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## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

THURSDAY, 9 April 2026

8:30 - 9:00

Registration

9:00 - 9:15

Welcome address

9:15 - 10:15

**Keynote Lecture**

*Chair:* Mario Aquilina

Thomas Karshan (University of East Anglia)

10:15 - 12:00

**Panel A: The Planetary Essay 1**

*Chair:* Adrian Grima

Mario Aquilina	(University of Malta)
Thijs Lijster	(University of Groningen)
Roberta Ferrari	(University of Pisa)
Paolo Bugliani	(University of Pisa)

12:00: 12:15

*Coffee Break*

12:15 - 13:45

**Panel B: The Planetary Essay 2**

*Chair:* Paolo Bugliani

Nicole Wallack	(Columbia University)
Aaron Aquilina	(University of Malta)
Giorgia Gherzi	(University of Pisa)

**Panel C: Essay Pedagogy**

*Chair:* Roberta Ferrari

Patrick Madden	(Brigham Young University)
Gail Hammill	(American University in Dubai)
Rosa Cetroni and Guylaine LeGuenanff	(Università di Pisa)



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13.45 – 14:45

*Lunch break*

14:45 – 16:15

### Workshop 1

Emily Huurdeman (FONTYS Academy of the Arts NL)  
Peter Thomas (Middlesex University)  
Jo O'Brien (University of Applied Arts, Vienna)  
Ana Cristina Pansera de Araujo (University of the Basque Country)

### Workshop 2 Embodied writing

Julia Alegre Mouslim (University of Malta)

### Panel D: The Essay and Ecology

*Chair:* Roberta Ferrari

Robin Hemley (Long Island University)  
Marija Grech (University of Malta)  
Marine Aubry-Morici (University Roma Tre)

16:15 – 17:45

### Workshop 1 (continuation)

### Panel E: The Essay and Politics

*Chair:* Thijs Lijster

Ivan Callus (University of Malta)  
Jack Dignam (University of Amsterdam)  
Aija Laura Zivitere (Independent Scholar)

### Panel F: Theory of the Essay

*Chair:* Mario Aquilina

Jenny Spinner (Saint Joseph's University)  
Leiv Sem (Nord University)  
Maria Frendo (University of Malta)





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17:45 – 18:00

*Coffee break*

18:00 – 19:30

### **PANEL 1 The Essay and the Ethics of Attention: A Diachronic Perspective**

Anna Maria Cimitile (University of Naples L'Orientale)

Paul Hamilton (Queen Mary University London)

Lellida Marinelli (University of Naples L'Orientale)

### **PANEL 2 Essayism and Artistic Research: Four Cases**

Jasper Delbecke (LUCA School of Arts)

Arne De Winde (LUCA School of Arts)

Isolde Vanhee (LUCA School of Arts)

Tom Van Imschoot (LUCA School of Arts)

## **FRIDAY, 10 April 2026**

9:00 - 10:00

### **Keynote Lecture 2**

*Chair:* Thijs Lijster

Kara Wittman (University of California Berkeley)

10:00 - 11:30

### **Workshop 3 Now You Write the Planetary Essay**

*Facilitator:* Mario Aquilina

Jenny Spinner (Saint Joseph's University)

Patrick Madden (Brigham Young University)

Irene Papoulis (Trinity College Hartford CT)

Robin Hemley (Long Island University)

A. Kendra Greene (St Laurence University)

Bob Cowser Jr. (St Laurence University)





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11:30 – 11:45

*Coffee break*

11:45 – 13:30

**Panel G: The Literary Essay**

*Chair:* Roberta Ferrari

Paul Keen	(Carleton University)
Stefano Bracci Testasecca	(University Roma Tre)
Bob Cowser Jr	(St Lawrence University)
Nóra Máthé	(Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania)

**Panel H: Technology, Film, The Digital, Performance**

*Chair:* Paolo Bugliani

Kristine Rozzell Murray (	American University in Dubai)
Allen Durgin	(Princeton University)
Paul Bailey	(HfG Karlsruhe (DE) / KASK & Conservatorium (BE)
Emily Hurdeman	(Fontys Academy of the Arts NL)

13.30 – 14:30

*Lunch break*

14:30 – 16:15

**Panel I: The Planetary Essay Pandemics and Beyond**

*Chair:* Jürgen Pieters

Kurt Borg	(University of Malta)
Eleonora Tarabella	(University of Rome Tor Vergata)
Dieleman, Luna	(University of Ghent)
Christyl Verduyn	(Mount Allison University)





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## Panel J: The World Essay

*Chair:* Paolo Bugliani

Adrian Grima	(University of Malta)
Daniel Lago Monteiro	(Federal University of Rio de Janeiro)
Ivan Parria Garcia	(University of Michigan )
Janja Vollmeier Lubej	(University of Ljubljana)

16:00 – 16:30 *Coffee break*

16:30 – 17:30 **Roundtable**

Mario Aquilina  
Thijs Lijster  
Roberta Ferrari  
Paolo Bugliani  
Andrej Blatnik  
Jürgen Pieters  
Adrian Grima

