

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

DISSENT AND TRANSGRESSION

Re-signifying Biblical Women in the Contemporary World

27–28 May 2027

Emilia Pardo Bazán Assembly Hall (Salón de Actos)

Faculty of Philology, Building D – Complutense University of Madrid

Organized by the UCM Research Group "Bible: Texts and Iconography", within the framework of the Andromeda Project "Myth and Representation: Theoretical and Practical Activities for Innovation in Cultural Myth Criticism" (REF.: PHS-2024/PH-HUM-76), funded by the Government of the Madrid Region.

Asociación Española de Estudios Hebreos y Judíos · Universidad Complutense Madrid · IUCCRR Instituto Universitario de Ciencias de las Religiones · andrómeda · Comunidad de Madrid · Facultad de Filología · AICR Asociación para la Investigación en Ciencias de las Religiones

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Call for Papers

The women of the Bible have been the subject of a continuous process of interpretation, representation, and reformulation throughout the centuries. Eve, Lilith, Sarah, Hagar, Tamar, Deborah, Jael, Judith, Ruth, Bathsheba, Jezebel, Esther, Susanna, Mary Magdalene, Salome, and many other figures have transcended the boundaries of the texts that originally shaped them, entering new cultural contexts and acquiring meanings that engage with, challenge, or break away from their exegetical and iconographic traditions.

Contemporary culture has diversified these processes of reinterpretation. Literature, the visual and performing arts, cinema, music, graphic novels, television series, video games, and other forms of visual and digital culture have revisited biblical women from a variety of perspectives, turning them into privileged sites for addressing issues related to gender, the body, sexuality, violence, identity, power, memory, and female agency.

In this context, the concepts of **dissent**, **transgression**, **and re-signification** provide productive frameworks for examining the tensions that emerge between the biblical text, its interpretative traditions, and its new cultural receptions. These reworkings may displace inherited meanings, invert iconographic models, recover silenced voices, challenge stereotypes, or construct new ways of understanding characters and narratives whose reception has been shaped by diverse religious, social, and cultural traditions.

The International Conference **"Dissent and Transgression: Re-signifying Biblical Women in the Contemporary World"** seeks to provide an interdisciplinary forum for analysing these processes from the perspectives of **Cultural Biblical Studies and Reception Studies**, with particular attention to the dialogue between text, interpretation, image, and contemporary culture.

The event is organized by the UCM Research Group **"Bible: Texts and Iconography"**, whose research examines, from an interdisciplinary perspective, the textual, literary, and exegetical dimensions of the Bible, as well as its processes of reception and visual transmission. In this spirit, the conference aims to bring together scholars from biblical studies, philology, art history, literary studies, cultural studies, gender studies, and related disciplines.

Thematic Areas

To assist participants in preparing their papers, the following research areas are suggested:

1. Biblical Texts, Translation, and New Interpretations

Contemporary readings of female biblical characters and the episodes in which they appear; translation and textual reinterpretation; semantic transformations and exegesis.

2. Gender, Body, Power, and Violence

Feminist and gender-based readings of biblical narratives and characters; representations of violence, sexuality, and desire; dissident bodies; motherhood and reproduction; power relations; silencing and recovery of women's voices; the construction, questioning, and subversion of stereotypes.

3. Visual Exegesis, Iconography, and Iconology

Transformations of traditional iconographies of biblical women; continuity, rupture, and inversion of visual models; new constructions of the female body; relationships between text and image; reinterpretations of iconographic motifs and attributes in modern and contemporary art.

4. Literature, Music, and Performing Arts

Re-significations of biblical women in novels, poetry, theatre, and other literary genres; music, opera, and musical culture; dance, performance, and contemporary stage practices; processes of adaptation, rewriting, and appropriation.

5. Audiovisual, Digital, and Popular Culture

The reception of biblical women in film, television, streaming series, graphic novels, advertising, photography, video games, social media, and other forms of visual and digital culture; new modes of circulation and consumption of biblical imaginaries.

These thematic areas are **indicative rather than restrictive.** Interdisciplinary proposals and those exploring emerging methodologies and objects of study within Cultural Biblical Studies and Reception Studies are particularly welcome.



Submission of Proposals

The conference will be held **in person**. Papers will consist of **20-minute presentations followed by discussion** and may be delivered in **Spanish** or **English**.

Proposals should include:

- Title of the paper.
- Abstract of no more than 250–300 words.
- Five bibliographical references.
- Five keywords.
- Full name.
- Institutional affiliation.
- A brief biographical note (100 words).
- Email address.

Deadline for submission of proposals: 15 February 2027
Notification of acceptance: 15 March 2027
Submission of proposals: Via the following form

Registration

Researchers presenting a paper: €50
Master's and PhD students presenting a paper: €35
Attendance with certificate: €35
Attendance without certificate: Free of charge

Registration deadline: 23 April 2027

Publication

A selection of the contributions presented at the conference will be considered for **publication in one or two special issues of high-impact scholarly journals**. The selection will be made by the **Scientific Committee** on the basis of the quality, originality, and thematic relevance of the submissions in relation to the conference themes.

Dates and Venue

27–28 May 2027
Emilia Pardo Bazán Assembly Hall (Salón de Actos)
Faculty of Philology – Building D
Complutense University of Madrid



Organized by UCM Research Group 930250 "Bible: Texts and Iconography"

Within the framework of the **Andromeda Project "Myth and Representation: Theoretical and Practical Activities for Innovation in Cultural Myth Criticism"**

Organizing Committee

Conference Chair: Guadalupe Seijas de los Ríos-Zarzosa (UCM)
Academic Secretary: Cristina Expósito de Vicente (UV)
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Collaborating Institutions

Asociación para la Investigación en Ciencias de las Religiones (AICR)
Instituto Universitario de Ciencias de las Religiones de la UCM
Comunidad de Madrid
Asociación Española de Estudios Hebreos y Judíos (AEEHJ)
Facultad de Filología (UCM)

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