

Friday PhD Talks 2024-2025
#19
Laura García Soria
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Signing your life away: Challenges and benefits of changing universities and contracts

Abstract:

Two years ago, I started my PhD in the Complutense University of Madrid, where I had studied my Master's Degree. I passed through different tutors until I found someone who would fit my thesis question, which means that, while informed and supervised by my tutors, my investigation came integrally from my own interests. However, I had to juggle full-time dedication to my thesis and the difficulties of long-distance supervision, the struggle of not belonging to a research project and the uncertainty of my academic future. Earlier this year I was lucky to apply to and get a research fellowship (FPI) in the University of Zaragoza, which created the opposite problems: I have had to move for a full-time job, take on the responsibilities that come with a university contract, and change my doctoral thesis to fit in the research project I now belong to. With this presentation I aim to share my experience in changing doctoral programs and work settings, discussing the differences, advantages and disadvantages to both. I would also like to offer some advice on the matter of changing thesis aims and theoretical frameworks, in my case to comply with a change of supervision and contractual obligations. With this I hope to open a dialogue between PhD candidates with and without contracts and in all different stages of the thesis writing process, in order to share our experiences in navigating the PhD journey and not losing what makes it ours.

Bionote:

Laura García is a PhD candidate in English Studies at the University of Zaragoza. In 2024 she was awarded with a Competitive Research Fellowship (FPI) by the Spanish Ministry of Education to develop her doctoral research within the research project «The Posthuman Wound: Subject and Agency in the North American Literature of the 21st Century». She graduated in English Studies in 2020 at the University of Zaragoza, after which she obtained an MA in Literary Studies at the Complutense University of Madrid and an MA in Teaching English as a Foreign Language at the University of La Rioja. Her interests are ecocriticism, trauma studies, posthumanism and science fiction, and her research focuses on the role of the planet Earth in the human imaginary and its reflection on fiction, as well as representations of the natural environment in different media.