



# VI International Congress of the John Gower Society

## “Gower Sea to Sea: Atlantic to Mediterranean”

Congress Programme



29 June – 2 July 2026

Facultad de Filosofía y Letras II  
University of Alicante

UA

UNIVERSITAT D'ALACANT  
UNIVERSIDAD DE ALICANTE  
Facultat de Filosofia i Lletres  
Facultad de Filosofía y Letras

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1975-2025

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UNIVERSITAT D'ALACANT  
UNIVERSIDAD DE ALICANTE  
Departament de Filologia Anglesa  
Departamento de Filología Inglesa



GENERALITAT  
VALENCIANA  
Conselleria d'Educació, Cultura  
i Universitats

## Monday, 29 June

10:00-10:30 **Aula Magna**

Official Opening/Greetings from the University

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10:30-12:00

Session 1: **Manuscripts and Books** **GE/0-01S**

Chair: Brian W. Gastle, Western Carolina University

Tamara F. O'Callaghan, Northern Kentucky University and Andrea R. Harbin, State University of New York, Cortland  
"Information Aesthetics: Eye-Tracking the Manuscripts of the *Confessio Amantis*"

Michelle M. Sauer and Samuel M. Amendolar, University of North Dakota "Alchemical Discourse and "Hidden Things": Examining MS Sloane 3847"

Session 2: **Of Things Roman** **GE/0-02P**

Chair: Alastair J. Minnis, Yale University, *emeritus*

Charlotte Cox, University of North Carolina at Pembroke "Ovidian Echoes in the *Confessio Amantis*"

Jennifer Alberghini, Baruch College "Translating Adultery: Adaptations of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* in Book V of the *Confessio Amantis*"

David K. Coley, Simon Fraser University "'And thus of fals thei maken soth': Truth, Law, and Populism in Gower's 'Tale of Virginia'"

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12:00-1:00 **Plenary I: Aula Magna**

Rita Copeland, University of Pennsylvania

"Gower's Aristotle"

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1:00-2:30

Session 3: **Apollonius of Tyre** **GE/0-02P**

Chair: Alastair J. Minnis, Yale University, *emeritus*

Kerstin Majewski, Ruhr University Bochum, "Gower and the Blue Humanities: The Mediterranean Sea in the 'Tale of Apollonius of Tyre'"

Riley McGuire, University of Notre Dame "Learning to Work with Providence and Fortune in Gower's 'Apollonius'"

Elizabeth Archibald, Durham University "Shakespeare's Gower and the Prologue to *Pericles*"

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2:30-4:00 Lunch "La Marina" restaurant

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4:00-5:30

Session 4: **Not Lost in Translation** **GE/0-02P**

Chair: Jordi Sánchez Martí, University of Alicante

Amanda Roig-Marín, University of Alicante "The De-Anglicisation of the *Confessio Amantis* in its Portuguese and Castilian Translations"

Sandra Gracia Casado, University of Valladolid "'Faie and no woman': Medea and Her Emotion in the Iberian Translations of Gower's *Confessio Amantis*"

Ana Sáez-Hidalgo, University of Valladolid "Anglo-Iberian Variations of a Mediterranean Odyssey: Gower's 'Apollonius'"

Session 5: Class, Narrative, and Transformation **GE/0-01S**

Chair: Brian W. Gastle, Western Carolina University

Phoebe Macindoe, University of St. Andrews "Gower on a Budget: Social Class in Nineteenth-Century Editions of the *Confessio Amantis*"

Rebecca Menmuir, Oxford University "Fame and Frame: Gower the Narrator"

Natalie Grinnell, Wofford College "Transforming Gower: An Exercise for the Undergraduate Classroom"

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5:30-6:45

Session 6: **Hoccleve, Gower, and the Art of Translation** **GE/0-02P** (Roundtable)

Chair: David Watt, University of Manitoba

Participants: Arwen Taylor, Arkansas Tech University; R. D. Perry, University of Tennessee/Knoxville; Ruen-chuan Ma, Utah Valley University

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7:00 Opening reception [Museo de la Universidad de Alicante Patio](#)

9:00 Dinner\*  
\*Dinners can be arranged through the Villa Universitaria (residence hall) or the Hotel Villa Universitaria, if one chooses the “media pension” option. Otherwise there are many restaurants in the area, or in downtown Alicante.

## Tuesday, 30 June

10:00-11:30

Session 7: **Ships and the Sea, I** [GE/0-01S](#)

Chair: R. F. Yeager, University of West Florida, *emeritus*

Colin Keohane, University of Victoria “Gower’s Ships”

Yun Ni, Peking University “Coastal Vulnerability and the Politics of the Sea in Gower’s ‘Apollonius of Tyre’”

Session 8: **Not the *Confessio Amantis*** [GE/0-02P](#)

Chair: Roger A. Ladd, University of North Carolina-Pembroke

Simon Meecham-Jones, Independent Scholar “The Problem(s) of *In Praise of Peace*”

Stephanie L. Batkie, University of the South “Marginal Power in Gower’s Shorter Poems: Matters of Lineage in the Hundred Years’ War”

Clotilde Dauphant, University of the Sorbonne “Can We Read the *Mirour de l’Omme* Aloud?”

11:30-12:00 Coffee. [Bougainvillea arbor](#)

12:00-2:00

Session 9: **Gower and Sexuality in the Medieval West** [GE/0-02P](#)

Chair: Michelle M. Sauer, University of North Dakota

Heather Blatt, Florida International University “Negotiating the Medieval World as Women in Gower”

Anna M. Klosowska, Miami University “Gower and Sexualities in Medieval Eastern Europe and the Holy Roman Empire”

Brian Gastle, Western Carolina University “Gower, Prostitution, and Sex Work”

Dorothy Kim, Brandeis University “Asexuality and Race in Gower and Hoccleve”

2:15-4:00 Lunch [“La Marina” restaurant](#)

4:00-5:30

Session 10: **Of latine and othere lore** [GE/0-01S](#)

Chair: R. F. Yeager, University of West Florida, *emeritus*

Jess Hind, Oxford University “Alan of Lille’s *De planctu Naturae* and Gower’s *Vox Clamantis*: Some Correspondences”

Bard Swallow, University of Toronto “De triplici eius opere’: The Unconventional Verse Associated with John Gower’s Tomb”

Casey Madden, Boston College “Perceiving *Prelate*: Uncovering the Meaning of Gower’s Mysterious Minor Poem”

Session 11: **On Tristan, Troilus, and the Prioress** [GE/0-02P](#)

Chair: Brian W. Gastle, Western Carolina University

Jonathan Stavsky, Tel Aviv University “The *Prioress’s Tale*: A Gowerian Reading”

Matthew W. Irvin, University of the South “Gower’s Story of Troilus and Criseida”

Geoff Rector, University of Ottawa “‘Me thoghte I sih tofor myn hed . . . lich unto a Parement’”: Visuality, Iconicity, and Resemblance in Gower’s Treatment of the Tristan and Isolde Story”

5:30-7:00

Session 12: **On Bodies, Variously** [GE/0-02P](#)

Chair: Roger A. Ladd, University of North Carolina-Pembroke

Alastair J. Minnis, Yale University "Looking Beyond the Body: Gower's Visionary (In)sights"

Elizabeth Brissey, Auburn University "Bodies of Ink and Skin: Epistolary Presence and Physical Absence in Gower's *Confessio*"

R. F. Yeager, University of West Florida "Some Thoughts on Gower's Tomb"

7:00-8:30

**Business Meeting of the Gower Society** [GE/0-02P](#)

Presentation of the 2025 John Hurt Fisher Award

Preview of the VII Gower Society Congress

Update on the Society's 501 (C) (3) status

Kalamazoo ICMS 2027

9:00

Dinner\*

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**Wednesday, 1 July**

10:00-11:30

Session 13: **Ships and the Sea, II** [GE/0-02P](#)

Chair: Jordi Sánchez Martí, University of Alicante

Michael J. Bennett, University of Tasmania "Gower at Sea"

Stephen Penn, University of Stirling "Navis as Ship and Nave in Gower's *Visio Angliae: An Ecclesiological Investigation*"Session 14: **Tales of Betrayal** [GE/0-01S](#)

Chair: Natalie Grinnell, Wofford College

Thari Zweers, Cornell University "Gower's 'Marches': Egypt as a Borderland in the 'Tale of the False Bachelor'"

Francis W. Ladd, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, "Gower's Transfiguration of the Cup in 'Albinus and Rosamund'"

Andrea Schutz, St. Thomas University "Silken Words: Philomena's Surreptitious Fabric"

11:30-12:00 Coffee. [Bougainvillea arbor](#)

12:00-1:45

Session 15: **Speaking of Islam** [GE/0-01S](#)

Chair: Roger A. Ladd, University of North Carolina-Pembroke

Linda Burke, Elmhurst University "About as Radical as It Gets: The *Confessio Amantis* and Crusading in the East (Outremer)"Malek Zuraikat, Yarmouk University (Jordan) "The Image of Saracens in Gower's *Confessio Amantis*"

Amanda Gerber, James Madison University "Weaponizing Wives: Constance and the Women Between Christianity and Islam"

Session 16: **Greeks** [GE/0-02P](#)Chair: R. F. Yeager, University of West Florida, *emeritus*Lydia McCollum, Florida State University "Maiden, Mother, Murderer: Medea as Monster in John Gower's *Confessio Amantis*"Clare Fletcher, Trinity College, Dublin "Gower's Greeks and the First 'Letres of Gregois' in the *Confessio Amantis*"

R. D. Perry, University of Tennessee, Knoxville "Gower's Theban Horror"

2:00-4:00 Lunch ["La Marina" restaurant](#)

4:00-5:30

Session 17: **Gower and Jameson** [GE/0-02P](#)

Chair: Matthew W. Irvin, University of the South (Sewanee)

Robert Epstein, Fairfield University **"Destructive Anachronism: Jameson, Gower, and the Renaissance Faire"**

Jordan Skinner, Princeton University **"The Critique of the Center"**

Stephanie L. Batkie, University of the South **"Utopias of Old: Political Ends in the *Confessio Amantis*"**

5:30 Afternoon and Evening Free to Explore Alicante

9:00 Gala Dinner [Restaurante Dársena](#)

## Thursday, 2 July

11:00-11:30 Coffee. [Bougainvillea arbor](#)

11:30-1:00

Session 18: **Authorship and Kingship** [GE/0-01S](#)

Chair: Jordi Sánchez Martí, University of Alicante

Myra Seaman, College of Charleston **"Recontextualizing Gower's Iconic Model of Authorship"**

Roger A. Ladd, University of North Carolina at Pembroke **"Love Like a King – Bridging the Gap Between 'King Richardes [Englandes] Sake' and the Rest of Us"**

Session 19: **The Moral and the Spiritual** [GE/0-02P](#)

Chair: Natalie Grinnell, Wofford College

Georgiana Donavin, Westminster University **"Star of Gowerian Seas"**

Caitlin Moon, Independent Scholar **"Mediterranean Monsters: Disability, Gender, and Moral Geography in Gower's *Confessio Amantis*"**

Ruen-chuan Ma, Utah Valley University **"Interlingual Coordination for Moral Instruction: Comparing Gower's *Confessio* with Middle English Devotional Manuals"**

1:00-2:00 **Plenary II:** [Aula Magna](#)

James Simpson, Harvard University, *emeritus*

**"Intergenerational Recognitions in Gower's 'Apollonius of Tyre': the Economics of Romance"**

2:00 LUNCH ["La Marina" restaurant](#)

Afternoon and Evening Free to Explore Alicante

## Friday, 3 July

### NOVELDA EXCURSION (Optional)

Departure at 9:00 a.m. from the University.

Novelda is the quintessential town of the Middle Vinalopó region.

It is known for its production of marble and spices, including saffron. It is the most important modernist town in the Valencian Community.

We will visit the Sanctuary of Santa María Magdalena, highly influenced by Gaudí. In fact, it bears remarkable similarities to the Sacred Family (Barcelona). The exterior is particularly striking. There will be a guided tour of the exterior.

Also noteworthy are the Castle de la Mola, of Arab origin, and the Triangular Tower, unique in European architecture.

Next, we will have a wine-tasting and lunch at the Casa Sicilia winery, and at around 5:00 p.m. we will return to the University.