North American Network in Aging Studies

Newsletter

February 2026

Contents

About the Newsletter 1
Announcements 2
Podcasts & Media Highlights 3
Books & Articles 5
Calls for Papers 10
Events 11
Jobs & Postings 14

About the Newsletter

Items are listed by due date (if applicable) and by category. We welcome updates relevant to the age studies world, including calls for papers, journal articles, recently published books, Twitter feeds, blogs, job postings, and others. We also invite brief (450 words or less) thought pieces on issues or ideas about aging and age studies. The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the prior month. Please visit our website for more information or to submit an item for the newsletter. Thanks to all who contributed news items for this issue of the NANAS Newslette

Announcements

Membership Renewal and 2026 NANAS Elections

NANAS members are encouraged to **renew their membership for 2026.** Membership renewal is required to vote and can be completed here: https://agingstudies.org/NANAS/?page_id=283

This year, NANAS is electing two members-at-large and one student representative. Candidate statements are available here: https://agingstudies.org/NANAS/?page_id=1560

Voting is open until February 14, and ballots can be cast at: https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0pH7ymYik22kch8

Thank you for your continued engagement with NANAS!

AGECULTUREHUMANITIES
AN INTERDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL

Age, Culture, Humanities is looking for an English-native speaker who will support our team as an editorial assistant. The task is limited until August 2026, and we expect a maximum of 5-6 articles that will require language editing. This temporary position is a great opportunity for early-career researchers who would like to gain some editorial experience and bolster their CVs, but who do not want to commit to a long-term engagement.

If you are a native speaker of English with an eye for good writing and clear communication (or know someone!), please send an informal email to the journal editors Anita Wohlmann (wohlmann@sdu.dk) and Aagje Swinnen (a.swinnen@maastrichtuniversity.nl) as soon as possible.

Podcasts & Media Highlights



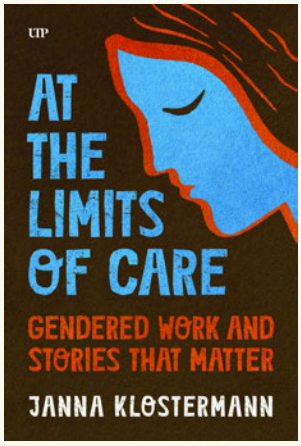
I've started using a cane. *What happened? Nothing. I'm using it to *prevent* the fall that would make me depend on the cane.*

In her latest blog post, **Ashton Applewhite** reflects on beginning to use a cane after surgery that affected balance. Rather than framing the cane as a symbol of loss, the piece explores how mobility aids can increase confidence, freedom, and self-trust while confronting internalized ageism and ableism. **Read it here**

---

nextavenue

In "**A Grandmother's Present,**" Margaret Morganroth Gullette reflects on a tender intergenerational moment hearing her granddaughter read aloud a children's book she wrote decades earlier for her son. **https://www.nextavenue.org/a-grandmothers-day-present/**



'Meet the Author' webinar featuring two NANAS members

Dr. Janna Klostermann discussed her newest publication, At the Limits of Care: Gendered Work and Stories that Matter (University of Toronto Press, 2025) as part of a Canadian Sociological Association 'Meet the Author' event featuring **Dr. Barbara Marshall** and other distinguished panelists.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKKthn1wDLU



"That's the Limit!", Episode 17 of *Wrinkle Radio* podcast featuring two NANAS members

What are the limits of care? We hear a lot about caregiver burnout. What could we learn from women who exit care roles? Those questions guided **Dr. Janna Klostermann** (Assistant Professor, Sociology, University of Calgary) as she conducted research for her new book At the Limits of Care. She talks to host **Dr. Sally Chivers** about: Why care work can feel like a trap, especially for women; The hidden costs of holding out for care heroes; "Care junkies" and why they matter; How boundaries can improve care for workers and recipients alike; Practical ways to restructure care as a shared responsibility

https://sallychivers.ca/podcast/episode-17-thats-the-limit/



ElderWare: Story Work and Aging in the mid-21st Century

Episode 2 - Dr. Stephen Katz - The Evolutions of Aging Culture

https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-2-dr-stephen-katz-the-evolutions-of-aging-culture/id1865230744?i=1000743211296

Books & Articles

Ahmad, M., & The, A. M. (2026). **Where Person-Centered Care Falls Short: Toward an Approach That Tackles Othering and Stigmatization of People with Dementia.** Social Sciences, 15(1), 44. https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci15010044

Alioni, M. (2026). **(Im) mobile lives? Urban older adults and relational automobilities.** Ageing and Society, 46. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0144686X25100433

Bossuyt, L. (2026). **Silver Tales: A quantitative content analysis on the representation of older characters in children's television.** Journal of Aging Studies, 76, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaging.2026.101402

Capdevila, M. I. S., & Llurda-Marí, À. (2026). **All fluff and no substance? The 'problem'of care in popular narratives, the cozy mystery and Richard Osman's The Thursday Murder Club.** Journal of Aging Studies, 76, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaging.2026.101403

Casado-Gual, N., & Shevchenko-Hotsuliak, I. (2026). **Ageing, gender, and'other disasters': An age-focused analysis of Wallace Shawn's Evening at the talk house.** Journal for Cultural Research, 1-12. https://doi.org/10.1080/14797585.2026.2616727

Cheng, T. J., & Liu, Y. C. (2026). **"It's like my Legs": Negotiating ageing and mobility in a motorcycle-dependent society.** Journal of Transport & Health, 48, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jth.2026.102263

Dalmer, N. K., Biruk, C., & Hatzifilalithis, S. (2026). **Data talk: Mapping older Canadians' understandings of data.** Journal of Aging Studies, 76. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaging.2025.101398

Iwuagwu, A. O., Fernandez, E., & Poon, A. W. C. (2026). **'We Prefer our Children To Care for Us Under One Roof': Perceptions and Use of Aged Care Services among African Migrant Older Adults in Australia.** Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities, 1-16.http://doi.org/10.1007/s40615-025-02778-y

Jangir, H. P., & Kaushik, A. (2026). **No Work, No Worth? Aging and Social Abandonment of Retired Sex Workers in Nat Community in Rajasthan, India.** Journal of Gerontological Social Work, 1-18. https://doi.org/10.1080/01634372.2026.2617232

Lytle, A., & Apriceno, M. (2026). **Addressing Ageism and Fostering Intergenerational Climate Solidarity.** Journal of Intergenerational Relationships, 1-15. https://doi.org/10.1080/15350770.2026.2616262

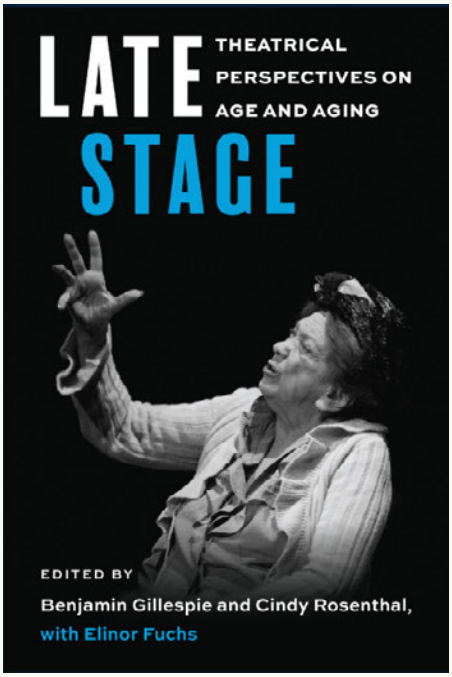
O'Grady, Alice (2026). **Sequins, satin, feathers and fur–collaborative costume and the ageing burlesque body.** Journal of Women & Aging, 1-15. https://doi.org/10.1080/08952841.2026.2622657

Repetti, M. (2026). **Community, solidarity, and poverty in mountain regions: The experiences of older adults in the Swiss Alps and Central Appalachia in the United States.** Journal of Rural Studies, 122, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2025.103970

Stončikaitė, I. (2026). **Beyond stigma and biomedical frameworks: Humanizing dementia care through narratives.** Journal of Aging Studies, 76, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaging.2025.101397

Su, C. (2026). **Gerotranscendence reflected in Iris Murdoch's The Sea, The Sea.** Educational Gerontology, 1-14. https://doi.org/10.1080/03601277.2026.2615366

Valentová, K., & Piqueras, M. O. (2026). **Visual representations of older women in European graphic novels: Moving away from illness and decrepitude?.** Journal of Aging Studies, 76, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaging.2026.101400



Gillespie, Benjamin, and Cindy Rosenthal, eds. **Late Stage: Theatrical Perspectives on Age and Aging.** Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, March 2026.

https://press.umich.edu/Books/L/Late-Stage2

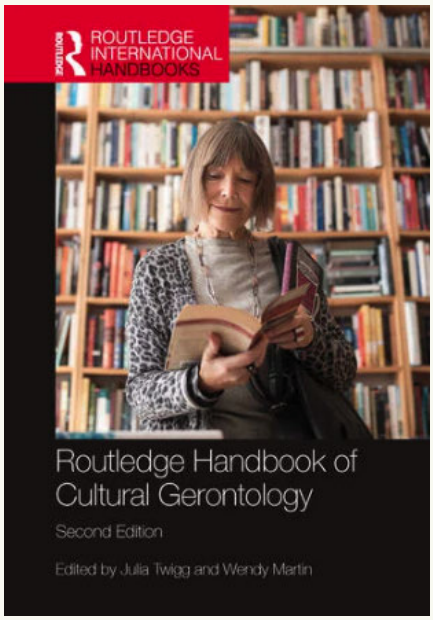
Order online and save 30% with discount code UMWEB30!

Late Stage: Theatrical Perspectives on Age and Aging

Examining age as an embodied and socially constructed identity, both on and off the stage

Late Stage: Theatrical Perspectives on Age and Aging represents the first comprehensive anthology to critically interrogate the intersection of age studies with theater and performance studies. Undoing the notion of a singular, continuous self as we age—an assumption that negatively positions old age in opposition to youth—this volume challenges biological imperatives imposed by essentialist views of aging. Late Stage reconceptualizes age as an additional dimension of identity constituted through the sociocultural systems that shape the material body over time. The collection portrays aging as a dynamic and evolving process, countering ageist narratives of decline and stereotypes that homogenize later life as a fixed, undesirable state. By exploring

themes such as intergenerational dialogue, elder sexualities, late style, casting practices, age-related caregiving, and artistic longevity, contributors reposition later life into complex narratives that resist normative age scripts. Drawing on gender studies, queer and feminist theory, and disability studies, the collection bridges performance analysis with theoretical frameworks and collectively addresses how aging is experienced, represented, and resisted across time and cultures. Late Stage explores key works by canonical and contemporary figures such as Anton Chekhov, Henrik Ibsen, Caryl Churchill, Clare Barron, Naomi Iizuka, Tracy Letts, David Lindsay-Abaire, Judith Malina, Robbie McCauley, Florian Zeller, and Peggy Shaw. With its innovative approach, Late Stage serves not only as a critical text for courses on performance and age, but as a call to action for expanding conversations around age in theater and society.



Twigg, Julia, & Martin, Wendy (2026). **Routledge Handbook of Cultural Gerontology 2nd Edition.** Routledge.
https://www.routledge.com/Routledge-Handbook-of-Cultural- Gerontology/Twigg-Martin/p/book/9781032273075

The second edition of this landmark handbook provides an authoritative overview of the emergence and development of cultural gerontology. It reveals the vibrancy and diversity of theory, methodology and research methods, and reflects on changes in the field since the first edition and examines future directions.

CONTENTS

1. **Revisiting Cultural Gerontology: Exploring the Landscape Ten Years On**, *Julia Twigg and Wendy Martin*

PART 1: THE POLITICS AND THEORISING OF AGEING

2. **From Successful Ageing to Ageing Well,** *Susan Pickard*
3. **The Cultural Turn in Gerontology,** *Chris Gilleard and Paul Higgs*
4. **Transitions and Time in an Unstable Context**, *Amanda Grenier*
5. **Global and Local Ties and the Reconstruction of Later Life**, *Chris Phillipson*
6. **Money and Finance in Later Life**, *Hayley James*
7. **The Civic Culture in Ageing Societies**, *Gemma Carney*
8. **Aged by Culture in the New COVID Era**, *Margaret Morganroth Gullette*
9. **Intersectionality and Paradoxes of Age Inequality**, *Neal King and Toni Calasanti*

10. **Culture, Ethnicity, Race, and Migrancy**, *Sandra Torres*
11. **The Race(ing) of Ageing Studies: Disrupting the Veil of Whiteness**, *Sweta Rajah-Rankin*
12. **Indigenous Elders, Older Adults, and Ageing**, *Sandy Grande*
12. **Beyond the View of the West: Ageing Anthropology**, *Sarah Lamb*

PART 2: MATERIALITY AND EMBODIMENT

14. **Theorising Embodiment and Ageing**, *Emmanuelle Tulle*
15. **Intersectional Considerations of Ageing and the Body**, *Laura Hurd Clarke and Erica V. Bennett*
16. **Sex, Sexuality and Later Life**, *Linn Sandberg*
17. **The Smile in Older Age**, *Lorna Warren, Jennifer Kettle and Barry Gibson*
18. **Dress and Age**, *Julia Twigg*
19. **Materiality and Ageing**, *Anna Wanka and Vera Gallistl*
20. **Architectural Imaginaries and Cultures of Care in Later Life**, *Sarah Nettleton, Christina Buse and Daryl Martin*
21. **Meanings of Home and Age**, *Sheila Peace*
22. **Gardens and Gardening in Later Life**, *Christine Milligan and Amanda Bingley*
23. **Cemeteries and Age**, *Allison Kirkman*
24. **Ageing, Physical Activity and Sport**, *Cassandra Phoenix and Meredith Griffin*

PART 3: CULTURES OF CARE

25. **Cultures of Care**, *Michael Fine*
26. **Personhood and the Dilemmas of Dementia Care**, *Stephen Katz and Annette Leibing*
27. **Dementia and Embodiment**, *Pia Kontos*
28. **The Fourth Age**, *Liz Lloyd*
29. **Loneliness and Isolation**, *Christina Victor and Mary Pat Sullivan*
30. **Suffering and Pain in Old Age**, *Kate de Medeiros and Helen Black*
31. **Medical Humanities and Cultural Gerontology**, *Desmond O'Neill*

PART 4: IDENTITIES AND SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS

32. **Anti-Ageing and Identities**, *Barbara L. Marshall*
33. **Representations of Ageing in the Media**, *Virpi Ylänne*
34. **Youth Culture, Ageing and Identity**, *Andy Bennett*
35. **Gender: Some Implications of a Contested Concept and Area of Social Life**, *Jeff Hearn and Sharon Wray*
36. **Queering Cultural Gerontology**, *Maya Chew and Andrew King*
37. **Ethnographies of Ageing**, *Catherine Degnen*
38. **The Value of Religion, Spirituality, and Humanism to Older People**, *Holly Nelson-Becker and Joseph G. Pickard*

39. **Ageing Workers**, *Katrina Pritchard, Rebecca Whiting and Cara Reed*
40. **Lifestyle Migration, Ageing, and the Meaning of Relative Privilege**, *Karen O'Reilly and Michaela Benson*
41. **Widowhood and its Cultural Representations**, *Anne Martin-Matthews and Catherine Tong*
42. **Ageing and Biographical Methods**, *Joanna Bornat*

PART 5: ARTS AND TECHNOLOGIES

43. **Art, Ageing and the Gendered Body**, *Michelle Meagher*
44. **Literature and Age**, *Sarah Falcus*
45. **Ageing in Film**, *Aagje Swinnen*
46. **Visual Methods in Ageing Research**, *Wendy Martin*
47. **Celebrity Culture and Ageing**, *Kirsty Fairclough*
48. **Ageing and Popular Music**, *Abigail Gardner*
49. **Rethinking Late-Life Creativity: Beyond 'Late Style'**, *David Amigoni and Gordon McMullan*
50. **Ageing Playfully**, *Carrie Ryan*
51. **From Chronological Age to Biomarkers of Ageing: A Historical Cultural Sociology**, *Tiago Moreira*
52. **Science, Technology and Ageing**, *Kelly Joyce, Meika Loe and Lauren Diamond-Brown*
53. **The Co-Constitution of Ageing and Technology in a Cultural Context**, *Louis Neven and Alex Peine*

Calls for Papers

***Humanities* Special Issue on "Literature and Health in the 21st Century"**

Submissions are now invited for a special issue of *Humanities* titled "**Literature and Health in the 21st Century.**" This issue focuses on the European region and welcomes research exploring contemporary challenges in health, well-being, and healthcare as they are represented in the literature. Contributions addressing themes of age and aging are especially encouraged. Publication-fee waivers are available.

Full details and submission guidelines can be found here: https://www.mdpi.com/journal/humanities/special_issues/R5I05689FA

Questions may be directed to the co-editors:

Anita Wohlmann (wohlmann@sdu.dk)

Anders Juhl Rasmussen (ajr@hum.ku.dk)

Submission deadline: 31 May 2026

Events

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Aging
Faculty of Medicine

Intersectional Age Studies Seminar Series

Dr. Nanako Nakajima (中島那奈子)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DANCE SCHOLAR, DRAMATURG

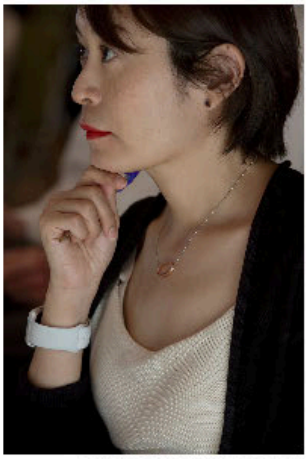


Photo credit: ©Taifun

Dr. Nanako Nakajima (中島那奈子) is a dance scholar and dramaturg. In 2017, she received the Special Commendation of the Elliott Hayes Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dramaturgy from the Literary Manager and Dramaturgs of the Americas. She has worked with festivals, theatres, and museums, integrating her research on ageing into dance. Her roles include jury member for the 2022 Keir Choreographic Award (Australia), Valeska-Gert Visiting Professor at Freie Universität Berlin (Germany, 2019–20), faculty dramaturg in dance at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity (Canada, 2022-25), and keynote speaker for the symposium "Echoes of Age" at Universidade Católica Portuguesa, (Portugal, 2025). She is currently an associate professor in Dance Studies at Waseda University, Japan. Her publications include *The Aging Body in Dance* (Routledge, 2017) and *Oi to Odori* (Keiso Shobo, 2019), and Nanako serves as an issue editor for *Performance Research*, Vol. 23, No. 7: 'On Ageing (& Beyond)' (2018). She also launched a bilingual website on dance dramaturgy (www.dancedramaturgy.org) and initiated Japan's first dramaturgs' meeting in 2024.

Negotiating Dance Dramaturgies of Aging

Event Time in North America:
Monday, February 23, 2026
5:00-6:00 PM PT / 8:00-9:00 PM ET

Event Time in Japan:
Tuesday, February 24, 2026
10:00-11:00 AM JST

Summary: Dance is an art form deeply shaped by age. In many Euro-American theatrical dance traditions, performers are deemed to peak professionally by their mid-30s and often retire in their early 40s, making performance in later life rare. Conversely, in Japanese performing arts, age reflects accumulated experience and does not necessarily signal diminished creativity. This study revisits four of my dramaturgical works in professional contemporary dance across Japan–US, China, Thailand, and Japan–Singapore–Germany to examine how intercultural dance dramaturgies of aging negotiate divergent age cultures. From my perspective of an aging female Japanese dance dramaturg, aging is a process through which embodied history informs performance aesthetics. Dance dramaturgy serves as a comparative framework that historicizes dance culture and culturalizes dance history, enabling dialogue between contrasting age paradigms.

This seminar can only be viewed virtually.
Click here to register for the seminar.

Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Aging
117 - 2194 Health Sciences Mall
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z3
healthyaging.med.ubc.ca



5th Meeting of the Study Group **'Rejecting Futures: Practices of Resistance or Failure',**
Delmenhorst, 6-8 May 2026

"Rejecting the future: Affect and mental health"

Invited speakers:
Leila Dawney (U Exeter)
Stefan Ecks (U Edinburgh)
Marcos Freire de Andrade Neves (Freie U Berlin)
Stephen Katz (Trent U)
Anne Lovell (INSERM Paris)
John Marlovits (San José State U)
Ayo Wahlberg (U Copenhagen)

Organizers:
Annette Leibing (Université de Montréal & HWK-fellow)
Mark Schweda (Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg)

Venue:
Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg
Institute for Advanced Study
Lehmkuhlenbusch 4
27753 Delmenhorst
tel: +49 4221 9160-100
www.hanse-ias.de
facebook.com/hanseias

Wednesday, 06 May 2026

1:00	Reception and light lunch at the HWK
1:50	Short welcome by *Steffen Bandlow-Raffalski, Mark Schweda, and Annette Leibing*
2:00 – 3:00	*Stefan Ecks (U Edinburgh):* Predicting Unpredictability
3:00 – 4:30	**Conversation**; Chair: Ulla Kriebernegg (U Graz)

Luiz Fernando D Duarte (UF Rio de Janeiro): Freezing time: Transgenerational opacity and mental disturbance
*Marcos Freire de Andrade Neves (Freie U Berlin): T*he empty cell next door: Suspended futures and affective life on death row
Mark Schweda (U Oldenburg): ‘Tedium vitae‘ in the context of assisted dying

4:30 – 4:50 Coffee break *(„Kaffee und Kuchen“)*
4:50 – 5:50 *Leila Dawney (U Exeter)*: Chronic affects: on coming to terms with futurelessness in a decommissioning nuclear town
6:00 *Dinner at the HWK*

Thursday, 07 May 2026

9:00 – 10:00 *Anne Lovell (INSERM Paris):* TBD
10:00 – 10:15 Coffee break
10:15 – 12:00 **Conversation**; Chair: Isaac Yuen (Berlin)
Matthew Wolf-Meyer (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute): On anxiety, complacency, and boredom in the Anthropocene
Nolen Gertz (Twente U): War and Exile: On PTSD and military suicide
Claudia Bozzaro (U Münster): “Til death do us part”: the emerging phenomenon of assisted double suicide.
12:15 –1:45 *Lunch + walk*
1:45 – 2:45 *Ayo Wahlberg (U Copenhagen):* Fertility exhaustion in pro-natalist China
2:45 Coffee
Excursion TBD

Friday, 08 May 2026

9:00 – 10:00 *Stephen Katz (Trent U):* The crisis of loneliness and the future of aging
10:00 – 10:20 *Coffee break*
10:20 – 11:20 *John Marlovits (San José State U):* Can the asylum speak? Punk challenges to psychiatric containment culture in 1970s San Francisco
11:20 – 12:20 ***Conversation****; Chair: Mark Schweda*
Matthew Worley (U Reading): ‘Identity, it's a crisis, can't you see': British punk and mental illness, c.1970s-80s
Annette Leibing (U Montreal): Muddled affect: On uncommon futures
12:20 Final words (MS, AL)
13:00 *Light lunch*

Jobs & Postings

Tenure-track Professor in Cultural and Societal Storytelling
Faculty of Arts, KU Leuven

KU Leuven is the largest university in Belgium and is consistently ranked within the top 10 universities in Europe. The University belongs to the League of European Research Universities (LERU) and attaches great importance to attracting and appreciating talent. At the Faculty of Arts, research is conducted in the fields of Arabic and Islamic studies, archaeology, art history, Chinese studies, history, Japanese studies, musicology, linguistics, literary and cultural studies and translation and interpretation studies. The Faculty employs over 800 junior and senior researchers, and teaches around 4,500 students in various study programmes at its campuses in Antwerp, Brussels, Kortrijk and Leuven. The Faculty strives to be an open and inclusive environment, with a focus on dialogue, social safety, sustainability and a healthy work-life balance.

We are looking for a motivated lecturer and researcher to be part of the Literary Studies and Cultural Studies Research Unit. The Literary Studies and Cultural Studies Research Unit is renowned for its research on literature and culture from antiquity to the present, employing both traditional and innovative methodologies. It has about 150 senior and junior researchers.

Research

You are a motivated, internationally-oriented researcher in the field of cultural storytelling, with an emphasis on the analysis of narratives in word and/or image and their societal impact, particularly in relation to inclusion and/or sustainability. Your research enhances the profile of the Faculty of Arts at KU Leuven Kulak (https://kulak.kuleuven.be/), where you demonstrate active engagement in interdisciplinary collaboration, both internationally and with colleagues on campus, within the faculty, and/or within university institutes such as the Leuven Interdisciplinary Language Institute (https://www.kuleuven.be/lili), the Leuven One Health Institute (https://research.kuleuven.be/en/onehealth), or the Leuven Centre for Health Humanities (https://ghum.kuleuven.be/LCHH). As a comprehensive and small-scale campus, KU Leuven Kulak offers a stimulating environment for interdisciplinary research collaboration, where expertise in societal storytelling intersects both thematically and methodologically with various research domains. Sustainability, alongside AI, is one of the transversal research lines on the Kortrijk campus.

You strive for excellence in your academic research and develop your own research plan. You publish at the highest academic level, initiate national and international collaborations and help promote and develop such agreements.

You succeed in securing competitive funding and attracting and supervising PhD students. The Faculty will help you find suitable funding opportunities and provide advice on applications. The Faculty attaches great importance to qualitative and correct supervision of PhD students.

You focus on science communication and contribute to public debate whenever possible.

Teaching

You provide high-quality teaching in the bachelor's programme Taal- en Letterkunde (Language and Literature) in Kortrijk and, in consultation with the Faculty's Education Committee, you develop an accessible and inclusive course offering on storytelling, primarily at the master's level (Leuven Campus). You are committed to the quality of the study programmes as a whole. You develop your teaching activities in line with the teaching philosophy of KU Leuven based on activating, research-based teaching and you use the opportunities provided by the Faculty and the University to further your teaching (for more information: www.kuleuven.be/english/education/education-at-ku-leuven).

Your initial teaching assignment comprises 10 credits which may grow over time—up to a maximum of 24 ECTS credits—in consultation with the Education Committee for Language and Literature, the Kortrijk Bachelor Campus, and the Faculty's Education Committee. This initial teaching assignment includes the following courses, some of which are also part of other bachelor's programmes in Kortrijk (including History).

10 ECTS in BA 1 & 2 (campus Kortrijk; annually)

- Ba1 Storytelling in de maatschappij (Kortrijk, 4 ECTS) ('Storytelling in society')
- Ba1 Bouwstenen van de literatuur, deel verhaalanalyse (Kortrijk, 2 ECTS) ('Foundations of Literature: Narrative Analysis')
- Ba2 Literatuur- en cultuurtheorie (Kortrijk, 4 ECTS) ('Literary and Cultural Theory')

Your teaching assignment also includes the supervision of bachelor's papers and master's theses.

Your teaching assignment is initially linked to the Kortrijk and Leuven Campus, but may include teaching assignments at other Faculty campuses in the future.

Together with the colleagues of your study programme you work on the development and improvement of the curriculum, including shaping learning sequences across individual courses, rethinking academic education in light of future societal challenges, and strengthening relationships with the work field.

Service

You are regularly present on the Kortrijk campus and participate in activities relevant to the campus and the Faculty. In the long term, you are willing to take up academic service tasks and

positions on the Kortrijk campus and within the Faculty and contribute to the visibility and promotion of the education and research of the campus, Research Unit or study programme that you are part of (e.g. through participation in teacher days, information events and student recruitment events). You also actively contribute to the wider academic community, e.g. through services to academic societies and journals.

Profile

You hold a PhD in in Literary Studies or Cultural Studies (or equivalent within the Humanities) and have successfully defended your dissertation at the time of submitting your application. You have a proven expertise in the narrative analysis of stories in word and/or image, with a focus on inclusive and/or sustainability-related storytelling. You are familiar with narratological traditions, show a strong and broad theoretical and methodological interest (e.g. in relation to cultural theory, language and discourse, and/or intermediality and multimodality), and enjoy working at the intersection of disciplines. You are open to critical reflection on nuanced interpretations of the research concepts of sustainability and storytelling, and you are willing to collaborate with societal and non-academic partners. You have excellent teaching skills and an affinity with designing and delivering multi-faceted university education.

You have a strong and validated, international academic portfolio with highly regarded publications in your field. You also have a clear vision of how your research can develop further in relation to the available research expertise.

You openly and enthusiastically contribute to the university study programmes of the future, organized at the Kortrijk campus and, more broadly, within the Faculty of Arts in a spirit of open collaboration. Organisational skills, leadership qualities and good social skills are a must. Experience with scientific outreach or collaboration with the work field is a plus.

A good knowledge of English is required. The official administrative language used at KU Leuven is Dutch. If you do not speak Dutch (or do not speak it well) at the start of employment, KU Leuven will provide language training to enable you to take part in administrative meetings. Before teaching courses in Dutch, you will be given the opportunity to learn Dutch to the required standard.

Offer

We offer a full-time tenure-track professorship (ZAP) in a dynamic faculty with diverse disciplines. You will be part of an intellectually challenging and international environment, with plenty of space and opportunity to grow as a lecturer and researcher, thus making a significant contribution to society. KU Leuven provides support and benefits for starting professors who have a partner and/or family, cf. www.kuleuven.be/english/life-at-ku-leuven/partner-and-family.

You will be appointed as tenure-track professor for a period of five years. After a positive assessment following the five-year term, you will receive a permanent professorship at the level

of ‘hoofddocent’ (associate professor). Within this function promotions to higher academic degrees are possible. All academic degrees have the ius promovendi.

You will work at the Kortrijk campus, in a historic and lively city in the west of Belgium, only thirty minutes from Ghent, forty-five from Bruges and right next to Lille (France). Brussels, the capital of the European Union, is only ninety minutes away while Paris, London and Amsterdam can be reached by train in two to three hours.

The start date for this position is 1 September 2026. To facilitate scientific integration and the start-up of research, KU Leuven provides start-up funding of 110,000 euros for new professors.

KU Leuven is well equipped to welcome foreign professors and their families and offers practical support with immigration and administration, housing, childcare and career coaching for the partner.

Interested?

If you are not a native speaker of Dutch, you can submit your application in English.

Your application includes the following documents:

- a motivation letter
- a biosketch summarising your most important academic achievements (in various fields: teaching, research, services to society, outreach, etc.). You may also mention personal factors that have played a role in your career here (e.g. pregnancy, illness, care) so that these can be taken into account when assessing your submission. (max. 2 pages)
- a curriculum vitae, including a full publication list
- an annotated document describing your five most important publications (or other academic achievements)
- a vision statement on how you want to fulfil your teaching assignment in the future (max. 2 pages)
- a research plan for the next five years (max. 2 pages)

KU Leuven attaches great importance to research integrity and ethical conduct and will therefore ask you to sign an integrity statement upon appointment.

Candidates who are shortlisted by the Faculty Assessment Committee (BeCo) will be invited for an interview and a trial lecture.

For more information about this vacancy, please contact the Dean of the Faculty, Prof. Dr. Liesbet Heyvaert (email: liesbet.heyvaert@kuleuven.be) or the Campus Dean for Arts at KU Leuven Kulak, Prof. Dr. Kurt Feyaerts (tel. +32 487 52 76 21; email: kurt.feyaerts@kuleuven.be).

For problems with online applying, please contact solliciteren@kuleuven.be.

You can apply for this job no later than February 19, 2026 via the online application tool

KU Leuven strives for an inclusive, respectful and socially safe environment. We embrace diversity among individuals and groups as an asset. Open dialogue and differences in perspective are essential for an ambitious research and educational environment. In our commitment to equal opportunity, we recognize the consequences of historical inequalities. We do not accept any form of discrimination based on, but not limited to, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, age, ethnic or national background, skin colour, religious and philosophical diversity, neurodivergence, employment disability, health, or socioeconomic status. For questions about accessibility or support offered, we are happy to assist you at this email address.

- Job application procedure
- Working conditions
- Career opportunities

Do you have a question about the online application system? Please consult our FAQ or email us at apply@kuleuven.be

---