



# **Creativitas: Critical Explorations in Literary Studies**

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## **Call for Papers - Volume 3 (2026)**

*Creativitas: Critical Explorations in Literary Studies* invites scholarly contributions for its annual issue exploring the profound significance of plants to human culture, literature, history, and thought. We seek essays that examine the complex relationships between humans and botanical life from arts, humanities, and social science perspectives.

Plant blindness remains a significant challenge in cultural representation and environmental awareness. This perceptual tendency causes us to overlook plants in favour of animal life. Yet botanical life constitutes the foundation of all terrestrial ecosystems. Plants remain central to human survival, economy, and imagination.

Contemporary scholarship on plants brings together multiple disciplines. Literature, philosophy, history, cultural studies, environmental humanities, and other fields now converge to reconceptualize botanical life and its entanglement with human experience. As Yota Batsaki notes, emerging research in this area "require[s] tools and methodologies from history, the history of science and medicine, the history of art, literary studies, critical plant studies, ethnobotany, plant science, environmental science and a host of other disciplines" (Batsaki 1).

This emerging research challenges long-standing preconceptions. Plants are no longer seen as passive, insentient, and inconsequential. Instead, scholarship now promotes awareness of how plants shape cultural meaning-making. They influence environmental ethics. They structure historical narratives.

We live in an era marked by ecological urgency. There is renewed interest in non-anthropocentric modes of thinking. Interdisciplinary approaches to plants offer vital frameworks for understanding human-flora relations across temporal, geographical, and cultural contexts. We are experiencing "a reassessment of the legacies of human and environmental trauma connected with colonialism and capitalism, and the way people and plants are entangled in those stories" (Batsaki 2).

Potawatomi botanist Robin Wall Kimmerer argues that "the awakening of a wider ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world" (Kimmerer 243). This special issue seeks scholarship that addresses these pressing concerns while advancing humanistic modes of interpretation in the study of plants.

Recent scientific discoveries have profound implications for how we understand plants. Forest ecologist Suzanne Simard's groundbreaking work on mycorrhizal networks demonstrates that "plants are attuned to one another's strengths and weaknesses, elegantly giving and taking to attain exquisite balance" (Simard 23). She further explains that "the old and young are perceiving, communicating, and responding to one another by emitting chemical signals. Chemicals identical to our own neurotransmitters" (Simard 34). These findings transform our understanding of plant intelligence and communication. They have deep implications for philosophy, ethics, and cultural representation.

Philosopher Michael Marder reconceptualizes plant thinking as "the non-cognitive, non-ideational, and non-imaginistic mode of thinking proper to plants" (Marder 10). His work challenges assumptions that plants lack intelligence or agency. He argues that understanding plants demands "a hermeneutic, more-than-human phenomenology" that respects "the alien ontology of floral ways of being" (Marder 5). Such frameworks open new possibilities for reimagining plants as meaningful partners in human thought and culture.

Ethnographic approaches amplify this reorientation. Anthropologist Anna Tsing's multispecies ethnography traces how "human nature is an interspecies relationship" (Tsing 382). This relationship necessarily includes plants and fungi navigating complex ecologies of survival and collaboration. Ecofeminist philosopher Val Plumwood insists on "intentional recognition" of nature as "potentially communicative other" and "independent centre[s] of value" (Plumwood 233). Nature should not be viewed as passive resource. These frameworks demand that we "extend intentionality to the nonhuman" as "crucial for extending to them a narrative conception of ethics" (Plumwood 234).

Indigenous scholars offer vital alternative epistemologies. Kimmerer draws on Potawatomi traditions to envision "a knowledge garden" where Indigenous wisdom and Western science "grow together" (Kimmerer 108). Each nourishes the other. She explains: "To me the great promise here is the same promise that comes when corn and beans grow together. It's more powerful...it feeds us more fully" (Kimmerer 108). Such approaches demonstrate that plants are not merely objects of study. They are teachers and partners in creating more just and regenerative relationships with the living world.

In a sustainable future, plant blindness has no place. This issue seeks to amplify voices, methodologies, and theoretical frameworks dedicated to overcoming anthropocentric biases. We aim to centre plants as vital to human knowledge, culture, and flourishing.

We welcome submissions addressing the following areas:

#### Plant Stories & Literary Analysis

- Representations of plants in literature, poetry, drama, and narrative across genres and linguistic traditions
- Phytocriticism: literary analysis through a plant-focused lens
- Plants in postcolonial and decolonial narratives

- Creative writing, experimental forms, and artistic responses to botanical worlds

### Plant Philosophy & Ethics

- Plant agency, sentience, and personhood in philosophical frameworks
- Plant ethics and the moral status of botanical life
- Ecocriticism and eco-phenomenology applied to plants
- Critical plant studies and non-anthropocentric thinking

### Plant Histories & Cultures

- Material histories of plants, colonial plant collecting, and botanical imperialism
- Indigenous knowledge systems and human-plant relationships across cultures and languages
- Plants in cultural memory, mythology, religion, and folklore
- Botanical archives, collections, and heritage preservation

### Plant Visual Cultures

- Botanical illustration, scientific imagery, and artistic representations
- Colour theory and chromatic affect in depictions of flora
- Photography, design, and visual media engaging plant life
- Botanical art history and visual interpretation

### Plant Matter & Landscapes

- Botanical gardens as interdisciplinary research and cultural spaces
- Plant landscapes, urban ecology, and botanical geography
- Horticultural knowledge and garden studies
- Material engagements with botanical specimens

### Global Perspectives on Plants

- Plants in non-Western contexts, particularly South Asian perspectives
- Multilingual approaches to plant studies
- Plantationocene and human-induced environmental change
- Biodiversity, conservation, and environmental justice

## Submission Guidelines

### Format Requirements

- Follow **MLA Ninth Edition** formatting guidelines
- Abstract length: Approximately 300 words
- Include up to *five* keywords

### Submission Process

The journal follows a *double-blind peer-review process*. Authors must first submit an abstract for initial selection before proceeding with the full manuscript.

### How to Submit

1. Email your abstract to both:

- [creativitasjournal@gmail.com](mailto:creativitasjournal@gmail.com)
- [sapientia2024@gmail.com](mailto:sapientia2024@gmail.com)

2. Email Subject Line: "Abstract Submission for *Creativitas* Volume 3, Issue 1"

#### Important Notes

- *Last date of submission of abstract is 15.03.2026*
- Adherence to all formatting guidelines is mandatory
- Full manuscript submission details will be provided upon abstract acceptance
- The double-blind review process ensures unbiased evaluation of submissions

For any inquiries regarding the submission process or guidelines, please contact the journal editors through the provided email addresses.

The editorial team at *Creativitas* is committed to ensuring a fair and rigorous double-blind peer-review process. Authors are encouraged to reach out to the editorial team at [sapientia2024@gmail.com](mailto:sapientia2024@gmail.com) for any clarification or assistance regarding the submission guidelines.

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#### Works Cited

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