



Dunărea de Jos University of Galati, Romania
Faculty of Letters || Department of English
Faculty of Arts || Department of Fine Arts
and Painting & Department of Theatre and
Performing Arts



Invite you to

The International Workshop

(IN)VISIBLE BUT INVINCIBLE



**TRACING SILENCES, BREAKING FRAMES:
DISABILITY, REPRESENTATION, AND THE POWER
OF THE UNSEEN**

Galați, 25-27 November 2025

*Unseen but present still -
we bloom in shadows and light,
strong in silent grace.*

She walked through the corridors of academia, her presence unnoticed by many. A scholar, a thinker, a dreamer - yet, to the world around her, she was often invisible. Not because she lacked intelligence or ambition, but because the structures around her were designed to overlook rather than uplift, to silence rather than amplify. But invisibility, she realized, was not the end of the story. She was not merely unseen; she was invincible.

This is the spirit that animates our forthcoming conference, **“(In)Visible but Invincible,”** a gathering of scholars, researchers, artists, practitioners, and advocates committed to unmasking the realities of marginalization, systemic erasure, and quiet forms of resistance. The conference emerges from an ongoing series of annual reflections - following **“Invisible Disabilities”** (2024) and **“Not Disabled, Just Differently-Abled”** (2023) - and continues our shared commitment to interrogating the meanings, politics, and consequences of visibility and invisibility in disability discourse.

At the core of this year’s theme there lies a critical and urgent question: ***How does disability become invisible, and what happens when this invisibility defines both individual identity and societal perception?*** This invisibility - at times internalized, at times imposed - shapes the narratives we inherit, the language we use, the spaces we inhabit, and the cultural and institutional frameworks we navigate.

We are particularly interested in the many ways ***invisibility is mediated***: how it is reflected in ***literature, art, psychology, media***, and everyday interaction; how it is masked through language, ignored through silence, or dismissed through ableist norms. Most importantly, we wish to explore how individuals and communities ***claim agency*** in and through this invisibility - not merely surviving it, but transforming it into something enduring, fierce, and deeply human.

Conference Objectives

We invite scholars, educators, artists, policymakers, psychologists, health professionals, students, and activists to submit proposals that address, among others, the following thematic strands:

1. Identifying Invisibility

Investigate the ***cultural, historical, and institutional mechanisms*** that render disability and difference invisible. How have societal structures contributed to this erasure, and how has it evolved over time?

2. The Aesthetics of the Unseen

Analyze how ***literary works, visual arts, performance, and cinema*** portray invisible disabilities or challenge conventional ideas of “the visible.” How do narrative forms make room for unseen or unspoken experiences?

3. Psychology and the Inner Gaze

Explore the *psychological dimensions of invisibility* - from internalized ableism to the therapeutic practices that bring hidden struggles to light. How does psychology both reflect and resist the invisibility of disability?

4. Voicing the Margins

Center the *lived experiences* of individuals with invisible or partially visible disabilities. How can storytelling, memoir, and autoethnography serve as tools of empowerment?

5. Bridging Theory and Practice

Encourage *interdisciplinary and applied approaches* to confronting invisibility. What models of inclusive education, participatory design, policy reform, or media advocacy have proven transformative?

6. Disability, Identity, and Intersectionality

Interrogate how invisibility is compounded at the intersections of *disability with race, gender, sexuality, class, migration*, and other axes of identity.

7. Choosing Invisibility

Reflect on the notion that invisibility is not always imposed - sometimes it is strategic, protective, or self-defining. What are the implications of choosing not to be seen?

8. From Awareness to Action

Envision how *visibility can be ethically and constructively fostered* - in academia, the arts, healthcare, and beyond. How can we turn insight into implementation?

If you have ever felt unseen, unheard, or underestimated - this space is for you. If you work to make society more just, inclusive, and responsive - your voice matters here.

If you believe that *scholarship must not stop at critique but inspire change*, this conference is where that belief will be shared, tested, and renewed.

We believe that *disability is not the obstacle* - it is the *barriers, assumptions, and systemic neglect* that surround it which create exclusion. By confronting invisibility in its many forms, we aim not only to uncover silenced truths but to reimagine the world they reveal.

Academics, students, writers, artists, healthcare professionals, and community organizers are warmly encouraged to contribute - whether through *research papers, creative performances, roundtable discussions, policy proposals, or multimedia installations*. Every format that opens new paths toward visibility is welcome.

Deadline for Abstracts: 5 November 2025

Notification of Acceptance: 10 November 2025

Conference Dates: 25-27 November 2025

Format: Hybrid (In-Person & Online)

Location: 'Dunărea de Jos' University, Galați

Proposals (300 words max) should include:

- ✓ Title
- ✓ Author(s) name(s), affiliation(s)
- ✓ Preferred presentation format (paper, panel, performance, etc.)
- ✓ A brief bio (100 words)
- ✓ Please submit proposals to: lidia.necula@ugal.ro

Together, let us explore what it means to move from invisibility to invincibility - and to do so with integrity, creativity, and care.