

LITERARY JOURNEYS FROM METAPHOR TO PLOT: TRAVEL, MIND, AND EXPERIENCE



From Federico Fellini,
The Book of Dreams

MAY 10th-11th, 2025

ROYCE HALL 314

RSVP HERE:



The theme of this conference addresses travel as both an idea and a specific form of human experience, explored through various representations ranging from the literary to the visual to the philosophical. The aim is to investigate how travelers' minds are altered by their experiences along their respective paths. The conference is not focused on travel writing per se, which has its own established venues, but rather on the relationships, discoveries, escapes, and new awarenesses that arise through travel—the cognitive and emotional dimensions of displacement in both familiar and unfamiliar places. Investigations also include treatises discussing travel as a prescribed action or manuals on the arts of travel. The range of possibilities is vast, from Petrarch's ascent of Mont Ventoux to Jack Wilton's flight from Sixteenth-century Rome. Ultimately, the goal is to uncover new understandings of travel and the mind, even in unexpected contexts.

LITERARY JOURNEYS FROM METAPHOR TO PLOT: TRAVEL, MIND, AND EXPERIENCE



Location: Royce 314



Date: Saturday, May 10th - Sunday, May 11th

Saturday

9:30 - 10:00AM | Welcoming Remarks
Todd Presner (ELTS Chair, UCLA)
Massimo Ciavolella (Conference Organizer, UCLA)
Lee Walcott (Managing Director Emeritus, The Ahmanson Foundation)

Session 1 Moderator: Gwen Ajello Mahler

10:00 - 10:30AM | Andrea Polegato (California State University., Fresno): *Machiavelli's Uncharted Roads: The Perils of Exploration for Political Change*

10:30 - 11:00AM | Gaia Gubbini (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, München): *Exterior/Interior Journey: Augustine, Petrarch, Proust*

11:00 - 11:30AM | Coffee Break

11:30 - 12:00PM | Megan Tomlinson (UCLA): *Traveling towards Trust: Friendship and Learning in Giulia Bigolina's Urania*

12:00 - 1:30PM | Lunch: Royce 306

Session 2 Moderator: Gwen Ajello Mahler

1:30 - 2:00PM | Grazia Menechella (U. Wisconsin, Madison): *Searching for India in Gabriella Kuruvilla's Fiction and Visual Art*

2:00 - 2:30PM | Manuela Gallerani (University of Bologna): *Philosophy of Travel and the Traveler: On the "Wandering Thought"*

2:30 - 3:00PM | Coffee Break

3:00 - 3:30PM | Rhiannon Welch (University of California, Berkeley): *The Reverberant Poetics of Worldmaking*

3:30 - 4:00PM | Efrain Kristal (UCLA): *Homeric Voyages in the Writings of Jorge Luis Borges*

4:00 - 5:00PM | Question Period

5:00 - 7:00PM | Reception: Royce 306

[Brief presentation of Gaia Gubbini's book: *Vulnus amoris: The Transformations of "Love's Wound" in Medieval Romance Literatures*]

Sunday

Session 3 Moderator: Roberta Morosini

9:30 - 10:00AM | Valeria Finucci (Duke U.): *Choosing to be Fat: Prosperous Alpini's Egyptian Women*

10:00 - 10:30AM | Francesca Bellino (University of Naples "L'Orientale"): *On the Real and Metaphorical Roads in Arabic Literature*

10:30 - 11:00AM | Coffee Break

11:00 - 11:30AM | Romy Sutherland (UCLA): *The Will to Live in order to Forgive: A Reading of Peter Weir's The Way Back*

11:30 - 12:00PM | Paolo Fasoli (Hunter College CUNY): *The Voyage that did not Happen: Gioacchino Rossini's II viaggio a Reims*

12:30 - 1:30PM | Lunch, Royce 306

Session 4 Moderator: Roberta Morosoni

1:30 - 2:00PM | Patrick Rumble (U. Wisconsin, Madison): *From 'Mondo Nuovo' to Motion Pictures: Magic Machines, Panoramas, Traveling Shots and the Kinetic Ambitions of the Cinema*

2:00 - 2:30PM | Massimo Riva (Brown U.): *The Last Voyage of Casanova: An Oceanic Phantasmagoria*

2:30 - 3:00PM | Coffee Break

3:00 - 3:30PM | Gwen Ajello Mahler (Independent Scholar): *A Virtual Journey to Petrarca's Rome: Experiments in Literary Visualizations*

4:00 - 4:30PM | Question Period

4:30 - 4:45PM | Closing Remarks

This symposium was made possible through the generous support of the Ahmanson Foundation, with special thanks to its Managing Director Emeritus, Lee Walcott