

## Borders and Crossroads



**When:** 18-20 June 2024 | **Where:** University of Dubrovnik, Croatia

**Submission deadline:** 18 February 2024 by 23:59 CET / 17:59 ET

The Planning Committee for the 4th Biennial [International Rhetoric Workshop](#) invites international PhD students and emerging scholars to come together and consider the myriad ways that our contemporary and established traditions of rhetorical theory, pedagogy, and criticism inform global flows of meaning-making. This year's theme, ***Borders and Crossroads***, prompts us to examine the notions of

- 1) physical, cultural, and conceptual *borders* that delineate territories and boundaries, marking spaces of distinction, separation, and connection; and
- 2) *crossroads* that represent intersecting paths, encounters, confluences, and opportunities to confront and transcend restrictive boundaries.

*Borders and Crossroads* are encountered across inter/national, political, identity, and cultural contexts, all amid widespread refugee, migratory, wartime, economic, racial, and environmental crises. Guided by this theme, the workshop seeks to explore how rhetoric can contribute to shaping novel responses, articulate new socio-political narratives, and cultivate human hopes and imaginaries for resolution, world-making, justice, possibility, sustainability, and reconciliation.

The 4th International Rhetoric Workshop will be hosted by the University of Dubrovnik in Croatia on **18-20 June 2024**. Due to its geographic location, Dubrovnik, with its proximity to the Adriatic Sea, consists of a cultural and historical crossroad of various empires and civilizations reflected in the city's architectures, arts, and traditions. At the same time, throughout that history, Dubrovnik has undergone geopolitical shifts of its borders highlighting the importance of communities' resilience to extreme political turmoils as well as to the construction of its modern identity among the challenges of globalization, migration, and climate change. As reflected in Dubrovnik's past, much of Western politics revolves around how to defend and extend borders from migrants and foreigners, but also how to respect environmental borders in the transition towards sustainable societies. Every border is in that sense also a possible crossroad, opening possibilities to redefine, dissolve, or perhaps transcend what has been detained within harsh boundaries of control.

In preparation for the 4th International Rhetoric Workshop 2024, we invite submissions that consider how borders and/or crossroads inform participants' work—be they geopolitical, cultural, linguistic, economic, disciplinary, methodological, and more.

**Possible topics may include but are not limited to:**

- The role(s) of rhetoric in navigating geopolitical borders across societies, economies, and international relations.
- How borders shape human thinking patterns, perceptions, biases, and perspectives, while creating crossroads for innovative thinking, interdisciplinary approaches, and innovative solutions for building better worlds
- How the establishment and negotiation of borders, both physical and conceptual, influences democratic processes, democratic values, participation, and representation within and between nations.
- The role of borders in fostering war crises, conflicts, territorial disputes, and geopolitical tensions, but also coalitions and coalitional possibilities/imaginaries
- How digital borders limit or enable access to information, digital rights, and activism
- Intersections of different cultures, traditions, and identities and their implications for global society and what rhetorical studies can be or might become
- The rhetorical construction and negotiation of individual and collective identities at the crossroads of diverse cultural, social, and political landscapes.
- The relationship between borders, rhetoric, and gender identity/ies with regard to enforcing or subverting norms, issues of representation and agency, and/or the intersections of multiple identities or fluidity in gender expressions
- Portrayals of borders and crossroads in popular literature, art, and media, and how they can impede or create new narratives and perspectives for rhetorical theory and criticism.
- Philosophical underpinnings of borders and crossroads, considering questions of ethics, justice, epistemology, practices of worlding, temporality, and human rights.
- The impact of borders on the environment and rhetorical solutions for sustainable cross-border collaboration
- How rhetoric in educational contexts functions within and across the borders and boundaries of the classroom and educational institutions and with attention to native and refugee students, Black students, folks with disabilities, and LGBTQIA+ students
- The way(s) language barriers shape borders, influence interactions, and/or create new possibilities between different linguistic communities across different contexts
- The role of translation in bridging linguistic borders and facilitating cross-cultural communication and change
- The state's use of rhetoric and language to create or reshape bordering imaginaries and regimes and how different social groups navigate, subvert, or critique these borders
- The ways visual rhetoric depict physical or conceptual borders, illustrate the complexity of identity intersections, convey images of border disputes, and foster control and/or resistance

During the 2024 International Rhetoric Workshop, participants will have the opportunity:

- a) to attend lectures of prominent keynote speakers in the field of rhetoric who will provide in-depth insights into current trends, challenges and future directions on the theme, and who will participate in other aspects of the conference as well
- b) to participate in workshop sessions where they can share their research projects, book chapters, articles, dissertations in progress with peers and senior scholars; and
- c) to develop networking opportunities and meaningful relationships in a small conference environment for collaboration with researchers of the field from all over the world

#### **Submission Guidelines:**

- Please submit abstracts (no more than 250 words) to [this Google Form](#)
- The content of the abstracts should clearly outline the research question, methodology, and expected contribution to the field.
- Applicants can expect to hear back by mid-March.
- Additional information can be found on [the IRW website](#). Any questions can be forwarded to [internationalrhetoric@gmail.com](mailto:internationalrhetoric@gmail.com).

#### **Workshop Costs**

- The registration fee for participating in the workshop is pending and is estimated to be around 250-300€ per person.
- Participants will be responsible for accommodations in Dubrovnik. The Planning Committee will provide participants with affordable accommodation options in the university dormitories.
- Participants will also need to make their own travel arrangements to Dubrovnik. More information will be provided to accepted proposals.

We are looking forward to your participation in the 2024 International Rhetoric Workshop in Dubrovnik. Sharing expertise, perspectives, and scholarly endeavors will steer our collective exploration towards novel insights of the theme.

On behalf of the Planning Committee