

International Symposium

American Studies Over_Seas: Independent Beat Waves

School of Arts and Humanities, University of Lisbon

May 18-19, 2026

Independent Beat Waves wishes to highlight the connections between the poetical and the political on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the independence of the United States and the 100th anniversary of Allen Ginsberg, one of the most prophetic voices of the Beat Generation. Organized by the *American Studies Over_Seas* project at ULICES (University of Lisbon Centre for English Studies), this event will not only reflect on territorial independence in tandem with literary independence, but also on forms of politics and poetics that extend beyond (familiar) shores, Portugal included. It also wishes to discuss “independence” as a possible concern, and as such, consider human and other-than-human interdependence as it relates to the epithet “land of the free”.

Independent Beat Waves, a two-day symposium which is to take place on May 18-19, 2026, will feature Anne Waldman, renowned Beat poet, eco-artist, and the director of the Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics, who will *perform* her poetry and discuss alternate visions of the university and of the universe itself. The program includes paper presentations, roundtable discussions, and community-oriented activities, such as film screenings, music, and poetry performances. We welcome proposals on the following topics (illustrative but not exclusive):

- The Beats and political poetry from Whitman to today;
- 1776 in American and transnational poetics and/or rhetoric;
- Transatlantic dialogues between the Beats and Lusophone poetry;
- Fluid poetics beyond national borders;
- Eco-poetics in Ginsberg, Waldman, Snyder, and other modern voices;
- “Land of the free” and critiques of empire in literary, artistic, and cultural expressions;
- The Beats, diversity and inclusion;
- Multiple universes, cosmopolitanism, and university models;
- Political independence and poetics of in(ter)dependence;
- Countercultural continuities and debates.

We invite you to send us your abstract proposal for this symposium by March 30, 2026 to: margaridagato@campus.ul.pt and emsilva@iscsp.ulisboa.pt

Scientific and Organizing Committee: Camila Querino, Diana V. Almeida, Edgardo A. Medeiros da Silva, Isabel Alves, João Miguel Palaio, José Duarte, Margarida Vale de Gato, Nuno Marques.