**Call for Panelists**

This is a call for panelists for the annual conference of the **International Society for the Study of Narrative (ISSN) 2019** (**Pamplona, Spain, 6-8 June 2019**). The panel on urban literary studies centres on the contemporary practice of psychogeography and psychogeographical literary works. It raises the question of how such a genre or discursive method can evoke a re-examination of our experiences of and in real urban spaces. As defined by Guy Debord of the Situationist International, psychogeography is “the study of the precise laws and specific effects of the geographical environment, consciously organized or not, on the emotions and behaviour of individuals” (1955). Contemporary psychogeography continues the practice of the dérive (drift) in urban settings. At the same time, it attedns to the walker’s potential to actively unearth and generate narrations that counter urban scripts that have long been naturalised by formal institutions and repeated social practices.

In view of the revival of the practice in the past three decades and the persistent issues connected to space, discourse and power, this panel seeks to explore and interrogate the following: What is the state of psychogeographical writings and practices in the current milieu of privatised spaces and institutionalised walking associations? How can the genre of psychogeography interrupt material practices and naturalised routines? How do psychogeographical writings enable the dowsing for alternative “truths” and incite the return of the urban dwellers’ agency? How can psychogeographical literary moments act as a discursive means to encourage misdirection, the slowing down of pace, and de-automization in the process of reading - or *being* in real life? How do such writings constitute the political move of triggering reader emotion and empathy for other human beings, other life forms, or even objects and structures in the urban setting? How do urban structures and programmes work against or in conjunction with our reading of psychogeographical works in our cognitive processes that enable us to comprehend and act in our world?

In view of these questions, prospective panelists are encouraged to consider psychogeography not only as a walking practice but also as one that produces counter-narratives that can be transposed to our daily real-life experiences. Application of cognitive approaches, particularly those of the second generation, would be appreciated. Lastly, this panel also invites an interdisciplinary examination of literature and architecture/urban planning, where possible.

Possible topics for the panel include:

* Psychogeography as a genre
* Psychogeographical literary moments as a discursive method
* Textual cues and cognitive stylistics in psychogeographical literary moments in contemporary works (1999 and beyond) as triggers of reader emotion
* Effects of (embodied) metaphors in contemporary psychogeographical writings
* Urban rhythms and politics in contemporary psychogeographical writings
* Second-generation cognitive approaches (such as enactment and experientiality) to psychogeographical writings
* Walking-writing of the self and the imagination/fantasizing of (urban) space
* Representation of the Thirdspace in psychogeographical writings
* Effects of contemporary psychogeography on ideology
* Lived spaces versus urban programmes
* Representation and effects of urban designs, cognitive processes, and triggered experiences in psychogeographical literary moments
* Psychogeographical walks in urban spaces (Pamplona)
* Wordless histories: Walking as practical narration

Other topics that are related to psychogeography and the concerns of this panel are also welcomed.

If you are interested in joining the panel, please contact **Kai Tan** [(kai.tan@ifaar.rwth-aachen.de)](mailto:(kai.tan@ifaar.rwth-aachen.de)) with a short description of your proposed paper by **31 July 2018 (Tuesday)**.