



CALL FOR PAPERS

International Conference

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

24th and 25th September 2026

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

We are pleased to invite you to the 8th International Conference on Arts and Humanities, organized 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 The Art of Mediation: Cross-Cultural Dialogue in History and the Humanities.

Throughout history, individuals, institutions, communities and cultural products such as artworks or language have played essential roles in mediating between cultures. Whether navigating religious difference, political conflict, trade rivalries, or artistic novelties, these mediators helped shape the shared spaces between civilizations.

This year's conference invites scholars and practitioners to explore **the many forms and functions of intercultural mediation in 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 allowed people to communicate, negotiate, and coexist across boundaries.

We particularly welcome contributions that analyse how contact across languages, belief systems, and political structures was made possible and made meaningful

through a third party, and how the legacies of such encounters continue to inform our world today.

Topics for submission include, but are not limited to:

- in a diplomatic and political dimension, exploring the dynamic role of envoys, governors, merchants or legal practitioners in intercultural conflicts;
- in the context of human movement, migration and exile, exploring the role of individuals as cultural bridges in diaspora or exile, cultural brokers in port cities, frontier zones, and trade hubs;
- in religious terms, the intermediary role of religious actors, religious experiences and beliefs,
- through gender lens, the role of women in the reconciliation processes,
- the role of art in bridging cultures, literary reinterpretation and visual media as a medium in society, Translation of myths, symbols, and values across cultures, the process of mediating identities
- or, in the field of historiography, how mediators have been remembered or erased, how is the act of mediation represented in literature, film, or philosophy

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.cecchi@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.

Conference languages: English, French, Italian.

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.cecchi@comune.roma.it