 December 2025**

Confirmed keynote speakers:

**Anna Snaith**  
(King's College London)

**Philip McGowan**  
(Queen's University Belfast)

'We're in 1925'; 'it's the 1930s again': statements of this kind may sometimes be a trope of lazy journalism, and yet they carry a particular persuasiveness as regards our rapport with certain moments in history – irrespective of whether they obtain from us a sense of empathy or a contrarian response.

This conference probes the applicability of that trope to our perceptions of the literatures and arts of a century ago: when we approach them from our early 21<sup>st</sup>-century circumstance, do we get a sense of congeniality – of replicated patterns? Or rather of incommensurability, of history never repeating itself (or otherwise of doing so 'with a [huge] difference')? And how does this tension between emulation and estrangement apply to our view of the relations between literature and the other arts – then and now?

Honouring the Relational Forms tradition of embedding particular commemorative designs in its annual conferences, the reflective exercise described above will this year encompass the centennials of two momentous publications – Virginia Woolf's *Mrs Dalloway* and F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. As always, these will not be *the* object of the conference, but rather two specific footholds in literary memory that may inspire discussions of other objects from a very broad literary and artistic landscape.

As indicated by the number in its title, this is the tenth regular event to reflect the concerns of the eponymous research group (*Relational Forms*), based at CETAPS (the Centre for English, Translation and Anglo-Portuguese Studies). The group's rationale and remit entail that we centrally address the cultures of the Anglophone world, with a particular focus on Ireland and Britain – but we accept contributions bearing on other literary and artistic cultures.

**Relational Forms X** will welcome **proposals for 20-minute papers in English** responding to the above.

Suggested (merely indicative) topics include:

- empathy: the literary (and artistic) past as a source of congeniality
- estrangement: the literary (and artistic) past as 'a foreign country'
- commemorative practices in literature and the arts: opportunity and cultural challenge

- remembering Woolf: gender, selfhood and *pathos* (on the centenary of *Mrs Dalloway*)
- remembering Fitzgerald: selfhood, exhilaration and *pathos* (on the centenary of *The Great Gatsby*)
- literature and film: adaptation, empathy and estrangement
- literature and translation: rewriting, empathy and estrangement

**Submissions should be sent by email to [relational@letras.up.pt](mailto:relational@letras.up.pt)**

Please include **RF10** in the subject line of your email and organise your proposal into **two separate files**:

- a file containing the full title and a 250-300 word description of your paper;
- a file containing the author's data: name, affiliation, contact address, paper title and author's bio-note (150 words).

Please name these two documents as follows:

Surname\_Name\_Abstract\_RF10

Surname\_Name\_AuthorInfo\_RF10

**Deadline for proposals:** 30 June 2025

**Notification of acceptance:** 20 July 2025

**Deadline for registration:** 6 November 2025

**Registration Fee:** 90 Euros

**Student fee:** 70 Euros

**Registration details will be posted online in September 2025**

All delegates are responsible for their own travel arrangements and accommodation.

More information available at <https://cetaps.wixsite.com/relationalforms10>

**Organised by the Relational Forms research area**

<https://www.cetaps.com/research-area/relational-forms-medial-and-textual-transits-in-ireland-and-britain/>

**Executive Committee:**

Rui Carvalho Homem (coord.) | Jorge Bastos da Silva | Miguel Ramalhte Gomes | Jorge Almeida e Pinho |  
Márcia Lemos | Katarzyna Pisarska | Mark Wakefield

**For further queries please contact:**

CETAPS – Centre for English, Translation and Anglo-Portuguese Studies

Faculdade de Letras da Universidade do Porto

Via Panorâmica, s/n

4150-564 PORTO

PORTUGAL

[relational@letras.up.pt](mailto:relational@letras.up.pt)

**Supported by**

**FCT** Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia

MINISTÉRIO DA EDUCAÇÃO E CIÊNCIA

UIDB/04097/2020