

Final Call for Proposals

International Gender and Language Association (IGALA) conference 2027

‘Researching Language, Gender and Sexuality in Times of Political Challenge’

21, 22 and 23 July 2027

York St John University, York, United Kingdom

Email: conference@igala14.com

Website: <https://igala14.com/>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/igala_14/

Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/igala14.bsky.social>

Founded in 1999, IGALA is the primary international scholarly organization committed to the promotion and support of research on language, gender, and sexuality. The 2027 IGALA conference (IGALA14) will be held at York St John University in the city of York, UK on 21-23 July 2027. The theme of the conference is ‘Researching Language, Gender and Sexuality in Times of Political Challenge’.

We are currently living in times of great political challenge and uncertainty. Whilst many areas of the world have witnessed increasingly progressive social attitudes towards gender and sexuality diversity and justice, as well as greater equality legislation, there has simultaneously been escalating resistance to these changes with many global contexts now characterised by deepening ideological divides around gender and sexuality. We have, for example, seen a conflation of anti-gender, anti-LGBTQ+ and nationalist rhetoric and ideologies, with and movements who espouse such position gaining increasing power and momentum in many global contexts. These kinds of political and ideological conflicts and tensions may demand a re-thinking of how the field of language, gender and sexuality research can navigate these complex and often contradictory political contexts. The conference therefore aims to explore questions such as:

- What are the challenges in undertaking language, gender and sexuality research in hostile academic and political contexts?
- As a global community of language, gender and sexuality scholars, how can we respond to and resist such challenges?
- How does language, gender and sexuality research respond to political divisiveness around the concept of ‘gender’ itself?
- What role does language play in political contestations over gender- and sexuality-based rights, authenticity and legitimacy?

We also encourage contributions which consider how language, gender and sexuality research may address intersecting global political challenges such as the climate emergency, forced migration and widespread reconfigurations of global power.

The aim of the IGALA conference is to showcase language, gender and sexuality research from diverse geographical, cultural, linguistic and social contexts. We encourage contributions that address empirical, methodological, theoretical issues related to the conference theme. The conference attracts diverse presenters both nationally and internationally to exchange comprehensive and stimulating discussions in the forms of individual papers, discussion

panels and poster presentations. It also offers thought-provoking keynote presentations, excellent book exhibits and plentiful opportunities for networking.

Confirmed Keynote Presenters

Dr J Calder (University of Colorado Boulder, USA)

Dr Sylvia Shaw (University of Westminster, UK)

Dr Jaspal Singh (Open University, UK)

Call for Abstracts

We invite abstracts for the following types of presentations:

Individual Paper Presentations

A paper presented by a sole author or by several co-authors (20 minutes + Q&A). Proposals should include:

- The paper title
- An abstract of the paper (max. 350 words)
- Name(s), affiliation(s) and email(s) for the author(s) (on a separate section)

Discussion Panels (2 hours)

A panel includes 3 to 4 papers (15-20 minutes per paper + Q&A). Panel organizers need to submit their proposal. Proposals should include:

- A title and description (max. 400 words) of the panel
- Name, affiliation and contact email for the panel chair/s
- Full name and affiliation for each participant of the panel
- Title and an abstract for each paper (max. 200 words)

Poster Presentations

Posters are presented visually and provide an opportunity for the presenter to engage in extended discussion with other researchers. The poster session at the conference lasts for one hour and offers an open, walk-through environment where presenters stand by their posters to engage directly with delegates. Poster proposals should include:

- The poster title
- An abstract of the poster (max. 350 words)
- Name(s), affiliation(s) and email(s) for the author(s) (on a separate section)

Abstracts for all proposal types should be written in English. The conference is keen to provide British Sign Language (BSL) interpretation for D/deaf delegates and you will be able to request this on submission of your abstractⁱ.

Abstracts for all proposal types will be anonymously reviewed by two reviewers. Authors may present a maximum of two presentations, only one of which may be sole-/first authored. This limit applies to all presentation types.

Please submit your proposal [here](#) or via the link below.

[Call for Abstracts - IGALA 14](#)

Abstract review criteria are included in the abstract submission area of the conference website.

The final submission date for all proposals is 7 September 2026.

Important Dates

Proposal submissions - from 18 May to 7 September 2026. [Please submit your abstract here](#).

Notification of acceptance – 30 October 2026

Registration opens – 2 November 2026

Conference dates – 21, 22 and 23 July 2027

Conference Co-chairs

Daniel Edmondson (York St John University, UK)

Helen Sauntson (York St John University, UK)

Organizing Committee

Jessica Baxter (York St John University, UK)

Salina Cuddy (University of York, UK)

Chris Hall (York St John University, UK)

Kyoungmi Kim (York St John University, UK)

Dai O'Brien (York St John University, UK)

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J Calder (University of Colorado Boulder, USA)

Costas Canakis (University of the Aegean, Greece)

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Hannah Dahlberg-Dodd (Tohoku University Sendai, Japan)

Ana Deumert (University of Cape Town, South Africa)

Victoria Furtado (City University of New York, USA)

Susan Gal (University of Chicago, USA)

David García Leon (University of New Brunswick, Canada)

Javier García Leon (University of North Carolina, USA)

Frazer Heritage (Manchester Metropolitan University, UK)

Miyako Inoue (Stanford University, USA)

Lucy Jones (University of Nottingham, UK)

Rodney H. Jones (University of Reading, UK)

Ungku Khairunnisa Ungku Mohd Nordin (Nissa) (Universiti Teknologi Malaysia)

Brian King (University of Hong Kong)

Veronika Koller (Lancaster University, UK)

Alexandra Krendel (University of Southampton, UK)

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Miriam Meyerhoff (Oxford University, UK)

Heiko Motschenbacher (Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Norway)

Momoko Nakamura (Kanto Gakuin University, Japan)

Sandhya K. Narayanan (University of Nevada, USA)

Lukasz Piotr Pakula (Adam Mickiewicz University Poznan, Poland)
Amiena Peck (University of the Western Cape, South Africa)
Fatima Sadiqi (University of Fez, Morocco)
Sylvia Shaw (University of Westminster, UK)
Ryan Shaw-Hawkins (University of Glasgow, UK)
Jaspal Naveel Singh (Open University, UK)
Ty Slobe (Dartmouth College, USA)
Rebecca Lurie Starr (National University of Singapore, Singapore)
Cindi SturtzSreetharan (Arizona State University, USA)
Denise Troutman (Michigan State University, USA)
Maria Amelia Viteri (Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador)
Lexi Webster (University of Southampton, UK)
Melissa Yoong (University of Nottingham, Malaysia)
Angela Zottola (University of Turin, Italy)

ⁱ Unfortunately it will not be possible to provide interpretation to/from other languages due to local interpreter availability and budget constraints.