



Through the Looking Glass

Language, Literature, and the Worlds We Create

The English Graduate Student Association at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte invites submissions for our 2024/2025 Symposium. Inspired by Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, this year's theme, "Through the Looking Glass," explores the transformative power of stepping into new realities. We encourage imaginative, speculative, and innovative approaches to understanding how language, literature, and technology shape, create, and reflect the diverse worlds we inhabit—both real and imagined.

Whether through the lens of speculative fiction, fantastical linguistics, or inventive pedagogical strategies, we seek presentations that push boundaries and engage with the concept of crossing thresholds into new possibilities. How do the texts we study or create allow us to step through the looking glass into different realities? How can language, literature, and technology be tools for imagining or constructing these new worlds?

We welcome submissions from across all disciplines of English studies, including but not limited to:

Creative Writing: Original works or explorations of world-building, speculative fiction, or re-imagining existing realities in fiction, poetry, or hybrid forms.

Literature and Culture: Analyses of texts that challenge the boundaries of reality, including fantasy, magical realism, dystopian narratives, or cultural critiques of speculative worlds.

Pedagogy: Innovative teaching practices that encourage students to engage with language, literature, or technology as tools for creative or critical exploration.

Children's Literature: Explorations of how literature for young readers opens doors to alternate realities, whether through fantastical adventures or imaginative lessons.

Linguistics: Studies on the ways language shifts across different worlds—be they real, imagined, or digital.

We encourage submissions from graduate and undergraduate students. Proposals may take the form of academic papers, creative readings, or roundtable discussions.

Submission Guidelines:

- Abstracts should be no longer than 250 words
- Submit abstracts by **January 31, 2025** via GoogleForm (<https://forms.gle/ECd2DqsigijJLWoR8>)

Join us as we step through the looking glass to explore the endless possibilities of language, literature, and the worlds we create!

For questions or additional information, please contact Mary-Catherine Berger at mberge10@charlotte.edu or Dr. Megan Barnes at mbarne56@charlotte.edu