



Università degli Studi di Messina  
Dipartimento di Civiltà  
Antiche e Moderne



Centro Europeo di Studi su Mito e Simbolo



QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST

# MIND THE GAP

## Borders, Limits and Frontiers

*International Conference*

**20 May 2024**

08:30-17:00 (London) / 9:30-18:00 (Rome)

To Join:

<https://mindthegap2024.github.io/MindTheGap2024/>

**Scientific and Organising Committee**

Aisling Reid (Queen's University, Belfast)

Valentina Surace (University of Messina)

The phrase 'Mind the gap' serves as both a caution and an imperative, urging us to consider the intricate dynamics of borders as spaces in-between. Originally rooted in geography and social sciences, border studies has evolved into an expansive interdisciplinary field, embracing philosophy, literature, anthropology, and psychoanalysis. This broadening reflects a deepening exploration of borders not just as physical barriers but as conceptual boundaries that shape identities, affiliations, and perceptions—both of ourselves and others. Historically viewed as clear demarcations separating distinct political, cultural, and social territories since the nineteenth century, the concept of borders has profoundly influenced community identities and inter-community relations. Gender and other identity facets are crucial in understanding these impacts, highlighting how borders influence and are influenced by societal norms and individual experiences.

Over time, the idea of borders has expanded beyond static lines on a map to dynamic processes of negotiation and management. These processes occur both through formal policies and through the everyday actions of those living on or crossing these borders. Moreover, the role of translation adds another layer of complexity, as the term 'border' encompasses broader meanings in some languages, suggesting notions of limits and frontiers.

## Morning Session

**Opening remarks:** Giuseppe Ucciardello (University of Messina)

**Panel 1: 8.45-10.15 (London) / 9.45-11.15 (Rome)**

**Chair:** Giuliana Gregorio (University of Messina)

Caterina Resta (University of Messina)

*Walled Borders. Beyond immunitary politics*

Sinead O'Sullivan (Queen's University Belfast)

*Reading and Praying: Collects and Glosses in Carolingian Psalters*

Rita Fulco (University of Messina)

*Borders and Neo-Nationalism. A geo-philosophical approach*

**Flash Presentation** Dominic Harkin (Queen's University Belfast)

*Funes the Arboreus: Border(less) Ecologies in Borges' Ficciones*

### Discussion

**Panel 2: 10.30-12.00 (London) / 11.30-13.00 (Rome)**

**Chair:** Craig Wallace (Queen's University Belfast)

Sandro Gorgone (University of Messina)

*Liminal Places and not-Places*

Caterina Marino (University of Calabria)

*Frontiers of Sexual Difference. The Phantasm of Gender*

**Flash Presentation** Matthew Bradley (Queen's University Belfast)

*"Thou wenest Ich be a beggere": Borders and the Habitus in Late Medieval English Romance*

### Discussion

**Lunch Break: 12.00-14.00 (London) / 13.00-15.00 (Rome)**

## Afternoon Session

**Panel 3: 14.00-15.30 (London) / 15.00-16.30 (Rome)**

**Chair:** Sandro Gorgone (University of Messina)

Giuliana Gregorio (University of Messina)

*Borders and Language: Hermeneutic-Philosophical Issues*

Craig Wallace (Queen's University Belfast)

*Porous Borders, mise-en-scène and mise-en-abyme in Alan Moore's Jerusalem*

Valentina Surace (University of Messina)

*Bordering as the weak breaking force of border subjects*

### Discussion

**Panel 4: 15.30-17.00 (London) / 16.30-18.00 (Rome)**

**Chair:** Rita Fulco (University of Messina)

Aisling Reid (Queen's University, Belfast)

*Border Brushstrokes: The Ulster Arts Club's Cultural Canvas*

Massimo Villani (University of Salerno)

*Cum-finis. Our present between indeterminacy and infinity*

### Pre-recorded Presentation

Cahal McLaughlin (Queen's University Belfast) and Siobhán Wills (University of Ulster)

*We Fight for this Land*

### Discussion

**Closing remarks:** Aisling Reid and Valentina Surace