



GEORGETOWN
UNIVERSITY
College of Arts & Sciences

Department of Spanish and Portuguese

18th GRAPHSY (Graduate Portuguese and Hispanic Symposium)

Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Georgetown University - Washington, DC

Creating (dis)continuity/ Creando (dis)continuidad/ Criando (des)continuidade

February 13, 2026 - Hybrid (In-Person and Online sessions)¹

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Georgetown University invites you to participate in its Graduate Portuguese and Hispanic Symposium 2026 (GRAPHSY). This year's conference welcomes proposals under the theme *Creating (dis)continuity / Creando (dis)continuidad / Criando (des)continuidade*, encouraging a wide range of research in the fields of Linguistics, Iberian and Latin American Literatures and Cultures. Both fleeting and longstanding, the perception of time plays a crucial role in how we understand the world and define our place within it. In language and culture, continuity and rupture serve as forces that preserve, challenge, and transform how meaning is produced and transmitted.

GRAPHSY 2026 invites participants to reflect on how the interplay of continuity and discontinuity shapes linguistic, cultural, and literary analysis and criticism; how new interpretive frameworks contribute to emerging movements in linguistic and literary studies; how burgeoning subfields inform the development of bi- and multilingual identities; and how breaking the norm in academic environments presents itself as a practice that builds more than knowledge; among other issues.

This year, for literature and culture, we are seeking papers that engage in the discussion of continuity and discontinuity as approaches that challenge the normative practices in academia and contemplate notions of temporality within our fields. In an increasingly normative academic environment, discontinuity emerges as an ethical concern that demands to be considered, encouraging thinking outside the box and reframing what we take for granted as truth. We invite you to create (dis)continuity by posing and answering questions about non-normative forms of knowledge production or perceptions of time; the disruption of orthodox interpretations of cultural manifestations; and creative, imaginary, and utopic readings of canonical and

¹ Hybrid panels will allow for both in-person and online presentations. While in-person participation is greatly welcomed, we are monitoring the current political situation and hold the safety and well-being of our attendees and presenters in the highest regard. Therefore, we encourage participation through the mode attendees feel most comfortable with.

marginalized texts. We welcome works—from medieval to postmodern, including fiction, theater, film, poetry, and memoirs—that generate noise, create discomfort, and break away from the limitations imposed by the Western models of thought. Participants are encouraged to submit works that reflect on questions such as:

- How can academic thought interact with and intervene in the social issues of past and present?
- What are some of the ways the voices of marginalized communities can be heard in literary and cultural production in a postcolonial context? And how can academia participate in acts of decolonial restitution?
- In what ways may literature and culture allow the preservation and the transmission of non-traditional ways of thinking and interpreting social practices?
- Which are some of the approaches or interpretations to literature and culture that may fill the creative, critical, and theoretical gaps within the academic discourse?
- How can non-normative views of temporality engage with current discussions of postmodernity, postcoloniality, the Anthropocene, feminisms, and queer theory?

For linguistics, we are particularly interested in how contemporary understandings of continuity and discontinuity open up new discussions and shape language(s) and linguistic research. We hope to explore the oscillation between the classic and the novel; the interplay between the perpetuation of classic methods for linguistic knowledge creation and the innovation of new approaches. We invite work that uses (dis)continuity as a lens to examine how languages, communities, and identities are shaped—whether through processes of preservation, tradition, and transmission, or through rupture, innovation, loss, and interruption. Some areas of particular interest include presentations of multilingualism, diachronic perspectives, sociolinguistic variation, corpus perspectives, and methodological reflexivity. We invite participants to reflect on questions such as:

- How can we create new or unorthodox solutions to exploring linguistic phenomena?
- In what ways may long-standing theories and methods benefit from reimagination?
- In what ways may these theories and methods still serve us in their current iterations?
- Where in our research may we include and lift up voices, peoples, systems of knowledge that have historically been excluded from the linguistic sphere?

We encourage submissions for GRAPHSY 2026, which will be held in a hybrid format on February 13, 2026. Abstracts should be related to the theme, however, we are excited to receive innovative proposals that connect literature and linguistics with diverse fields, such as:

- Sound studies.
- Sociolinguistics, linguistic policies and ideologies.
- Impact on language learning and acquisition.
- Semantics and pragmatics.
- Critical theories and pedagogies.

- New technologies and Artificial Intelligence.
- Theater, music, and performance studies.
- Social sciences: economics, anthropology, history, political science, international relations, law, journalism.
- Visual arts: architecture, painting, drawing, photography, sculpture.

All graduate and undergraduate students are eligible to present. We are looking forward to receiving your proposal!

If you have any questions, please contact us at graphsy@georgetown.edu or see <https://spanport.georgetown.edu/graphsy/> for further details. You can also follow us on our social media: [Instagram](#) y [Facebook](#).

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