

CALL FOR PAPERS

Literature, Madness, and Discomfort

Impossibilia. Revista Internacional de Estudios Literarios invites researchers to submit papers for the monograph issue LITERATURE, MADNESS, AND DISCOMFORT, coordinated by Ester Jordana Lluch and Juan Evaristo Valls Boix (University of Barcelona, Spain).

The connection between madness and literature is one of the threads running through our cultural imaginary. In the 60s, Michel Foucault analyzed how the “voice of madness,” which could be found in many literary works from the 15th century onwards, underwent a radical transformation when psychiatry made its appearance and the category of mental illness took shape.

In recent years, a sort of literature or poetics of discomfort has given voice to subjectivity in pain —meaningfully embodied by women— that draws attention to the generalized medication of the population and the increase in anxiety and emotional disorder diagnoses in contemporary societies. Furthermore, this poetics of discomfort has coincided with the reappropriation of the term madness by psychiatrized people, which has led to first-person discourse becoming central.

The aim of this issue is to study the relationships between literature, madness and discomfort in present-day literary production and their reception by recent theoretical and critical discourses. On the one hand, we will reflect on those bonds, both historically and in contemporary literature, to outline the characteristics of a poetics of discomfort of the 21st century. On the other hand, we will explore Foucault’s ideas on madness and literature in the



light of the recent publication of some of his texts and conferences. The following lines of research will thus be included:

- Reflecting on literature through the prism of Foucault: approaches and displays
- Madness, pain, suffering and their bond with writing
- Literature and biopolitics: illness, autofiction and autobiography
- Madness and delirium in the history of literature (19th and 20th centuries)
- Poetics of discomfort: literatures of the aching body in the 21st century
- “Mad pride” as a space for creation and for the politicization of madness.

You are welcome to submit original studies (max 40 000 characters). Submission of an article expressly implies that the work submitted has not been published previously and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. For format details, see [Author Guidelines](#).

Deadline for the reception of articles: **APRIL 30, 2021**

Papers should be sent through the following webpage:
<http://www.impossibilia.org/index.php/impossibilia/login>

Impossibilia shall also accept original works throughout the year, not previously published or that are being evaluated by other journals for the sections detailed below:

- **MISCELLANY:** This section will include papers dedicated to diverse literary topics, including theoretical, critical, historical and comparative studies.
- **ARTISTIC INTERACTIONS:** Literature has always kept close links with other arts, from visual arts to music. We propose to create in this section a space to promote a reflection on these interactions, on how they are originated, how they develop and above all which are their most distinguished works.

• **REVIEWS:** A space to comment books on theory, criticism, comparative literature and history of literature.

Papers should comply with the Style Book and the Refereeing System defined by Impossibilia, as well as with the Spanish Creative Commons licenses described in our Legal section.