

“The Blood is the Life!”

Narratives of Illness, Gender and Identity
in Vampire Fiction Seminar

April, 16-17 2026
Saló de Graus Enric Valor

“The Blood is the Life!”: Narratives of Illness, Gender and Identity in Vampire Fiction Seminar

Facultat de Filologia, Traducció i Comunicació (Universitat de València)

16th and 17th April 2026

Convenors:

Dr. Dina Pedro (Universitat de València)

Dr. Laura Miñano (Universitat de València)

Organizing Committee:

Dr. Sara Llopis Mestre (Universitat de València)

Dr. Gora Zaragoza Ninet (Universitat de València) Ms. Paola Baixauli (Universitat de València)

Dr. Patricia Palomino-Manjón (Centro Universitario de la Defensa de Zaragoza)

Dr. Marta Bernabéu (Universidad de Salamanca)

Dr. Rocío Riestra-Camacho (Universidad de Oviedo)

Dr. Isabel Marqués (Universidad Complutense de Madrid) Dr. Clara Cantos (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)

Scientific Committee:

Dr. Andrea Burgos Mascarell (Universitat de València)

Dr. María López Rubio (Universitat de València/ Universitat Jaume I de Castelló)

Dr. Alejandro Nadal Ruiz (Universidad de Zaragoza)

Dr. Laura Roldán Sevillano (Universidad de Zaragoza)

Dr. Isabel Treviño López (Centro Universitario de la Defensa de Zaragoza)

(“Saló de graus”, 1st floor), April 16th

9:00	Registration /registro
9:30	
9:30	Opening remarks / apertura Dr. José Antonio Calañas Continente (University of Valencia, Dean of the School of Philology, Translation and Media) Dr. Miguel Martínez López (University of Valencia, Chair of the Department of English and German) Dr. Diana González Pastor (University of Valencia, Secretary of Iulma) Dr. Dina Pedro (University of Valencia, convenor) Dr. Laura Miñano (University of Valencia, convenor)
10:00	
10:00	
10:00	Keynote speaker (in Spanish) / sesión plenaria Modera: Dra. Dina Pedro (University of Valencia) Dra. Purificació Mascarell (University of Valencia) <i>Succión masculina; alienación femenina: historias ocultas de vampiros y vampirizadas</i>
11:00	

11:00 11:30	Break
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11:30 12:30	<p><i>Queer Readings of Carmilla</i></p> <p>Chair: Cata Nazario Abbott (University of Valencia)</p> <p>Dr. Sara Llopis-Mestre (University of Valencia) and Dr. Gora Zaragoza-Ninet (University of Valencia), <i>Francoist Queer Policing in the Translational Afterlives of Le Fanu's Carmilla</i></p> <p>Marta Calatayud García (University of Valencia), <i>From a menace to a source of liberation. Carmilla as a character in contemporary: retellings of Sheridan Le Fanu's classic</i></p> <p>Marta González Cañete (Castilla La Mancha University), <i>"To Die Together, So That They May Live Together": Lesbian Vampires And The Reappropriation of Penetration</i></p>
12:30 13:30	<p><i>Metáforas, patologías y discursos sociales en torno al vampirismo (in Spanish)</i></p> <p>Moderator: Rodrigo Carmen Cerdán (Universitat de València)</p> <p>Daniel López Fernández (Universitat de València), <i>"A la cosa que ante mí representas no le late un corazón en el pecho": los vampiros en El Capital de Karl Marx</i></p> <p>Dr. Francisco Pérez-Fernández (Universidad Camilo José Cela), Dr. Francisco López-Muñoz (Universidad Camilo José Cela) y Dr. Francisco Javier Sánchez-Verdejo Pérez (UNED), <i>El vampirismo como trastorno parafilico</i></p> <p>Alberto Sesmero (Universidad Complutense de Madrid), <i>De ángel inocente a corruptora de la sangre: el personaje de la vampiresa como subversión del relato hegemónico de la mujer infectada por VIH/sida.</i></p>

<p>13:30</p> <p>15:00</p>	<p>Lunch / comida</p>
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<p>15:00</p> <p>16:00</p>	<p>Round table / mesa redonda: <i>Vampirism and the Medicalized Body: Gender, Power, and Monstrosity</i></p> <p>Dr. Agnieszka Stasiewicz-Bieńkowska, (Jagiellonian University), Dr. Marta Bernabéu (USAL), Dr. Dina Pedro (University of Valencia), Dr. Andrea Burgos Mascarell (University of Valencia)</p>
<p>16:00</p> <p>16:30</p>	<p>Break</p>
<p>16:30</p> <p>17:30</p>	<p><i>Trayectoria y evolución del vampiro en el cine y literatura (in Spanish)</i></p> <p>Moderada: María López Rubio (Universitat de València/ Universitat Jaume I)</p> <p>Stefania Antonia Chirita (Universitat de València), <i>Embrujando la verdad del strigoi: control social y discurso mítico</i></p> <p>Luz Atenas Mendoza (Universidad Complutense de Madrid), <i>Algunos mitos de híbridos vampíricos: desde el glogve hasta el dhampire</i></p> <p>Pau Tronch i Valls (Universitat de València / Universitat Pompeu Fabra), <i>El vampiro transfigurado: figuras y cuerpos vampíricos del cine</i></p>

<p>17:30</p> <p>18:30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Nineteenth-Century Female Vampires: Contamination, Desire, and Othernes</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Dr. Andrea Burgos Mascarell (University of Valencia)</p> <p>Anesa Muslimovic Ortega (University of Valencia), “<i>What is more lovely, after all, than a monster undone with want?</i>”: <i>The Monstrous feminine and Monstrous Sexuality in S. T. Gibson’s A Dowry of Blood (2021)</i></p> <p>Elisa Xamena Flexas (University of Barcelona), <i>Female Vampires and the fear of Contagion in Carmilla and Good Lady Ducayne</i></p> <p>Elisabeth Merchán Muñoz (Castilla La Mancha University), <i>Contaminating Otherness in the 19th century: Le Fanu’s Carmilla and Gautier’s La Morte Amoureuse</i></p>
<p>20:00</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Seminar Dinner</i></p>

<p>(“Saló de graus”, 1st floor), April 17th</p>	
<p>9:00</p> <p>10:00</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Neo-)Victorian Reimaginings of the Vampire</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Dr. Dina Pedro (University of Valencia)</p> <p>Dr. Clara Contreras Ameduri (complutense University of Madrid), <i>The Monster Talks Back: Vampiric Configurations of Bella Baxter in Alasdair Gray’s Poor Things (1992)</i></p> <p>Dr. Marta Bernabéu Lorenzo (University of Salamanca), <i>Androgyny and the Gendered Politics of Appetite from Wuthering Heights (1847) to Only Lovers Left Alive (2013)</i></p>

Núria Andrés Curto (Independent Scholar), *Vampiric Reflections: The Affective Dimensions of the Racialised 'Other' in Jane Eyre and Wuthering Heights*

Vampirism and the Politics of the Body

Chair: Dr. Mayron Cantillo Lucuara (University of Valencia)

10:00

11:00

Paola Baixauli (University of Valencia), *"You cannot bargain with a thing inhuman": The soucouyant as an embodiment of pica and transgenerational colonial trauma in Helen Oyeyemi's White is For Witching (2009)*

Cata Nazario Abbott (University of Valencia), *"Maybe I Should Give Her My Life": Vampirism, Blame and Disability in The Carmilla Movie (2017)*

Paula Martínez Vega (University of Valencia), *"Something was tragically wrong with me": an analysis of bodily confinements in Jody Scott's I, Vampire*

11:00

Mindfulness workshop by Aroa Borrás, psicóloga clínica

12:00

Taller de Mindfulness por Aroa Borrás, clynical psychologist

12:00

Break

12:30

Vampirism, Storytelling, and Cultural Incorporation in Sinners (2025)

Chair: Dr. Laura Miñano (University of Valencia)

12:30	Sergio García Jiménez (University of Oviedo), <i>From Outcasts to Undead: Vampires as Forces of Assimilation and Reservoirs of Historical Trauma in Ryan Coogler's Sinners (2025)</i>
13:30	<p>Mário António Alves Ribeiro (University of Porto), <i>My name is Legion: Cultural Anthropophagy, Hive-Mind Vampires and the Other in I am Legend (1954) and Sinners (2025)</i></p> <p>Fernando Sánchez López (University of Alicante), "I want your stories, and I want your songs. And you gon' have mine": <i>Sinners and the Vampiric Nature of the Melting Pot</i></p>
13:30 14:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Postcolonial Readings across Gothic and YA Fiction</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Dr. Sara Llopis-Mestre (University of Valencia)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Viviana Campo (University of Naples "L'Orientale"), <i>The Long Night of the Eternally Resting</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Andrea Montero García Moreno (Alcala de Henares University), <i>Feminine Monstrosity and Race in the Nineteenth-Century Gothic Novel: The Figure of the Female Vampire in Harriet Brandt</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ines Camarena Caselles (University of Valencia) and Paula Castillo Reyes (University of Valencia), <i>Between Monster and Girl: Rewriting the Female Vampire in YA Fiction</i></p>
14:30 16:00	<p>Lunch / comida</p>
	<p><i>Cinematic Vampirism</i></p>

Chair: Dr. Agnieszka Stasiewicz-Bieńkowska (Jagiellonian University)

16:00

Dr. Dina Pedro (University of Valencia), *“I Write of what I Cannot Speak”*: *Scryptotherapy as a Coping Mechanism for Sexual Assault in Byzantium* (dir. Neil Jordan, 2012)

17:00

	<p>Diego Morales Arocas (Independent Scholar), <i>Vampiric Otherness in American Southern Gothic Horror Cinema: Carmilla (1989)</i></p> <p>Ángela Muro Arpón (Alcala de Henares University), <i>“We’re Here, We’re Queer, and Ready to Norm-Veer: Mapping Queerness in Vampire Media Representation</i></p>
<p>17:00</p> <p>17:45</p>	<p>Reading of vampiric poems by Aarón Lozano Sadornil (in Spanish)</p> <p>Lectura de poemas vampíricos de Aarón Lozano Sadornil</p> <p>Moderada: Dr. Dina Pedro (University of Valencia)</p>
<p>17:45</p> <p>18:00</p>	<p>Closing remarks / clausura del congreso</p> <p>Dr. Dina Pedro (University of Valencia)</p> <p>Dr. Laura Miñano (University of Valencia)</p>