



Morphing
Culture(s)



Polish Association
for American Studies

MORPHING AMERICA

PAAS CONFERENCE

16-18 September 2026
University of Szczecin

Call for Participation
PAAS Doctoral Workshop 2026

Work-in-Progress Seminar for Early Career Scholars in American Studies

Organized as part of the PAAS Morphing America Conference

The organizers of the PAAS Doctoral Workshop invite doctoral candidates, independent early-career researchers, and prospective PhD students working in the broad field of American Studies to participate in a collaborative work-in-progress seminar accompanying the PAAS Morphing America Conference 2026.

The workshop is conceived as an interactive roundtable space for discussion, mentorship, and intellectual exchange. We especially welcome participants who wish to share emerging ideas, methodological dilemmas, conceptual frameworks, dissertation plans, archival challenges, writing struggles, or broader questions concerning academic research and professional development. Projects at any stage of development are welcome, including preliminary research ideas, early-stage dissertation concepts, and exploratory projects that may not yet have clearly defined methodologies, arguments, or results.

The workshop is designed to foster dialogue across the diverse disciplines that constitute American Studies, including but not limited to:

- literature and culture,
- history,
- political science,
- sociology,
- religious studies,
- media studies,
- anthropology,
- law and administration,
- gender and ethnic studies,
- environmental humanities,
- and related fields.

The workshop is open to doctoral candidates, independent early-career researchers, prospective PhD students, and other emerging scholars working in the broad field of American Studies.

We particularly encourage participation from scholars seeking interdisciplinary dialogue, mentorship opportunities, and connections beyond their home institutions, including researchers working outside formal doctoral programs or those who may not yet feel fully integrated into existing academic networks.

Workshop Format

The workshop will prioritize discussion and exchange over formal presentation.

Each participant will be asked to prepare:

- a short 3–5 minute presentation,
- based on 1–2 slides,
- Introducing their research project, an emerging research idea, work in progress, or a specific scholarly problem they are currently facing.

Presenters are encouraged to identify open questions, uncertainties, and areas where they would particularly welcome feedback from fellow participants and invited mentors.

Presentations may address, for example:

- methodological uncertainties,
- theoretical frameworks,
- dissertation structure,
- archival or fieldwork difficulties,
- publishing concerns,
- interdisciplinary positioning,
- or challenges related to academic writing and research design.

Participants will also be encouraged to formulate 1–3 specific questions they would like the discussion to address.

Each presentation will be followed by approximately 15–20 minutes of moderated discussion focused on constructive feedback and collaborative problem-solving.

The workshop will begin with an informal introductory session allowing participants and mentors to briefly introduce themselves, their research interests, and academic trajectories in order to create a more inclusive and collegial atmosphere.

Professional Development Session

In addition to the work-in-progress discussions, the workshop will include a practical session devoted to grant opportunities and funding strategies for doctoral researchers, led by an invited scholar or academic practitioner.

Languages

Presentations and discussions may be conducted in either English or Polish.

Submission Guidelines

Please submit:

- a short abstract or project description (max. 300 words),
- a brief note explaining the specific issue, question, or challenge you would like to discuss during the workshop (max. 200 words),
- a short biographical note (max. 100 words).

Submissions should be sent to: paas2026workshop@gmail.com

Deadline for submissions: 26.07.2026

Notification of acceptance: 09.08.2026

A limited amount of partial financial support will be available for one selected participant to help cover travel or participation-related expenses.

Applicants interested in such support are encouraged to indicate this in their submission.

Aims of the Workshop

The PAAS Doctoral Workshop aims to create a sustainable and repeatable forum for emerging scholars in American Studies — one centered not on competition and finished expertise, but on conversation, experimentation, mutual support, and the collective development of academic practice. The workshop also seeks to foster lasting professional networks and future research collaborations among emerging scholars, creating opportunities for continued intellectual exchange beyond the conference itself.