



LEBANESE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF LETTERS
AND HUMAN SCIENCES
BRANCH 1



The Changing Concept of Border in Humanities: Between Fixity and Flux

International Conference

February 10-11, 2026

Coordinated by: Carole MEDAWAR & Nada MARAASHLI

Call for Papers

The word *border*, originally referring to the edge or boundary of a territory, derives from Old French *bordure* and is rooted in the idea of a limit or threshold. While historically associated with political and territorial demarcations, the concept has gradually extended into social, cultural, linguistic, symbolic, and even epistemological domains. In literature, the humanities, and the arts, the notion of the border is more contested than ever: it shifts, redefines itself, becomes blurred, or is actively transgressed.

In an era marked by geopolitical upheavals, migration crises, digital transformations, and the globalization of knowledge, the border appears as a paradoxical space: between threshold and barrier, separation and porosity, exclusion and interaction. Far from being fixed or static, borders prove to be fluid, unstable, and frequently questioned in practices, discourses, and representations.

How can we think through the inherent instability of borders based on the works, forms, and knowledge produced within the humanities? What are the stakes of their ongoing reconfiguration in shaping identities, narratives, and disciplines?

This conference aims to examine not only the representations of borders but also the acts of their transgression, erasure, or redrawing. The goal is to explore how these borders are inscribed in the body of works, narratives, and languages, and how they shape their reception, transmission, and interpretation.

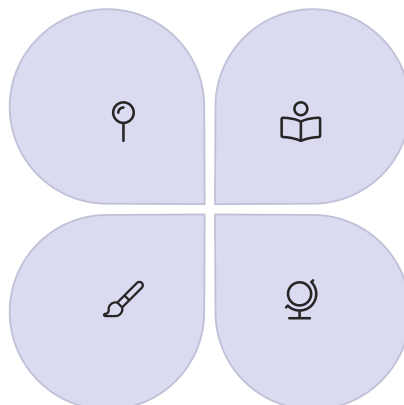
Areas of inquiry

Geographical and political borders in literature, cinema, and the arts

exile, migration, war, wandering, national identity, memory of places and conflicts.

Aesthetic, symbolic, and epistemological borders

liminality, hybridity, formal experimentation, mythical and archetypal narratives, intersections between genres, correspondences between arts, languages, and knowledge.



Memory, narrative, and the borders of history

fiction and reality in collective memory, individual and national narratives, obstructed, concealed, or fragmented memory.

Postcolonial thought and the critique of borders

domination, erasure of marginalized narratives, decolonization of imaginaries, circulation and reappropriation.

Submission Guidelines

 · **Conference languages:** Arabic, French, English

Proposals for papers (approximately 300 words) should include a title, an abstract in both French and English, five keywords, and a brief biobibliographical note. Submissions should be sent **no later than November 16, 2025**, to the following addresses:

frontierescolloque@gmail.com / carole.medawar@ul.edu.lb

All proposals will be reviewed by the scientific committee.

Participants are kindly asked to indicate the thematic area in which their paper fits.

The final conference program will be confirmed **on January 15, 2026**.

Following the conference, selected papers will undergo double-blind peer review and be published in an edited volume.

Participation Form

- Full name:
- University / Institution:
- Phone number:
- Email address:
- Thesis supervisor (if PhD student):
- Title of the paper:
- Abstract (300 words):
- Keywords (5) / Thematic axis:
- Biobibliographical note:

Timeline



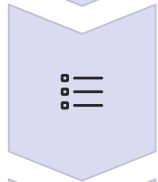
November 16, 2025

Deadline for submission of proposals



December 7, 2025

Notification of acceptance



January 15, 2026

Final conference program



February 10-11, 2026

Conference dates



February 28, 2026

Submission of full papers (*approx. 35,000 characters including spaces and bibliography*)

Scientific Committee

- ABIDINE Nour (Arab University of Beirut, Lebanon)
- AL JAREF Rima (King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia)
- AL KHATIB Hayat (Arab Open University, Lebanon)
- BASSI Dorra (University of Tunis, Tunisia)
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Conference Coordinators: Carole MEDAWAR & Nada MARAASHLI