

**CALL FOR PAPERS:**

**“Margins, Metaphor, and Medium: Subaltern Voices in East Asia”**

In an increasingly globalized and hierarchically structured world, the questions of whose voices are heard, and through what forms of representation, have never been more urgent. Within global academic and cultural discourses, East Asian perspectives continue to negotiate their positions, seeking to assert and articulate their own voices rather than being defined through dominant paradigms of knowledge and interpretation.

We are pleased to invite submissions for the upcoming graduate symposium, **“Margins, Metaphor, and Medium: Subaltern Voices in East Asia,”** organized by graduate students from the **Department of East Asian Studies at McGill University**. This symposium seeks to foster interdisciplinary dialogue on how East Asian societies, cultures, histories, and intellectual traditions—often situated at the margins of global academic discourse—are articulated, represented, and transmitted across diverse historical, linguistic, and media contexts.

The theme invites participants to reconceptualize **margins** not as static zones of exclusion, but as dynamic sites of creativity, negotiation, and resistance, particularly in relation to East Asia’s positioning within global and Western academic discourses. It further encourages reflection on **metaphor** as both a rhetorical and conceptual strategy through which East Asian voices articulate meaning, assert agency, and reimagine dominant epistemological frameworks. Finally, it highlights the role of **medium**, from textual and visual traditions to contemporary digital forms, as the material and technological site where East Asian perspectives are mediated, transformed, and circulated within and beyond the boundaries of the prevailing academic discourses. In exploring these dynamics, we invite discussion and inquiry into how East Asian voices—historical, literary, artistic, social and political—are articulated and transformed across linguistic, cultural, and disciplinary boundaries? How do voices from the margins engage with and reshape dominant traditions of knowledge? And how might “margins,” “metaphor,” and “medium” together form a framework for reimagining subaltern voices within and beyond East Asia?

Many graduate students and emerging scholars in the humanities continue to face challenges in articulating, discussing, and disseminating their own experiences and cultural perspectives within the hierarchical structures of academic discourses. These challenges are not merely linguistic, but are shaped by broader systems of authority that determine whose voices and forms of expression are recognized as more legitimate knowledge. By encouraging participants to engage critically with questions of voice, translation, and representation of East Asian cultures, the event aims to empower students—especially those working across cultural and disciplinary boundaries—to articulate their research and perspectives with greater confidence and visibility. Through the framework of Margins, Metaphor, and Medium, the symposium highlights the creative and intellectual potential that emerges from marginal positions while

aspiring to cultivate a more inclusive and dialogic academic environment where diverse modes of thought and expression can coexist, interact, and flourish.

This symposium welcomes submissions from graduate students across all disciplines and institutions worldwide. It will be held on **April 24, 2026**, at **McGill University** (the exact on-campus location will be announced later). The event will adopt a hybrid format, combining in-person and virtual presentations to ensure engagement from attendees who may not be able to join physically. The conference will also include a lunch break and a group dinner to provide opportunities for informal discussion and networking among participants.

### **Submission Guidelines:**

Please submit a 250 - 500 - word abstract in either .docx or .pdf format via email to **eas.symposium@gmail.com**. The document should also include: (1) Your name; (2) Program (indicating MA or PhD program) and institution; (3) Title of the presentation; (4) Contact information.

**New Deadline for submission:** January 20, 2026, **Notification of acceptance:** January 30, 2026

For any inquiries, please email us at **eas.symposium@gmail.com**. We thank you in advance for your interest and contributions, and sincerely look forward to your participation in this year's symposium.

MGSSEAS Symposium Committee  
McGill University  
2025/11/17