

THE POP QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER #9

12/2024

Poetry Off the Page: Literary History and the Spoken Word, 1965-2020 (ERC/FWF)

Dear PoP community,

It's hard to believe it, but another year has passed – 2024 is ending (way too) soon and 2025 is sure to be an exciting year for Poetry Off the Page! We hope that you're doing well and staying safe and healthy during the cold season.

As our last newsletter was sent out not too long ago, this is only a very short message from the PoP team. We wanted to send our season's greetings and thank you for an amazing, exciting 2024. It's been an incredibly successful year, with so many new publications, lectures, and events happening that we couldn't even list them all here – but none of it would have been possible without the support and participation of all of you, our community of fellow poetry lovers, performers, and academics.



Before we reminisce, however, there is one brief correction to be made on the topic of the last newsletter – Shefali Banerji's article in preparation is for the special issue arising out of **All Borders Blur**, which is co-edited by Dr. Helen Thomas, and not the special issue for **Taking the Mic**. We apologise for this mistake!

If you find yourself looking for a poetry fix over the holidays, we'd suggest listening to our newest podcast episode [LINK <https://poetryoffthepage.net/podcast/episode-3-poetry-performance-mcs/>] about Poetry Performance MCs, which was recently recorded and released by our senior researcher

Dr. **Helen Thomas**. You can listen to it on our website or on Spotify. Helen is also currently working on an essay for our Poetry Off the Page blog, which will be out in early 2025, so stay tuned!

For current reading materials, we suggest the newest blog article [LINK <https://poetryoffthepage.net/queer-theory-on-the-spoken-word-stage/>] on the PoP blog, which was authored by the independent scholar and former PoP research intern **Franziska Klein**. Franziska wrote a fascinating piece on the potential of applying queer theory to the spoken word stage and Ethan Smith's amazing poem "A Letter to the Girl I Used to Be."

We'd also like to point you to some upcoming events and talks in the coming year(s): The PoP team are currently very busy preparing our own conference, titled "Poetry Off the Page, Around the Globe," which is set to take place in June 2025. The deadline for abstracts is **20 December**, so you have one day to submit something still!

If you are in Vienna in June, we cordially invite you participate in this two-day celebration of all things poetry. We're especially looking forward to our two keynote lectures by **Shantanu Anand** and **Cornelia Gräbner** and the many, many exciting paper presentations we've received.

Our PI Assoz.-Prof. **Julia Lajta-Novak** was also invited to deliver a keynote lecture at the conference "Sounds of a Lifetime" [LINK <https://events.vub.be/sounds-of-a-lifetime-exploring-life-writing-in-audio-media/pages/call-for-papers>] at Vrije Universiteit Brussel in January 2026. There is still plenty of time to send in your abstracts (deadline 15 February).

Again, we wish you happy holidays and a joyful end to 2024. We hope this year has been as exciting for you as it has been for us. We'll see you in 2025!

All the best,
the PoP team

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