



Call for Proposals for the 15th Meeting of the Luce Irigaray Circle

# Practicing Difference

Online Works-in-Progress Conference  
4-6 July 2025

Submit your proposal by 15 March 2025, using this online form: <https://forms.office.com/r/8LemvmARS5>

The 15th meeting of the Luce Irigaray Circle is a free, three-day interdisciplinary conference, devoted to scholarship and creative work on or inspired by Luce Irigaray's writings, with a focus on works-in-progress. This non-traditional online conference format foregrounds creative practice, peer-to-peer sharing, and learning from works-in-progress (as defined below) that is free and open to all.

Building on the inaugural 2023 online works-in-progress conference, with its focus on Irigaray's psychoanalytic practice, pedagogy and activism, the 2025 meeting invites researchers and creative practitioners to put our lived differences into practice to generate new encounters with Irigaray's philosophy of sexual difference. Given that we are living during times of intense global societal, environmental, economic and political inequity, uncertainty and conflict, we hope this invitation to practice difference can inspire the cultivation of community, imagination, pleasure and resistance. The conference draws inspiration from Irigaray's words in *Sharing the Fire* (2019):

Withdrawing into ourselves furnishes other coordinates towards a spatial architecture, above all if a double withdrawal exists, our own and that of the other, but also our respective coming and going from the outside to the inside of ourselves. In this architecture, our sensory perceptions and our gestures also sketch points, lines, surfaces which contribute to building another space within the space in which we are situated, a place that desire clears, opening to and little by little creating another world. (2019, 11)

*Practicing Difference* therefore intends to make space to explore 'other coordinates' of practice, and create new connections with others, to reflect upon what it means to dwell differently in the world today. It is in this spirit that we invite proposals for 'works-in-progress' for this online conference.

## About 'works-in-progress'

Our definition of 'works-in-progress' (WIP) encompasses experimental, interactive, open-ended, or unfinished projects. This conference offers three distinct modalities for sharing works-in-progress:

- 1. Sharing your work-in-progress in a closed peer-to-peer feedback sessions:** WIPs will be reviewed in advance and verbal feedback shared in closed group sessions (between approx. 6 people). Suitable for open-ended or unfinished projects. The focus of these sessions will be on responding to others, and sharing, discursive feedback.
- 2. Self-organised roundtable discussions:** WIP will be contextualized in a themed group discussion, with opportunity for questions and feedback from an open audience. Suitable for experimental and open-ended projects. The focus of these sessions will be on thematic panel discussions.
- 3. Hosting participatory workshops/events:** WIP will be developed through live audience engagement, with an opportunity for questions and feedback. Suitable for experimental and interactive projects. The focus of these sessions will be on developing work-in-progress that requires audience participation.

## Responding to Luce Irigaray

Luce Irigaray's work has influenced scholarship across multiple fields, including: Art, Architecture, Design, Music, Performance

Studies, Philosophy, Gender Studies, Queer Theory, Trans Studies, Literary Studies, Indigenous Studies, Social Justice, Classics, Religious Studies, Political Theory, Linguistics, Legal Theory, and more. Practicing Difference encourages creative ways of thinking through making artefacts, actions and methods, unconstrained by academic convention or disciplinary boundaries. We invite contributions from researchers and practitioners working within and beyond the academy that offer these and new ways of engaging with Irigaray's thinking.

Submissions are encouraged from environmental, social and reproductive justice, anti-racist, crip, critical and decolonial, feminist, queer and trans perspectives, or collaborative, interdisciplinary, and practice-led perspectives, and in response to Irigaray's writing. Areas of exploration include, but are not limited to:

- Activisms and political actions/resistance
- Arts, creative poesis and visual culture
- Climate/environmental/spatial/urban/resource/labour justice
- Coloniality, war, conflict, incarceration
- Communities, ecologies, gatherings, commonings, etc.
- Ethics, relationalities, ontologies, psychoanalysis
- Fugitivity, scarcity, precarity, extraction, labour
- Immigration, migration, diasporas
- Indigeneity and decolonialisms
- Life-long learning, life-writing, and writing for popular audiences
- Making and material construction practices, including self-/co- and participatory design/building
- Myth, literature, poetry and storytelling
- Place, regions, habitats, environments, including land/sea/water/coastal/river/landscape/urbanisms
- Pandemics, sickness, health, reproductive and food/water justice
- Race, racism, and racialisation
- Teachers, students, pedagogies and learning

## Submission details and process

Submit your proposal by 15 March 2025, using this online form: <https://forms.office.com/r/8LemvmARS5>

### 1. Work-in-progress for closed peer-to-peer feedback sessions

An abstract of your work-in-progress will be requested at submission stage (300-500 words). Forms of contribution include, but are not limited to: moving image, interactive art, creative writing, academic works, journalism, teaching syllabi. Creative practice works are encouraged.

Full drafts of works-in-progress submissions will be due by 30 May 2025. WIP will then be shared with the other participants in your session in advance of the conference. WIP may be at various stages of completeness and are not required to be in publishable form. Depending on format, full WIP drafts should be limited to:

- 5000 words (written – via PDF or Doc)
- 30 minutes (audio/video/interactive - via URL link)
- 15 images plus 2000 words (practice-based – via PDF or URL link)

Full WIP drafts will be accompanied by a cover document providing details about the context of the work and its intended outcomes, so as to frame the verbal feedback each contributor would like to receive from the session – more details to follow.

### 2. Roundtable discussion

Proposals for self-organised/chaired roundtable discussions are welcome (including working title, 300-500 word abstract, contributor and chair details, and proposed duration). Panel sessions will be up to 1.5 hours, and should be structured to allow opportunity for audience feedback and discussion.

### 3. Participatory workshop or event

Proposals for live workshops and interactive events are welcome (including working title, workshop leader/event host details, 300-500 word abstract, and proposed duration). Forms include but are not limited to: performance, somatic practice, reading group. Creative practice works are encouraged. Participatory sessions will be up to 1.5 hours, and should be structured to allow opportunity for participant feedback and discussion.

Please note:

- This guidance is intended to support you in sharing your work, rather than limit its parameters. If you have any questions, please get in touch.
- Given the emphasis on work-in-progress and interdisciplinary dialogue, all participants will receive guidance on ethics, academic integrity and peer-to-peer review principles at the point of acceptance and will be asked to respect these principles in all conference activities.

## About the conference

- The conference will be fully online, hosted via Zoom.
- The conference is free and open to all, with no fees for participants or attendees.

- Core sessions will be scheduled between 1400-1800 GMT on Friday 4, Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 July 2025, to accommodate as many time zones as possible.

#### Conference objectives:

- Bringing together emerging and established practitioners to explore different ways of engaging with and responding to the work of Luce Irigaray
- Nurturing innovative scholarship and practice-led enquiry through sharing work-in-progress, peer-to-peer review, participatory events and discussion
- Hosting interdisciplinary dialogues with generosity
- Making connections with an international and cross-generational communities
- Reflecting on personal and professional practices (including, therapeutic, activist, embodied, creative, collaborative) which shape our understanding of ourselves and our worlds
- Workshopping ideas and sharing feedback to cultivate future practice

## Key dates

1 February 2025 – Call for Proposals published, submission open via online form: <https://forms.office.com/r/8LemvmARS5>

15 March 2025 – Call closes

31 March 2025 – Contributors notified

March, April, May, June 2025 – Monthly reading groups take place – more details to follow in February

30 April 2025 – Draft programme circulated

30 May 2025 – Work-in-progress submissions shared with session participants

5 June 2025 – Final programme published

4-5-6 July 2025 – Conference

## About Luce Irigaray and the Luce Irigaray Circle

Since 2006, The Irigaray Circle has cultivated a space for honouring and interrogating Irigaray's thinking about sexual difference, by supporting the multiple research trajectories, methods, and projects her thought inspires. The Circle welcomes members from all disciplines, approaches, and forms of practice within and beyond academia. For more information on the Luce Irigaray Circle or to sign up for email updates go to [www.irigaray.org](http://www.irigaray.org).

#### Recent Irigaray publications include:

- Luce Irigaray (2024), *The Mediation of Touch*, Basingstoke: Pallgrave Macmillan.
- James Sares and Mary Rawlinson eds. (2023), *What is Sexual Difference: Thinking with Irigaray*, New York: Columbia University Press. This anthology provides a very good contemporary analysis of Irigaray's thinking about difference, with eighteen chapters by Irigaray Circle researchers and other scholars on: ontology, race, gender, sexuality, natality, creative practice, and nature.
- Ruthanne Crapo Kim, Yvette Russell, and Brenda Sharp eds. (2022), *Horizons of Difference: Rethinking Space, Place, and Identity with Irigaray*, New York: SUNY Press. Twelve original essays inspired by Luce Irigaray's critique of Western philosophy, culture, and metaphysics, and her call to rethink our relationship to ourselves and the world through sexuate difference.
- Luce Irigaray (2021), *A New Culture of Energy: Between East and West*, translated by Stephen Seely, Stephen Pluháček, and Antonia Pont, New York: Columbia University Press.
- Luce Irigaray (2019), *Sharing the Fire: Outline of a Dialectics of Sensitivity*, Basingstoke: Pallgrave Macmillan.
- Luce Irigaray and Michael Marder (2016), *Through Vegetal Being: Two Philosophical Perspectives*, New York: Columbia University Press.

## Further information and contacts

- Submit your proposal by 15 March 2025 via <https://forms.office.com/r/8LemvmARS5>. Alternative formats are available.
- Please email Anna Bunting-Branch ([annabuntingbranch@gmail.com](mailto:annabuntingbranch@gmail.com)) or Peg Rawes ([m.rawes@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:m.rawes@ucl.ac.uk)) if you have any questions.

