



Across genres (theatre, poetry, fiction, non-fiction, auto-fiction...) and across centuries, literature has mediated the experience of trauma, its aftermath, and the ongoing healing of the self. In the twentieth century, theorization of trauma evolved from Freud's theories to the advent of Trauma Studies in the 1990s (Cathy Caruth), and today favors a more intersectional and post-colonial perspective. Moving from individuals' repressed memories in psychoanalysis to focusing on the "unspeakable" trauma caused by historical events, contemporary Trauma Studies attempt to broaden the scope of 1990s trauma theory by centering on structural trauma and cultural context, demanding political engagement and viewing post-traumatic growth in a myriad of narrative forms.

Placing healing and survival at its core, this conference interrogates the ways in which literature serves as a space and means for the expression and transformation of trauma. The word "trauma" (meaning wound or hurt in Greek) is to be understood in all its forms: personal, transgenerational, religious, sexual or gender-related. The writing of trauma invites us to consider how language articulates the unspeakable. Can literature actually convey one's traumatised sense of self? Can it express and heal wounds through mere words? How has the depiction of trauma unfolded in contemporary literature, moving from individual wounds to more collective ones?

This conference aims to explore these issues through various approaches and invites Master's students to critically examine the role of writing in the expression of trauma and healing. Together, we hope to shed light on narratives of trauma and discuss how the self and powerful emotions such as suffering, loss, anger, and sorrow can be expressed through language.

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HEALING AND SURVIVING: EXPRESSING TRAUMA IN LITERATURE

GRADUATE CONFERENCE ON ANGLOPHONE LITERATURE
MASTÉRIALES

UNIVERSITÉ PARIS CITÉ

ORGANISATION:

M2 Students Élisa Masboeuf, Nino Lagane-Strooband, Diana Quesada-Valverde

Professor Advisor Abigail Lang

**16 JANUARY
2026**

9H30-17H

Olympe de Gouges
Room ODG 118
8 Place Ricoeur, 75013
Paris



HEALING AND SURVIVING

EXPRESSING TRAUMA IN LITERATURE

9h30 Conference opening by Elisa Masboeuf, Diana Quesada Valverde, and Nino Lagane-Strooband

9h45-12h15 FICTION AND TRAUMA

Harshita Singh: Food, Domesticity and Everyday Trauma in Bulbul Sharma's *Eating Women, Telling Tales*.

Inès Monier: Rewriting as Survival: The Case of Greek Mythology

10h45 Coffee break

11h15 **Fanny Thomas Giraud:** Stories of Survival: Expressing Childhood Trauma in Jacqueline Wilson's Works.

George Saba: Traumatic Memory and Recollection in Sarah Kane's *Crave* and Samuel Beckett's *Not I*.

12h15 Lunch in OdG 117 (provided)

13h45- QUEER APPROACHES TO TRAUMA

15h15

Ghita Lamzaouek: The Conflictual Spiritual and Sexual Journey of Queer Women of Colour

Elena Sautereau: Queer Villainy and Abuse in Lesbian Relationships in Carmen Maria Machado's *In the Dream House*.

Salomé Bouvret: Understanding Yesterday's Activism to Shape Tomorrow's Resistance: Memory of The AIDS Crisis in Sarah Schulman's *Let the Record Show* and *People in Trouble*

15h15 Coffee break

15h45- DECOLONIAL TRAUMA WRITING

16h45

Wisal Lamsaougar: Inherited Wounds: Memoirs of Trauma, Survival, and Resilience among Indigenous Women

Thanina Kechah: Western Terrorism: How Can Love and Terrorism Be Intertwined and Coexist? A Thesis on the Representation of Postcolonial Violence.