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Association Internationale Zola et Naturalisme (AIZEN®)

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CALL FOR PAPERS

**AIZEN International Literature, Film, Visual Arts, Translation,
Lusophone Comparative and Interdisciplinary Studies Conference in
Maia, Portugal, 2025**

Contact email : Dr. Juliana Starr: jsstarr1@uno.edu and/or Dr. Célia Vieira : cvieira@umaia.pt

**AIZEN/University of Maia International
Conference**

“Émile Zola, Naturalism, and Progress”

Émile Zola was a champion of progress in all its forms, and his work reflects the great social, industrial, commercial, and urban transformations which marked the last quarter of the nineteenth century. During his lifetime, the historic city of Porto became a major cultural, artistic, and financial center, and also an important diffusion point for naturalism, as evidenced by its numerous publishing houses producing works by Beldemónio, Portugal’s most prolific translator of Zola, as well as novels by Lusophone naturalists such as Eça de Queirós.

Today, two of the city’s most spectacular bridges stand as symbols of progress, linking it to the 19th-century France and bearing witness to the country’s technological achievements. First, the Maria Pia Bridge, a railway bridge built in 1877 and situated over the municipalities of Porto and Vila Nova de Gaia, is attributed to Gustave Eiffel. Second, the Dom Luis I Bridge, at the time of its completion in 1886 the longest iron arch in the

world and famous for its double-deck metal arch spanning the river Douro, was designed by a student of Eiffel. Both structures share the cityscape with the medieval Ribeira district, the São Francisco Church known for its lavish baroque interior with ornate gilded carvings, and the massive 19th-century Palácio de Bolsa, formerly a stock market built to impress potential international investors.

In keeping with these structures and themes, the AIZEN's International Conference will be held at the University of Maia, located just ten miles from the historic center of Porto. Sporting a modern subway system and the only international airport in northern Portugal, the city of Maia has seen extraordinary development in the 20th and 21st centuries, and currently stands out as one of the most important industrial and technological centers in the Porto metropolitan area. In this context, the AIZEN's 2025 conference will celebrate naturalism's commitment to cultural, social, and scientific progress.

The AIZEN® (Association Internationale Zola et Naturalisme) and the University of Maia (Portugal) solicit contributions for their jointly-sponsored conference on "Émile Zola, Naturalism, and Progress" to be hosted by :

University of Maia – ISMAI, Portugal, June 26-28, 2025

We seek proposals for original and unpublished papers, as well as topics for panels or special sessions with three or four participants. Comparative or interdisciplinary analyses are particularly welcome. Professors, researchers, lecturers, and doctoral candidates in literature, cinema, visual arts, translation, and Lusophone studies are invited to submit an abstract for a presentation that should not exceed twenty minutes. Conference rooms will be equipped with audiovisual equipment.

The following are suggested topics or panel headings:

- *Lusophone naturalisms
- *Translation issues in naturalism
- *Naturalism and Digital Studies
- *The legacy of nineteenth-century naturalism in contemporary artistic cultures
- *Zola and the Medan Group as reformers
- * *Le Roman expérimental* in Europe and the Americas: varieties of dissent and reform
- * *J'accuse...!* in the Lusophone world: Context and Response

- * *La République en marche*: utopian reform in France, Portugal, and Brazil
- *New ways and means of transportation in naturalism: roads, bridges, railroads, passageways, bicycles, omnibuses, trains
- *Utopian communities and Utopian thought as social reform
- * *Les Quatre Évangiles* and the march toward progress
- *Women, feminism, and progress in naturalism
- *Inventions and Innovations in naturalism (electricity, photography, etc.)
- * New structures and landscapes in naturalist literature, film, and art: banks, markets, apartment buildings, department stores, stock markets, temporary and imagined structures

- *New technologies and new economies in naturalism
- *Comparative approaches to Naturalism
- *New art forms and Zola's essays on the Salon des Refusés
- *New governments and Zola's *Chroniques parlementaires*
- *Zola and Naturalist Theater

- *Queering naturalism: outcasts and inverts
- *Natures and Naturalisms (French, Francophone, Lusophone, Filmic)
- *Naturalist aspects of contemporary world cinema
- *Female Naturalist Writers in the Lusophone world and beyond
- * Naturalism in Africa and the Caribbean

Presentations can be delivered in English or French. Please submit your panel/session proposal or individual presentation (in English or French) with a brief version of your CV to the following address:

Prof. Juliana Starr, Dept. of Literature and Language, University of New Orleans, USA

jstarr1@uno.edu

and

Prof. Célia Vieira, University of Maia-ISMAL, cvieira@umaia.pt

Deadline for proposals: October 15, 2024