

INTERMEDIALITY AND CARE

An International and Interdisciplinary Workshop

University of Edinburgh - Thursday 12 and Friday 13 March 2026

As an in-between space, intermediality – understood as the interrelationships between media and their signification – is inherently connected to the experience and practice of care. The non-dual, non-essentialist concepts advocated by intermedial studies chime with the more fluid and hybrid conceptions of identity that dismantle imposed sets of representations (of, for instance, gender, sexuality, race, language). In our times of distress, intermediality gives visibility to societal fractures and inequalities, creates lines of community beyond the national and nationalist identitarian agendas that are steadily on the rise, and disrupts monolithic and hegemonic world views. Helping individuals understand their anxieties with a view to overcoming them, intermediality as a creative practice can become an empowering form of self-care. Not least, intermediality is both a potent means to express and an artistic practice to exercise environmental care. In light of rapid technological change and the fragmented time of hyper-productivity, working and thinking between the arts opens a space of freedom to reflect upon what we *care* for, what connects the human and non-human worlds, and for creating practices of being attentive to the rhythms of the living; it expands the senses, initiating synaesthetic modes of artistic expression. In this workshop, we are inviting reflections about the use of intermediality as a tool of (self-)care, a method that stimulates fresh thinking about therapy, clinical practice and pedagogy, and a vehicle to shape new networks of solidarity.

Themes/issues to be explored and considered include:

- architextures of care
- urban and architectural mending
- intermediality as a means to promote mutual understanding, mixity, dialogues, recognition of diversity and an ideal of social justice
- self-care
- environmental concerns
- creative dialogues between intermedial theories and practices of care
- building bridges between sociological, medical, and humanities approaches
- intermediality in art therapy, clinical practice and pedagogy

Proposed timetable

Each paper should be around 15 minutes. Question sessions should be 20-30 minutes and are held after all the papers on the panel.

Thursday 12 March 2026

50 George Square, Project Room (Room 1.06, First floor)

09:00-09:05 Welcome & workshop introduction

09:05-10:20 Panel 1: Eco-criticisms of care in literature and cinema (Chair: Fabien Arribert-Narce)

-Niklas Salmose (Linnaeus), 'The senses of a changed world: an intermedial take on climate fiction'

-Seyf-el Islam Nader (Aix-Marseille), 'Intermediality and environmental care in *Annihilation*'

-Felicia Stenberg (Linnaeus), 'Disabled ecology: an intermedial intervention on disability and ideology in science fiction'

10:20-10:30 Coffee break

10:30-11:45 Panel 2: Resilient identities at the margins: communities, solidarity and empathy (Chair: Sarah Tribout-Joseph)

-Ryoka Hagiwara (Heidelberg), 'Intermedial practices of care in Japanese American concentration camps'

-Tom Routledge (Aix-Marseille), 'From poem to performance: the intermedial expression of care and (dis)connection in Kae Tempest's *Let Them Eat Chaos*'

-Benoît Loiret (Edinburgh), "'For those rejected, denied, alone": remembering the AIDS crisis in and beyond Charlie Porter's *Nova Scotia House*'

11:45-12:45 Lunch break

12:45-14:00 Panel 3: Intermedial performances of care (Chair: Inma Sanchez-Garcia)

-Hunter King (Edinburgh), 'Intermediality as collaboration, communication, and care in theatre'

-Yagmur Atlar (Linnaeus), 'A rendezvous with fear: intermedial collective encounters in *This is the Story of the Child Ruled by Fear*'

-Alexandra Huang-Kokina (Manchester), 'Emotion, empathy, and care in AI? Unsettling intermedial aesthetics and affective paradigms through AI-driven opera'

14:00-15:30 Panel 4: Adaptations and trans-mediations of care (Chair: Katie Fleming)

-Iona Macintyre (Edinburgh), “‘Ay, Juanito Laguna’”: using intermediality to explore the concept of pity’

-Jørgen Bruhn (Linnaeus), Female Care as an Ironic Solution to Oceanic Plastic Pollution? – thinking with *Niceaunties*, *Sweeping the Floor*

-Mattia Petricola (L’Aquila), ‘Intimacy as care in fan fiction: the case of Dante’s *Divine Comedy*’

-Evan Falls (independent scholar), “‘Just keep telling the story’”: intermediality as transgenerational care in Wes Anderson’s films’

15:30-15:45 Coffee break

15:45-17:00 Panel 5: Intermedial sites of care 1 (Chair: Rumiko Oyama)

-Niki Cleland-Hura (independent scholar), ‘The garden: the in-between site of creativity through care’

-Mariko Naito (Meiji), ‘The teahouse as a space for care: Suremi Horiguchi’s discovery of medieval Japanese architecture’

-Martin van der Linden (Linnaeus), ‘Forests and feelings, mediating meanings: on power spots and the soft power of Shinto shrines’

17:10-18:00 Panel 6: Intermedial sites of care 2 (Chair: Jørgen Bruhn)

-Matilda Davidsson (Linnaeus), ‘Caring for ghosts can be demanding work: emotional labor and acceptance of death in *Spiritfarer*’

-Louise Drouin (Paris Cité), ‘*Il rudere è senza amore*: taking care of memory through ancient Renaissance painting in Pasolini’s cinema and poetry’

18:15-19:30 Wine reception

Friday 13 March

50 George Square, Project Room (Room 1.06, First floor)

**09:15-10:30 Panel 7: Practices of (self-)care in literature, cinema and installation art
(Chair: Marion Schmid)**

-Yi Song (Edinburgh), 'Opacity of the Other: Chantal Akerman's intermedial practices of care'

-Nicolas Boileau (Aix-Marseille), 'Faulty intermediality in Rachel Cusk's *Second Place* (2021): a demand for care in the midst of an onto/ecological crisis'

-Sarah Tribout-Joseph (Edinburgh), 'The TV, social services and transculturalism in Faïza Guène's *Kiffe, kiffe demain*'

10:30-10:45 Coffee break

**10:45-12:00 Panel 8: Digital & cinematic storytelling: power relations and identity models
(Chair: Evan Falls)**

-Julia Larsen (Edinburgh), 'Beauty, horror, and the cosmetic gaze: the body as medium in social media and celebrity culture'

-Anna Judelson (Edinburgh), 'A hero's journey: remediating masculinity through digital collaborative storytelling'

-Saana Sutinen (Linnaeus), 'Boundaries of care and care as protection in the Marvel Cinematic Universe'

12:00-13:00 Lunch break

Lister Learning and Teaching Centre (Room 4.3, Fourth floor)

13:00-14:30 Panel 9: Photo-texts and/of care (Chair: Fabien Arribert-Narce)

-Aqua Zheng (Chinese University of Hong Kong), 'Photopoetry as intermedial care and correspondence: from mothering ineffability to "ensounded" practice'

-Beatrice Seligardi (Bologna), 'The Phototextual Lyric Essay as Self-Help: Collective Archives and Personal Experience in Sophie Collins' *small white monkeys*'

-Andy Stafford (Leeds), 'French photo-textuality in the new age of catastrophe: the case of COVID-19'

-Emma Flodqvist (Linnaeus), 'A liminal life: precarious conjunctions in r/LiminalSpace'

14:40-15:30 Panel 10: Lack of care and AI fatigue in the creative industries (Chair: Niklas Salmose)

-Kristian Feigelson (Sorbonne-Nouvelle, Paris), 'Suffering at work among free-lance workers in the film and media industries'

-Lincoln Li (Edinburgh), 'AI fatigue and AI-mediated communication: an intermedial approach to care in the creative industries'

15:30-15:45 Coffee break

15:45-16:35 Panel 11: Intermedial pedagogies of care (Chair: Ruth Menzies)

-Rumiko Oyama (Meiji), 'Nurturing "ideal" carers: the role of intermediality in education in Kazuo Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go*'

-Paula Antela Costa (Bristol & Edinburgh), 'Intermedial pedagogies of care: transmediality, skills development, and digital literacies in the language classroom'

16:35-16:45 Closing remarks