UNIVERSITEIT GENT

VAL SYMPOSIUM 2026

LITERATURE AND/AS CARE



20 NOVEMBER 2026

SINT-BAAFSHUIS, BIEZEKAPELSTRAAT 2, 9000 GENT

Registration is mandatory and possible until 17 November 2026:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10ts4C89X0jCQ63WYYEC_ADAKxSyC5Ty_rLsF9M_3JQ4/edit

CHARM KU LEUVEN Universiteit Antwerpen VUB VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL

Programme

TIME	EVENT	ROOM
08:30 – 9:00	Registration and coffee	
09:00 – 09:15	Welcome: Opening remarks	1.05
09:15 – 10:15	Keynote: Stella Bolaki (University of Kent) + Q&A Capacious Care: Contemporary Women's Writing as an Ethical Practice of Attention	1.05
10:15 – 10:30	Coffee Break	
10:30 – 12:00	Parallel Session 1	1.05, 0.03, 0.04
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 15:00	Parallel Session 2	1.05, 0.03, 0.04
15:00 – 15:15	Coffee Break	
15:15 – 16:00	Panel Discussion + Q&A Zoë Ghyselinck (KU Leuven Kulak) David Lombard (KU Leuven) Jürgen Pieters (moderator, UGent) Thor Magnus Tangeras (Kristiania University of Applied Sciences)	1.05
16:00 - 17:00	Keynote: Anita Wohlmann (University of Southern Denmark) + Q&A Activism, Ambivalence, and Applied Research: Metaphors and Narratives about Abortion	1.05
17:00 – 17:15	Closing Remarks	1.05

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Parallel Session 1 - 10:30-12:00		
Room: 1.05	Room: 0.03	Room: 0.04
Pain and Illness Experiences • Galluzzo, Lucia (Università degli Studi di Palermo) A Grammar of Encounter: Shared Reading as a Space of Care, a View from Within the Experience. • Tukhareli, Natalia (Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College) Books as Companions: Practical and Transcendental Dimensions of Meaning Construction in Reading. • Michael, Mary Clare (UGent) Eating Me Alive: Evaluating The Effects of Modality in Eating Disorder Narratives.	**Ethics and/of Care** • Meertens, Marie (KU Leuven) Solidarity as Contagion: Embodied Affects in *El cielo está incompleto* (2025) by Irmgard Emmelhainz. • Slopek-Hauff, Christina (TU Dortmund) Who Cares for Black Female Mental Patients? Gender, Race and Sexuality in Jacqueline Roy's *The Fat Lady Sings*. • Knidiri, Anas (Cadi Ayyad University) Caring Differently: Formal Opacity as Counter-Ethics of Literary Care in Francophone Maghrebi Women's Autofiction.	**Miscellaneous** • O Riain, Anouk (VUB) More than K-Pop and K-Dramas: How *Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982* influenced South Korea's Feminist Revolt. • Goossens, Cecilia (UGent) Nutritious, Poisonous Reading: The Book as Pharmakon in Sarah Chihaya's *Bibliophobia*. • Maes, Kayra (UNamur) Of the Masks Children Wear and the Burdens they Bear: An Exploration of Care in Erika Meza's *Picturebook on Migration to the Other Side* (2023).
Parallel Session 2 - 13:30-15:00		
Room: 1.05	Room: 0.03	Room: 0.04
Caring for Human and More-than-Human Worlds • Navalón Guzmán, Corpus (UGent) Ecological Kinship, Trauma, and Care in Charlie J. Stephens' *A Wounded Deer Leaps Highest* (2024). • Toda, Ayarith A. (KU Leuven) Care through Horror: Pain, De-sedimentation, and Motherhood in Contemporary Latin American Horror Cinema. • Nelissen, Wica (KU Leuven) "We are ghosts!": Witchcraft, Fungi, and Public Health Discourse in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The House of the Seven Gables*.	**Het vrouwenlichaam vertelt** • Praet, Anna (UGent) Voorbij het narratief? Moederschap en poëzie in Uljana Wolfs *Muttertask*. • Dieleman, Luna (UGent) Het ongemak van pijn in Johanna Hedva's *Sick Woman Theory* (2016). • Pype, Elise (UGent, KU Leuven, UAntwerpen, VUB) Tussen waan en waarheid: Elsa Bernsteins *Nausikaa* (1906), de pathologisering voorbij? • Reugebrink, Emma (UGent) "Een gapend gat in de geschiedenis": Het gebruik van volksliederen in Kallirroi Parrens *Geschiedenis van de Vrouw*.	**Miscellaneous** • Van den Keybus, Nils (UGent) Visualized Voice: Literary Materiality, Reading, and Embodied Listening in Max Porter's *Lanny* and *Shy* • Neyt, Vincent (UAntwerpen) Digital Fragility: Future-Proofing Two Flemish Digital Scholarly Editions. • Manu, Anthony (VUB) Maxime Garcia Diaz' Poetry through the Lens of Webcore.

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