

5th International Conference
of the TULE Research Centre for Literary Tourism

LITERARY CITIES

University of Milano-Bicocca, 22nd–24th October 2026

Call for papers

The TULE Literary Tourism Research Centre (www.unistrapg.it/ricerca/dipartimenti-e-centri/centro-il-turismo-letterario-tule) organises an annual international conference, alternating between venues in Italy and abroad. After the meetings held at the University for Foreigners of Perugia in 2022, the University of Algarve in 2023, the Carlo Levi Literary Park in Aliano in 2024 and the University of Lausanne in 2025, the TULE Centre is promoting its fifth international conference at the University of Milano-Bicocca from the early afternoon of 22nd October to the late morning of 24th October 2026.

Conference theme

The theme “Literary Cities” is linked to the role that many cities have played in the past, and continue to play today, as destinations for literary tourism for a variety of reasons. Traditionally, this has been because they were the setting for great literary masterpieces or because they preserve traces of the passage of a more or less popular writer; more recently, because they have become the venue for established literary festivals, publishing exhibitions, or book fairs.

The aim of the conference is to bring together those who carry out research on the relationship between literature and tourism – both from a purely literary point of view (scholars of Italian or foreign literature, comparativists, interpreters and translators) and with a focus on tourism (geographers and sociologists of tourism, urban planners, hospitality and culture professionals) – applied to urban context.

The presentations will therefore focus on studies and research reflecting on the trilateral relationships between cities, tourism and literature, which may cover the following topics, without however excluding alternative proposals:

- contemporary and historical urban literary sites and their promotion for tourism;
- urban enhancement projects through literary tourism;
- literary festivals and events in small, medium and large cities;
- writers' houses, literature museums and literary parks located in urban spaces;
- literary *flâneurs* and literary *flânerie* in urban contexts;
- literary tourism and slow cities;
- textual corpora for literary tourism in cities;
- development of tools for urban literary tourism: literary guides, literary itineraries, apps, etc.;
- cities, tourism and literary education;
- Milan, BookCity and literary tourism.

The theme of literary tourism must be the focus of the contributions, whether they concern existing tourism activity (in which case it is important to document it, including with quantitative/statistical data) or projects to enhance and promote urban literary spaces.

Submission and publication

Proposals – which may be written in Italian, French, Spanish, Portuguese or English – must be sent to literary.tourism@unimib.it by 15th April 2026 and must include:

- a brief CV of the applicant (max 100 words);
- the title and any subtitle of the proposed presentation;
- an abstract of the presentation (max 300 words);
- for doctoral students: a brief presentation written and signed by their supervisor.

A response regarding the acceptance of the proposal will be given by 30th April 2026.

The presentations – which may be addressed to the public in one of the languages listed above – will last approximately 20 minutes each.

Subsequently, the contributions – also written in the same languages as above – if approved by the Scientific Committee of the TULE Centre and after undergoing double-blind peer review, will be published in open access in a volume of the TULE Centre Series (Perugia Stranieri University Press), with an ISBN.

Registration fee

To participate in the conference, after acceptance of the proposal, a registration fee of €100 (payment deadline: 20th June 2026) or €150 (late registration, from 21st June to 20th September 2026) is required. This fee includes coffee breaks, dinner on 22nd October, lunch on 23rd October, a literary tour in the late afternoon of 23rd October, a certificate of participation and publication of the contribution in the

conference proceedings (after approval by peer reviewers). On the evening of 23rd October, there will be an opportunity to attend a social dinner, at the participants' expense.

Details on how to register and pay the participation fee, as well as other useful information for organising travel, will be communicated after acceptance of the proposal.

Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee of the TULE Centre and the International Conference is composed of:

Giovanni Capecchi (University for Foreigners of Perugia, Italy), Director

Lorenzo Bagnoli (University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy)

Rita Baleiro (University of Algarve, Portugal)

Rita Capurro (University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy)

Ilda Erkoçi (University of Shkodër, Albania)

Yannick Gouchan (University of Aix-Marseille, France)

Toni Marino (University for Foreigners of Perugia, Italy)

Matteo M. Pedroni (University of Lausanne, Switzerland)

Jordi Arcos Pumarola (CETT - University of Barcelona, Spain)

Roberto Ubbidente (Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany)

Walter Zidaric (University of Nantes, France)

The partners of the TULE Centre are:

Rectorate, University of Milano-Bicocca

Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Milano-Bicocca

Degree course in Tourism Sciences and Local Communities, University of Milano-Bicocca

Master's Degree Course in Tourism, Territory and Local Development, University of Milano-Bicocca

Aixois Centre for Romance Studies (CAER) at the University of Aix-Marseille

Centre for Tourism Research, Development and Innovation (CITUR), University of Algarve

CETT Barcelona School of Tourism, Hospitality and Gastronomy, University of Barcelona