

17th Brown-Harvard International Graduate
Conference in Italian Studies
CHIASMI

Call for papers

Fuori Luogo

On Displacement(s) and Becoming

APRIL 10-11, 2026
BROWN UNIVERSITY



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Fuori Luogo: On Displacement(s) and Becoming

Brown University, April 10-11, 2026

On behalf of the graduate students of the Department of Italian Studies at Brown University and the Italian Section of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at Harvard University, we are pleased to announce the seventeenth edition of the international graduate student conference *Chiasmi*, to be held on **10th-11th April 2026**, at **Brown University** in Providence, Rhode Island.

Keynote speakers: **Binta Diaw** (visual artist) and prof. **Diego Pirillo** (UC Berkeley).

CALL FOR PAPERS

In this conference, we invite participants to explore the theme of “displacement”—namely, the experience of being out of place, or utterly *without* place—in its broadest sense: as a physical, emotional, and/or epistemic phenomenon that unsettles notions of home, identity, normativity, and belonging but also allows for the reimagining of what it means to inhabit other places through new narratives, solidarities, and ways of being.

From Dante, *exul immeritus*, to Igiaba Scego’s diasporic crossings, from the existential fractures of Calvino’s *Trilogia degli Antenati* to the dislocated gazes and wounded geographies of Anna Maria Ortese, displacement has long haunted Italian thought and culture. Drawing on feminist and critical frameworks—including Adriana Cavarero’s theorization of feminine otherness in *Per una teoria della differenza sessuale* and Sara Ahmed’s reflections on what it means to feel “out of place”—we approach displacement not only as a geographical or historical condition, but also as an affective, embodied, and epistemic experience. At the same time, as scholars moving between Italy and international contexts, we are often confronted with our own forms of displacement, constantly negotiating, in a global and interconnected world, what “Italianness” can mean amid colonial legacies, old and new migratory histories, and ongoing challenges in diversity, citizenship, and exclusion.

Taking into account the diverse manifestations of displacement, we aim to foster discussions that explore the ways in which bodies, communities, texts, and ideas undergo uprootedness, leading to the formation of new, fragmented selves. These discussions may include (but are in no means limited to):

- Exile, banishment, and enslavement
- Displacement of racialized, colonially marginalized, and gendered communities
- Class mobility and marginality
- Questions of body difference, gender identity, and dysphoria
- Migratory and diasporic transnational phenomena
- Rural exodus into urban contexts

- Translation and linguistic estrangement

In an effort to foster an interdisciplinary and transhistorical dialogue, we invite proposals from graduate students engaging with a wide array of methodologies and theoretical frameworks (such as Migration Studies, Gender and Sexuality studies, Ethnic and Racial Studies, Literary Studies, Social Sciences, Visual and Performing Arts, Translation Studies, Disability Studies, Environmental Studies, Digital Humanities, and more), as long as they engage with questions relevant to Italian contexts, histories, or cultural imaginaries.

Beyond academic papers, we also welcome artistic, creative, and performative contributions—ranging from readings and stagings to visual or sound pieces and other experimental formats—which may be shared in an open-mic session during the conference.

PROPOSALS:

All proposals should include a title and a 250-300 word abstract, as well as a short bio note with name, affiliation, contact information (telephone and e-mail address) and information on any needed technical equipment. Proposals should be sent as Microsoft Word or PDF attachments to chiasmi@brown.edu. Please format the subject line “[Last name] - Chiasmi 2026”.

PRESENTATIONS:

Presentations should not exceed 20 minutes (approximately 8-10 pages of double-spaced text) and may be in English or Italian.

FORMAT:

The conference will be held in person only.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

January 31, 2026.

For inquiries or further information please contact chiasmi@brown.edu .

Organizing Committee:

Agata Nipitella, Andrea Zoller, Irene Fiducia, Sara Buitrago Montero