

OXFORD SYMPOSIA

Oxford Symposium on Literature, Culture & the Arts

The comprehensive objective of the Oxford Symposium on Literature, Culture and the Arts suggests the following range of areas of research which may be considered for presentations. Within the scope of these topics, other more nuanced research subjects may bear investigation. The listing is not intended to be exhaustive and is not conceived as placing constraints on the substance or type of research that may be presented at the Symposium.

Literature & Education

- Literary curriculum design
- Student engagement with classics
- Literature and critical thinking
- Literature and interdisciplinary teaching
- Teaching literature in AI era
- Literature and writing pedagogy
- Reading culture in modern students

AI & the Future of Literature

- AI as author and co-creator
- Ethics of machine-generated literature
- Digital humanities research methods
- Literature in the age of algorithms
- Authorship and originality debates
- AI and literary creativity
- Reader response in digital environments
- Teaching literature in an AI era: academic integrity, writing pedagogy, and critical thinking

Children's Literature

- Children's Literature in the Digital Age
- Diversity and representation
- Digital reading and literacy
- Children's literature and identity
- Fantasy and imagination
- Global children's literature
- Graphic novels and visual storytelling
- Empathy and emotional development

The Algorithm vs. The Librarian: Who Decides What We Read?

- Book bans — now at federal & state levels
- AI being used as a book-banning tool
- Defunding libraries
- AI in libraries — opportunity and threat
- The slow reading movement

- Cybersecurity in libraries
- Open access and who controls knowledge

The Oxford Literary Tradition

- Literature of the Oxford movement
- University life in literature
- The authors of Oxford
- Free speech vs. “woke” culture in academic settings
- The rise of antisemitism in literature and society
- Decolonizing the literary canon
- AI and the future of authorship
- Postcolonial sequels and reclaiming silenced narratives

Global Literature & World Narratives

- Transnational literature
- Diaspora writing
- Translation studies and cultural exchange
- World literature curricula in higher education
- Literature as a bridge between cultures
- Global literary prizes and canon formation
- Intersections of religion and global literary traditions
- Narratives of belonging in global literature

Narrative, Storytelling, & the Human Experience

- Why storytelling matters in modern society
- Narrative psychology and literature
- Storytelling across cultures
- Myth and modern narrative structures
- Literature and empathy research
- Narrative theory developments
- Storytelling in politics and media
- Literature as meaning-making

The Future of the Humanities

- Value of literature in modern education
- Advocating for humanities funding
- The value of humanities education in the modern world
- Humanities in the age of artificial intelligence
- Humanities and ethical decision-making
- The future of liberal arts education
- Humanities and global challenges
- Humanities and lifelong learning

Literature, Society & the Arts

- Intersections of literature and music, from opera to hip-hop
- Film adaptations and the afterlives of texts

- Performance, theatre, and dramatic literature
- Intermedial studies: narrative across art forms
- Literature and Politics
- Feminist Literature
- Storytelling as Resistance
- Literature and Politics

Literature & Ethics

- Moral philosophy in literature
- Ethics of representation
- Literature and political responsibility
- Ethical criticism approaches
- Narrative ethics
- Literature and human rights
- Censorship debates
- Ethics of historical fiction

Literature, Identity, & Cultural Transformation

- Race and representation in literature
- Literature and the construction of cultural identity
- Gender and the evolution of literary voice
- Historical identity and literary reinterpretation
- Literature and identity across cultures
- Narratives of trauma and identity reconstruction
- Narratives of belonging and exclusion
- Migration, displacement, and identity in literature

Climate Fiction & the Environmental Humanities

- Climate fiction (Cli-Fi) and narrative activism
- Literature and the Anthropocene
- Ecocriticism approaches
- Environmental justice in literature
- Nature writing traditions and modern shifts
- Literary responses to environmental crisis
- Sustainability narratives
- Indigenous environmental storytelling

Literature & Cultural Memory

- Literature of war, trauma, and remembrance
- Memoir, autobiography, and life writing
- Monuments, archives, and the literary imagination
- Collective memory and national identity in literature
- Memory, forgetting, and revision in historical fiction
- Intergenerational memory and storytelling