



# Fringe

URBAN NARRATIVES

**2025-2026 report**

[www.urbanfringes.com](http://www.urbanfringes.com)

Dear FRINGE members,

As we wrap up for the summer, here is our annual report, with a brief overview of this year's developments and collaborations.

## Members and Collaborations

Fringe Urban Narratives currently brings together **281 members** from around the world. We would like to warmly welcome everyone who joined the network this year.

Our activities are often developed in dialogue with associated groups, research projects and partner networks. This year, we were delighted to begin a new collaboration with the four-year research project “**Monstruos políticos y monstruosidades contemporáneas en las narradoras hispánicas de lo insólito**” (MOPONAHÍ), led by **Dr Natalia Álvarez** (Universidad de León) and funded by the Spanish *Generación de conocimiento* programme.

You can find our full list of collaborators here, and more to be announced in September:

<https://www.urbanfringes.com/related-groups>

## Fringe Activities

### The Reading Group

We held the **VI Fringe Reading Group workshop** (5 & 6 of March 2026), bringing together members at different career stages and from a range of disciplinary backgrounds. This year's theme was **(Trans)Feminist Urban Studies** and incorporated other formats such as podcasts and fiction. We discussed texts by José Esteban Muñoz, Ara Wilson, Susan Stryker, an interview with Davy Knittle by Lena Mattheis in the podcast *QueerLit* and a short story by Iván Monalisa Ojeda. The full programme can be accessed [here](#). More information on the group:

<https://www.urbanfringes.com/fringe-reading-group>


## Fringe Activities

### Conferences and In-Person Events

This year, Fringe also contributed to in-person academic activities connected to urban cultures and narratives. Among them was **Urban Mobility Cultures: Creative and Narrative Approaches to Moving in the City**, organized by **MOHU – Centre for Advanced Studies in Mobility and the Humanities** at the University of Padova (15-16 of January 2026).

More information:

<https://www.mobilityandhumanities.it/2025/12/19/urban-mobility-cultures-creative-and-narrative-approaches-to-moving-in-the-city/>



**DnSSGeA**  
DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE UMANE  
E LETTERE "G. GIARDINO"

**WALC**  
WALLS AND LANDSCAPE CULTURES

**MOHU**  
MUSEO DI GEOGRAFIA  
CENTRO AVANZATO DI STUDI  
IN MOBILITÀ E URBANITÀ

**MUSEO DI GEOGRAFIA**

**Urban Mobility Cultures: Creative and Narrative Approaches to Moving in the City**

**15-16 January 2026**  
Padua

**Museo di Geografia**  
Salone degli Specchi, Palazzo Wollemborg, via del Santo 26  
**San Gaetano Cultural Centre**  
via Altrinate 71

A scientific and public event co-organised with: Mobilities in Literature and Culture Research Centre (University of Surrey) | ALUS (Association for Literary Urban Studies) | CRIM (Centre de recherches pluridisciplinaires et multilingues - Projet Espace, déplacement, mobilité, Université Paris Nanterre) | FRINGE (Urban Narratives research network) | Progetto Gioviars Office of the Municipality of Padua | Spazi Padovani | MA in Landscape Studies (University of Padua)

**LITERATURE AND LANGUAGES**  
AN RESEARCH OFFICE

**Università Paris Nanterre**  
CRIM  
Centre de recherches pluridisciplinaires et multilingues

**Fringe**  
URBAN NARRATIVES

**ALUS**  
Association for Literary Urban Studies

Finanziato dall'Unione Europea  
NextGenerationEU

Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca

ItaloDomani  
DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE UMANE E LETTERE "G. GIARDINO"

Università degli Studi di Padova

## Related activities by Fringe Members

We are always pleased to share and support activities organized by members. To avoid relying on constant social media visibility, our network does not use social media platforms. Instead, network-related information is shared through this mailing list and updated on our website.

This academic year, members of the network organized and contributed to a range of activities, including:

CfP Conference. *Geographies of Horror- ASTRAH Conference* (20-21 May 2027, University of Zadar, Croatia)

CfP Conference. *Urbanity and Beyond: Narratives and Practices* (24-26 September 2026, Vilnius University)

Call for abstracts: section *La dimensión espacial del monstruo político insólito en las narrativas hispánicas de la posnormalidad, XI Simposio internacional «Encuentros 2026»* (21-23 May, Maria Curie-Skłodowska Lublin, Poland)

Call for abstracts: *Urban Waters in South Asian Literary Cultures "The Sinking Fringe"*, an action-documentary together with fellow housing activists. Social platform / Trailer

CfP Conference. *Railway Aesthetics: Experiencing Locomotion across Media and Cultures* (10-13 Sept 2025, Vienna-Bucharest-Istanbul)

ACLA Conference 2026 Seminar. *Intersectionality and Disability Studies in Contemporary Comics and Graphic Narrative* (Feb 26-March 1, Montréal 2026)

If you would like to share future events, calls for papers, publications or other initiatives with the network, please feel free to send them to us ([fringe@uab.cat](mailto:fringe@uab.cat))

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## Looking Ahead

Given the enthusiastic response from members, we will pilot our first **Concept-Sharing Session** in October. This new format is designed as a light and informal online space for exchanging ideas. Some participants will volunteer a short presentation on a concept that has recently caught their attention and is stimulating for their current research. Concepts may come from research, artworks, activism, teaching, or other intellectual and creative contexts. There is no expectation that participants be experts on the topic. The aim is simply to open up discussion and share references.

We will also share further details soon about our next co-organized conference, **V Figuraciones de lo Insólito: Political Monsters and the Urban in Contemporary Hispanic Female Writers**, co-organized with the **University of Torino** and developed within the framework of the MOPONAHÍ research project.

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Thank you for being part of this international community. As usual, July and August will be quieter and we will be back in September. In the meantime, we wish you a restful holiday season.

Dr Patricia García  
FRINGE network director

[fringe@uab.cat](mailto:fringe@uab.cat)

