

World Humanities Conference

Challenges and Responsibilities for a
Planet in Transition

Liège, 6th-12th August 2017



CALL FOR PROPOSALS OF SYMPOSIA AND PAPERS

Purpose and scope

Humanities have been a main structuring dimension of knowledge and understanding of societies throughout time, allowing to approach complexity, rendering time and causal dimensions to features or making sense of processes. Actually, the divide between the Humanities and other knowledge clusters (e.g. natural sciences or technologies) is a recent feature. One of the first initiatives undertaken in the framework of UNESCO, soon after World War II, was the establishment of the International Council for the Philosophy and Humanistic Studies, in January 1949. Yet, Humanities lost ground in the most recent decades, while global acceleration led societies to focus on short term issues rather than on foresight and mid to long term concerns.

Four several dimensions are to be considered when attempting to resume a central role for the Humanities in contemporary society, namely their epistemological framework, their institutional networking, the scope of

Humanities concerns in daily life of societies and their relations to the arts and education. It is within these concerns that the World Humanities' Conference will be organised, by CIPSH, UNESCO and Liège Together partners, in August 2017.

This is the time for Humanities scholars, but also related collaborators, artists, scientists or policy makers, to stand forward. The global context is difficult, and the preparation of a World Conference is difficult. This is precisely why it is so needed, and we address to you.

Humanities themes offer a unique sight into global concerns, offering them specific time length and causal sequencing understandings. While six main topics have been proposed, as key interfaces between Humanities research and societal concerns, the World Humanities' Conference invites submissions from all Humanities disciplines and encourages them to address those themes and related issues on the basis of Humanistic methodologies and epistemologies. Papers, sessions and symposia which address these broad issues



from the perspective of History, Creative Literature, Visual Arts, Performative Media, Anthropology, Comparative cultural studies, Archaeology, Philosophy or any other Humanities fields, are welcome.

The World Humanities' Conference is being largely prepared with a bottom-up methodology, and has a major and ambitious challenge: to change the tide and resume centrality for the Humanities. This will mainly depend on the engagement of scholars across the world. There are countless relevant research and applied projects and networks in the domains of the Humanities, but there is little coordination and awareness about them.

There is a growing feeling of the need to change methods, approaches and concerns, but this is the moment to focus and integrate them within a diversity framework. Please do bring your research, concerns, doubts and proposals for this major forum that will start reversing the course of Humanities periphery current status.

Structure and deadlines

The world Conference will accept proposals of sessions, symposia and of papers for sessions.

The **sessions** are organized under the sub-topics of six sections, as in the attached list; it is possible to propose sessions within the sections, until November 1st, 2016.

The **symposia** are organized by a professional association or a specific group, and should address a specific theme not covered by the sessions. Symposia proposals must include a minimum of six papers by different participants, and may be proposed until January 31st, 2017.

The **papers** are submitted for any of the sessions listed in the attachment and the conference website, and may be submitted until March 30th, 2017.

Please complete one or more of the proposals forms, attached.

Send the proposals to cmh-wch@ulg.ac.be and cipsh@unesco.org

