



CALL FOR PAPERS

International Conference

The Art of Mediation: Cross-Cultural Dialogue in History and the Humanities

24th and 25th September 2026

University of Vienna,

Marietta-Blau Saal, Universitätsring 1, 1010, Vienna, Austria

We are pleased to invite you to the 9th International Conference on Arts and Humanities, organised by the International Centre for Studies of Arts and Humanities (ICSAH). After the success of the past events, shaped by a fruitful exchange of ideas, this year our aim is to explore the *Art of Mediation* as a lens for examining cross-cultural interaction in history and the humanities.

Throughout history, individuals, institutions, communities, and cultural forms such as artworks, performances, or language have played essential roles in mediating between cultures. Whether navigating religious differences, political conflicts, trade rivalries, or artistic innovations, these mediators shaped the shared spaces where civilizations met and interacted.

This year's conference invites scholars and practitioners to explore the many forms and functions of intercultural mediation in the past and present. From royal marriages and diplomatic missions to multilingual performances and artistic hybridities, we aim to shed light on the human and cultural mechanisms that enabled communication, negotiation, and coexistence across boundaries.

We particularly welcome contributions that analyse how contact across languages, belief systems, and political structures was facilitated and made meaningful through a mediating agent – individual, institutional, or material – and how the legacies of such encounters continue to shape our world today.

Topics for submission include, but are not limited to:

- Diplomacy and politics:** the dynamic roles of envoys, governors, merchants, legal practitioners, or local intermediaries in navigating intercultural conflicts and negotiations.
- Mobility, migration, and exile:** individuals as cultural bridges within diasporas, exile communities, port cities, frontier zones, or trade hubs.
- Religion:** the intermediary role of religious actors, experiences, texts, and beliefs in encounters across confessional or doctrinal boundaries.
- Gender studies:** women as mediators in processes of negotiation, reconciliation, or cultural translation.
- Art and cultural production:** the role of artistic creation in bridging cultures; literary reinterpretations and visual media as mediating forces; the translation and transformation of myths, symbols, and values; and the processes through which identities are negotiated across cultures.
- Historiography and perception:** how mediators have been remembered, forgotten, or re-imagined and how acts of mediation are portrayed in literature, film, philosophy, or media.

About ICSAH. The International Centre for Studies of Arts and Humanities, based in Cyprus, is a non-profit, interdisciplinary organization dedicated to the research, study and education in a vast range of disciplines in the field Arts and Humanities. The mission of the organisation is to:

1. Promote the worldwide understanding, study and teaching across a range of discipline of the Arts and Humanities, including, but not limited to:
 - Ancient, Medieval, Modern and Contemporary History
 - Ancient and modern languages, linguistics and literature
 - Classics, Philosophy
 - Theology
 - History of Religions
 - Anthropology and ethnic studies
 - Archaeology
 - Visual arts
 - Performing arts, including theatre, dance, music
 - Those aspects of social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods
 - Cultural heritage
2. Provide additional forums for the exchange of ideas regarding Arts and Humanities in schools, Universities, libraries, museums and other contexts
3. Support the interchange of research and the scholarships of knowledge, teaching and service in the Humanities through conferences, publications and relative activities

Submission rules: To submit a proposal for a paper of approximately 20 minutes or a poster, please send an abstract of 350 words or less to icsahcy1@gmail.com or francesca.cecì@comune.roma.it by **April 30th, 2026**. The proposed contributions should not have been previously published or accepted for publication elsewhere. Abstracts should include a title, a summary of the presentation, name of the author/s, institutional affiliation and email.

Accepted papers will be published in the conference proceedings, which follow an editorial (but not a peer-review) process.

Conference languages: German, English, French, Italian, Spanish.

Conference fee: 50€

For further information about the conference, please see our website www.icsah.eu/

Please address any further enquiries to icsahcy1@gmail.com or francesca.cecì@comune.roma.it