

Home, Homecoming, Homesickness

Online International Emerging Scholars' Conference

20-21 April 2026

Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń

The Academic Association for Doctoral Students & Students of English &
Department of Anglophone Literature, Culture, and Comparative Studies, Faculty of Humanities

Conference Programme

Please mind that the hours refer to CENTRAL EUROPEAN SUMMER TIME (UTC +2). Be Sure to convert the time according to your time zone. Thank you!

Monday 20.04

10:00 a.m. **Conference Opening (Room A):**

Introduction by **Vice-Dean of Faculty of Humanities dr hab. Andrzej Moroz, prof. UMK**; Introduction by the Organizing Committee

10:20 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Session 1 (Room A)**

Chair: **Maria Trif**

Bernadetta Jankowska (Academia Artium Humaniorum, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń): “This place here/Is me”: The representation of modern young Indigenous women’s identity in *Winyanboga Yurringa* (2016) by Andrea James

Gaurab Sengupta (Department of English, Dibrugarh University): Being and Un/Belonging: Exploring the Poetics of Home in Haruki Murakami’s Novels

Malavika K Nambiar (Department of Indian and World Literatures, The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, India): What the Home Speaks: Poetics of Materiality and Trauma in *Beloved* (pre-recorded presentation)

Aliaksandra Yudzina (University of Białystok): Searching for Home in Women’s Travel Writing: Longing and Self-Discovery in *Eat, Pray, Love*

Kate Broderick (Independent researcher): Roads to Nowhere: Famine Infrastructure, Landscape Scar, and the Unhomeliness of the Irish Midlands

12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Break

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Keynote Lecture

Dr Nataliia Voloshkova (Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz): Homesickness, Duty, and Family in Lady Jane Cathcart's Travel Journal And Letters, 1768-1771

Chair: **Joanna Porębska**

2:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. Long Break

3:20 p.m. – 5:10 p.m. Session 2 (Room A)	3:20 p.m. – 5:10 p.m. Session 3 (Room B)
Chair: Edgar James Ælred Jephcote	Chair: Agata Rupińska
Pratikshya Tripathy & Prof. Sambit Panigrahi (Department of English, Ravenshaw University, Cuttack, Odisha, India): Material Memory and the Phenomenology of Dwelling in Select North-East Indian Fiction	Alicja Kurowska (Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń): New Home of Those Who Cannot Go Back: Migration Portrayed in the Contemporary Musical
Paweł Lisik (University of Wrocław): Language Attrition in Polish-American Immigration: Polish under the Influence of American English	Klaudia Antkowiak (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań): Conceptual metaphor of home in Taylor Swift's selected song lyrics
Julia Warchocka (Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń): Home in the face of war – a comparative analysis of the perception and Anglophone literature	Katarzyna Przygońska (Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń): “It was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair”: Home and identity in Cassandra Clare's <i>The Infernal Devices</i> (2010-2013) trilogy
Liliana Radkiewicz (Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń): I want to be here! The University as a “third place” in a person's life	Barbara Pawlak (Doctoral School of Humanities, University of Łódź): “Peace of the Cafe, Safety of the Teashop”: Redefining commercial spaces as places of care and safety on the basis of the novel <i>Legends & Lattes</i> and the video game <i>Wanderstop</i>

Tuesday 21.04

10:00 a.m. Conference Day Two Opening: Introduction by the Organising Committee

10:10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Session 1 (Room A)

Chair: **Eylül Mural**

Hou Minjie (School of English Studies, Xi'an International Studies University): The Construction of Home in *The Bean Trees* in the Fluid Modernity

Rupsha Banerjee (Independent scholar): “Come Home With Me”: Reclaiming Disappearing Homelands in Rabindranath Tagore’s *Red Oleanders* and Anaïs Mitchell’s *Hadestown*

Gabriela Iwanowska (University of Białystok) *Piranesi*—When the Home Becomes the Divine

Eyesha Elahi (Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf): Negotiations of Distance: Home, Movement, and Humanity

12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. Break

12:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m. Session 2 (Room A)

Chair: **Katarzyna Przygońska**

Edgar James Ælred Jephcote (Academia Artium Humaniorum, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń): “Forgive me for having ever darkened your dark home”: Windowed Spaces and the Failure of Domestic Function in *Dombey and Son*

Agnieszka Staszak (Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń): “I want to wake up new and not carry the arms and limbs of dead memories into the morning”: Home, memory and grief in *Season: A Letter to the Future*

Dominika Skuliniec (University of Białystok): The Dysfunctional Home in Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita*

Navya Choudhary (Independent scholar): Rethinking Homecoming: Trauma and Limits of Return in NoViolet Bulawayo's <i>We Need New Names</i>	
2:20 p.m. – 3:10 p.m. Long Break	
3:10 – 5.00 p.m. Session 3 (Room A) Chair: Julia Jasińska	3:10 – 5.00 p.m. Session 4 (Room B) Chair: Agnieszka Staszak
Neta Goldfein (Hebrew University of Jerusalem): Borderlands of Home: Language, Belonging, and the Perils of Return in Lucia Berlin's "Tiger Bites"	Kornelia Mazurkiewicz-Kloc (Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń): Always Home, Never Home: Digital Diasporas and the Posthuman Assemblage of Homesickness
Aleksandra Ronatowska (Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń) "Swinging by my neck from the family tree": The Shifting Perception of Home in Ethel Cain's <i>Preacher's Daughter</i>	Darja Stryho (Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń): Nostalgia as an Incurable Disease: A Comparative Analysis of Nostalgia in Ray Bradbury's <i>The Martian Chronicles</i> and Andrei Tarkovsky's <i>Solaris</i>
Agata Rupińska (Academia Artium Humaniorum, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń) Ugly at Home?: Facial Beauty Expectations at Home in <i>Fix</i> by Leslie Margolis and <i>The Fold</i> by Anna	Wiktoria Umiejewska (Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń) Home equals trauma: an analysis of the effect of trauma on seeking a home in the TV series <i>Dexter</i> (2006-2013)
Zuzanna Sanecka (University of Łódź): Home is a mother: analysis of motherhood reflected in home space in Mary Bronstein's <i>If I Had Legs I'd Kick You</i> (2026)	Julia Borkowska (University of Siedlce): Home Is Where <i>It</i> Waits: Returning to Derry in Stephen King's <i>It</i>
5:00 p.m. Conference Closing (Room A)	