



BEYOND POSTMEMORY

May 2026

Conferences & Events

DR MARIA GAVIÑA AND DR LLUÏSA SCHLESIER AT THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY AEDEI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Dr Maria Gaviña and Dr Lluïsa Schlesier took part in the 25th Anniversary AEDEI International Conference. The conference, under the theme of "Victims," was held at the University of the Basque Country in Vitoria-Gasteiz, from 27 to 27 May 2026. Dr Gaviña and Dr Schlesier participated in the roundtable **"Beyond Human Victims: Violence and its Memory in the Irish Landscape."**



Dr Maria Gaviña delivered her paper, "A Bog Will Throw Up Bodies": How Nature Remembers the Northern Irish Troubles in Abbie Spallen's *Lally the Scut*." Dr Gaviña's paper examines how *Lally the Scut* represents the Northern Irish Troubles through the landscape of the bog, where a child's accident exposes the enduring presence of past violence. The play portrays the community as shaped by unresolved trauma, with the child symbolising a fragile post-Troubles society. Drawing on the concept of environmental postmemory, Dr Gaviña argues that the landscape itself retains and reveals the memory of conflict. Through dark humour, the play ultimately suggests that the Troubles persist beyond the peace process as an intergenerational and environmental form of trauma.



Dr Lluïsa Schlesier presented her paper "Landscape and Mind as an Archive of Absences: A Reading of Roddy Doyle's *The Last Roundup* Trilogy from a Combined Perspective of Ecocriticism and Trauma Studies." In this intervention, Dr Schlesier analysed Roddy Doyle's *The Last Roundup* trilogy as a representation of the Irish revolutionary period through the lenses of ecocriticism and trauma studies.



Focusing on Henry Smart, the narrative traces how experiences of violence during the Easter Rising (1916) and the War of Independence (1919-1921) produce a complex trauma that causes Henry's premature loss of memory by fracturing his consciousness. This psychic dislocation is mirrored in the Irish landscape, where sites of violence, such as the disappeared house of Henry's wife's family, become symbolic absences. At the same time, the absence of impoverished citizens from official Anglo-Irish records, including Henry's family, makes his fragmented psyche the sole repository of their existence. Dr Schlesier thus argues that the entanglement of personal and environmental histories shows how trauma extends beyond the individual and becomes inscribed in both memory and place.



DR SARA MARTÍN AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRANSCULTURAL ADAPTATIONS

Sara Martín Alegre will be joining the upcoming International Conference on Transcultural Adaptations: Literature Beyond Borders and Toward Peace. The event is organised by the University of the Balearic Islands (Spain) and will take place online on 19 June 2026. You may contact Dr Zahra Nazemi, the Conference Director, at zahra.nazemi@uib.es to register and request access information.



Dr Sara Martín will deliver her paper **"From Cormac McCarthy's Novel to Manu Larcenet's Graphic Novel: (Re)Designing The Road With Colour."** In her intervention, Dr Sara Martín will address Manu Larcenet's *La Route* (2024), an adaptation of Cormac McCarthy's novel *The Road* (2006).

Larcenet, who scripted, drew, and coloured *La route*, while following McCarthy's plot rather faithfully, offers readers a distinct visual and artistic impression of the novel's world-building. Dr Martín argues that Larcenet (re)designs McCarthy's world-building as the main strategy to adapt *The Road* with a clever, relevant use of colour. Drawing a parallel with film or TV, Larcenet acts as director, scriptwriter and, above all, production designer of his graphic novel. In this way, a dialogue is established with McCarthy's original novel, with Larcenet re-interpreting *The Road's* gritty, grey atmosphere and landscape by mostly excluding nature to focus on the representation of human-made constructions and the destruction of the human bodies found in them, turning McCarthy's world-building into a far more anthropocentric, far less post-human environment.



News

ESCALATION IN RUSSO-UKRANIAN WAR

As the Russo-Ukrainian war continues, civilian infrastructure is increasingly affected by the ongoing conflict. During a large-scale attack on Kyiv, Russia reportedly used a hypersonic Oreshnik ballistic missile for the third time, killing at least four people and injuring around 100. The strike also damaged a water supply facility, destroyed a market, and affected dozens of residential buildings and several schools.

In a related incident, a drone targeting Ukrainian territory crashed into a residential building in Galați, Romania.

European leaders condemned the attack and warned that it signals a further escalation of the conflict. Some described it as an attempt to instil fear among civilians and as part of a broader strategy that raises concerns about nuclear brinkmanship.



A resident in Kyiv tries to put out the fire in his apartment after a Russian air attack.

[Efrem Lukatsky]

Source: The Guardian





Following the latest wave of missile strikes, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy appealed to former US President Donald Trump and the US Congress for additional air defence munitions, including Patriot missile systems. Ukraine currently lacks sufficient interceptors to counter ballistic missile attacks.



Firefighters extinguish a fire in an apartment building partly destroyed by a Russian strike in Kyiv.
[Global Images Ukraine]
Source: The Guardian

Although the United States has committed to supplying such systems, ongoing geopolitical tensions—including the conflict involving Iran—as well as political divisions within the US, have placed these deliveries at risk. Zelenskyy argued that wider deployment of Patriot systems could neutralise what he described as one of Russia's key battlefield advantages and potentially push President Vladimir Putin toward negotiations.





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CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE CONTINUE IN WEST ASIA

On Tuesday, 24 May 2026, access to the global Internet was gradually restored in Iran, ending an 88-day blackout. However, the recovery was limited: only around 10% of pre-shutdown access was restored, leading experts to describe the move as “selective.” Despite the significant economic damage caused by the disruption, Iranian authorities have remained cautious about fully restoring Internet access, citing concerns that it could facilitate the organisation of protests.

The partial restoration has also exposed growing public anger over rising food prices. The cost of staple goods has surged, with vegetable oil increasing by 308%, chicken by 190%, and rice by 170%. President Masoud Pezeshkian has blamed economic pressure on external forces, arguing that, in the absence of military confrontation, adversaries have turned to economic and “cognitive” warfare to incite unrest.



Women shopping for fruit and vegetables in Iran, where food inflation has risen to between 140% and 200%.

[NurPhoto/Reuters]

Source: The Guardian



Meanwhile, conventional conflict continues in other regions in West Asia, particularly in Lebanon. While Tehran and Washington engage in diplomatic discussions, Israeli forces have continued military operations in Lebanon despite a ceasefire. An estimated 1.2 million people have been displaced, and widespread destruction has left many without homes. Reports indicate that numerous villages have been heavily damaged or destroyed.

In Gaza, the situation has also deteriorated. Israeli authorities have announced plans to expand control over significant portions of the territory, a move critics say undermines the fragile ceasefire and exacerbates an already severe humanitarian crisis. Displacement orders have led many Palestinian civilians to abandon their homes.

In addition, the United Nations has, for the first time, included Israel on its list of countries accused of committing sexual violence in conflict. UN investigators have documented 31 cases involving Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank, including allegations of rape and other forms of abuse. UN Secretary-General António Guterres stated that these incidents suggest a systematic pattern rather than isolated acts.

Further allegations were reported by The New York Times in an article by Nicholas Kristof, based on testimonies from Palestinian survivors. In response, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar rejected the claims and announced plans to pursue legal action against the newspaper.





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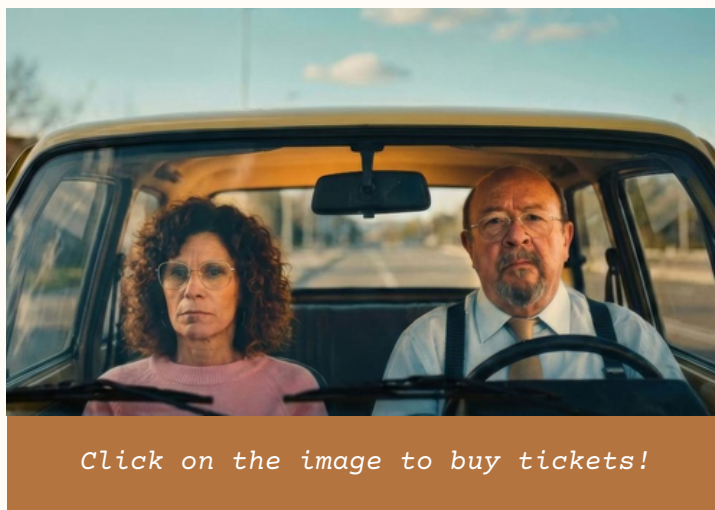
Don't Miss . . .

NO MIRIS

CULTURA I CONFLICTE

INSTITUT DE CULTURA DE BARCELONA
LA RAMBLA, 99, 08002 BARCELONA
9 - 10 JULY 2026. 19:30H

This play by *Cultura i Conflicte* presents a gallery of characters moves through the uneasy space between political commitment, betrayal, guilt, and silence. The piece constructs a tense and fragmented narrative that raises uncomfortable questions: Must we dehumanise the monster in order to recognise it? Could it be us? And what place does love occupy amid all this?

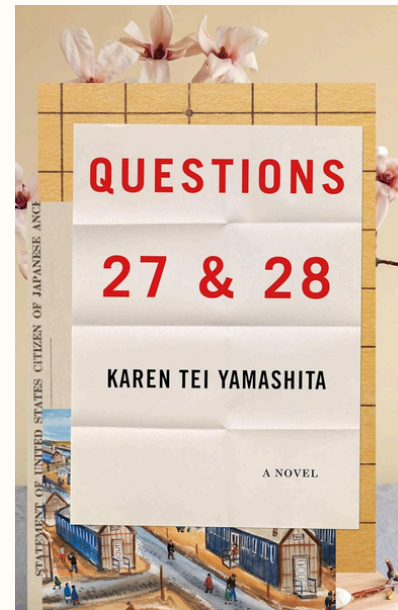


Drawing on the real-life case of Verónica Estay Stange—the daughter of victims of the Chilean dictatorship and the niece of a perpetrator—the work traces a personal journey to fill the gaps of a fractured family memory. Half a century after various dictatorships, the production highlights the fragility of democratic systems and the ease with which fear, resentment, or uncertainty can lead to dehumanisation and violence.

QUESTIONS 27 & 28

KAREN TEI YAMASHITA

In February 1942, shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Franklin D. Roosevelt issued an executive order authorizing the secretary of war to remove 120,000 Japanese Americans from their homes on the West Coast and corral them into inland concentration camps. To be considered for release, they were required to answer the so-called loyalty questionnaire. Question 27 asked the inmates—who had been imprisoned without cause by the US military—whether they were willing to serve in combat for the US military.



Question 28 asked them—many of whom American citizens who had never visited Japan—to renounce allegiance to the Japanese emperor. Answering these questions caused volatile divisions within the camps, tore families and friends apart, and had lasting repercussions in the decades postwar.

Questions 27 & 28 reaches backward and forward from the time of the questionnaire, chronicling the individuals who arrived in the US from Japan at the turn of the century, their children who came of age during war and incarceration, and their descendants who lived in its aftermath. Yamashita mixes fact with fiction and layers genres from James Bond movies to haiku to oral history, transfiguring an enormity of archival research into a chorus of stories. With her signature wit and aplomb, she gives voice to laborers, artists, scholars, informants, and activists who, over three generations, defined an immigrant community.