

■ IX INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Imagination in the Digital Age

Dialogues between Memory,
Identity, and Virtuality

International Research Network Memità



*Literary Studies Program
Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana*

Medellín, Colombia
21, 22 & 23 OCT
2024



IX International Conference

Imagination in the Digital Age: Dialogues between Memory, Identity and Virtuality

Organised by:

Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana
School of Philosophy, Theology and Humanities
Literary Studies Major
International Research Network Memità

Dates: 21-23 October 2024

Location: Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, Medellín, Colombia.

Format: Hybrid (in-person and virtual).

Conference languages: Spanish and English.

As an opportunity for interdisciplinary dialogue on the directions of the imagination in the Digital Age, the Literary Studies Program of the School of Philosophy, Theology and Humanities of the Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana is convening this international conference. With the advent of the Internet, artificial intelligence, robotics, social networks and extended realities, the way in which we imagine the world and ourselves has reached a point that calls for careful consideration and reflection. The academic community is called upon to ask questions and seek answers that will help society better understand the philosophical, scientific, historical, ethical and aesthetic implications of this paradigm shift.

From the *International Research Network Memità* (Memory & Identity and Media Studies), we propose three possible concepts to help explore how imagination manifests in the Digital Age. As is customary in this network, in order to understand how a collective and individual narrative is formed in political spaces that are increasingly prone to transformation through phenomena such as globalisation, it is crucial to question the ways in which we remember and reconstruct our past through the imagination. Similarly, identity, which is closely linked to memory, is formed on the basis of cultural imaginaries that shape how we inhabit the world. These imaginaries are rapidly manifested in cultural encounters. Finally, virtuality raises the question of how we relate to reality and seek to duplicate the world through the simulations

fostered by digital media. In Plato's Republic, he warned that the shadows projected by fire in the cave were not the real things but images of them, and therefore we could not rely solely on these vague forms. It is necessary to consider the contribution of the imagination in the digital age, where the relationship to reality is increasingly mediated by machines and the idea of virtuality.

In the unfolding of world history, imagination as a generative force of the possible and a communicator of the eternal is confronted with a new paradigm. What was unthinkable centuries ago is now a reality in the digital age, with its global network of interconnections and accelerated exchange of information. What is our understanding of the role of the imagination in the creation of possible worlds? In a virtual space, how can the problem of identity and memory be addressed? In a world of speed, volatility and hyper-information, from what perspectives should we think about imagination? It is from spaces such as the university, in constant dialogue with social reality, that these and many other questions must be asked. Against this backdrop, in the city of Medellín, Colombia, we invite researchers and PhD students from the social and human sciences to participate in this dialogue.

Modalities of participation

Researchers and doctoral students who wish to participate must present a paper of 20 minutes in length. The debate will focus on the following lines

1. Imagination and Memory
 - a. Cultural imaginaries in Latin America and the world.
 - b. Collective memories beyond national geography.
 - c. New histories, new media.
2. Imagination and Identity
 - a. Imagining our individuality, imagining our nations.
 - b. Myths, narratives and fictions in the digital age.
 - c. New techniques of artistic representation.
3. Imagination and Virtuality
 - a. Extended realities.
 - b. Human and Artificial Imagination.
 - c. Language and Algorithms.

To participate in the conference, you must fill out the registration [form](#), including the title and abstract of the presentation (200 words) and a short CV (100 words).

Deadline for submitting proposals: 30 April 2024

Notification of acceptance: 20 May 2024

Fees

Researchers and PhD students: 80 euros (in person) / 45 euros (virtual)

MEMITÀ group members: 60 euros (in person) / 30 euros (virtual)

The fee includes the publication of selected papers by the reviewers.

Lodging

The Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana has accommodation partnerships for researchers travelling to Medellín. The approximate price per room per night is 70 euros. If you wish to stay in Medellín, please indicate this when completing the [form](#) and indicating the dates you wish to travel.

Trip to Macondo (Aracataca, Magdalena)

After the conference, we invite researchers to embark on an adventure in Colombia, the home country of Gabriel García Márquez, Nobel Prize for Literature (1982). We will visit the city that inspired the imaginary space in García Márquez's work from 24 to 26 October: Macondo (Aracataca). For those interested in this tour of Santa Marta, Ciénaga de Oro and Aracataca, there is a space on the conference [form](#) for registration.

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Registration form: <https://forms.gle/t3MGNqfQcjoL79TA8>