



A C C S

# The 16th Asian Conference on Cultural Studies (ACCS2026)

May 09-13, 2026

Tokyo International Forum, Japan & Online

Organised by The International Academic Forum (IAFOR) in partnership with the IAFOR Research Centre at the Osaka School of International Public Policy (OSIPP) at Osaka University, Japan, and IAFOR's Global Partners

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# The 16th Asian Conference on Cultural Studies (ACCS2026)

Website: <https://accs.iafor.org>

Location: Tokyo International Forum, Japan & Online

Dates: Saturday, May 09-Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Early Bird Abstract Submission Deadline: Thursday, November 27, 2025

Final Abstract Submission Deadline: Thursday, February 12, 2026

Registration Deadline for Presenters: Wednesday, March 25, 2026

\*Submit early to take advantage of discounted registration rates and scholarship opportunities.

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We welcome your participation in and contribution to ACCS2026, in partnership with the IAFOR Research Centre at the Osaka School of International Public Policy (OSIPP) at Osaka University, Japan. This international conference encourages academics and scholars to meet and exchange ideas and views in a forum stimulating respectful dialogue.

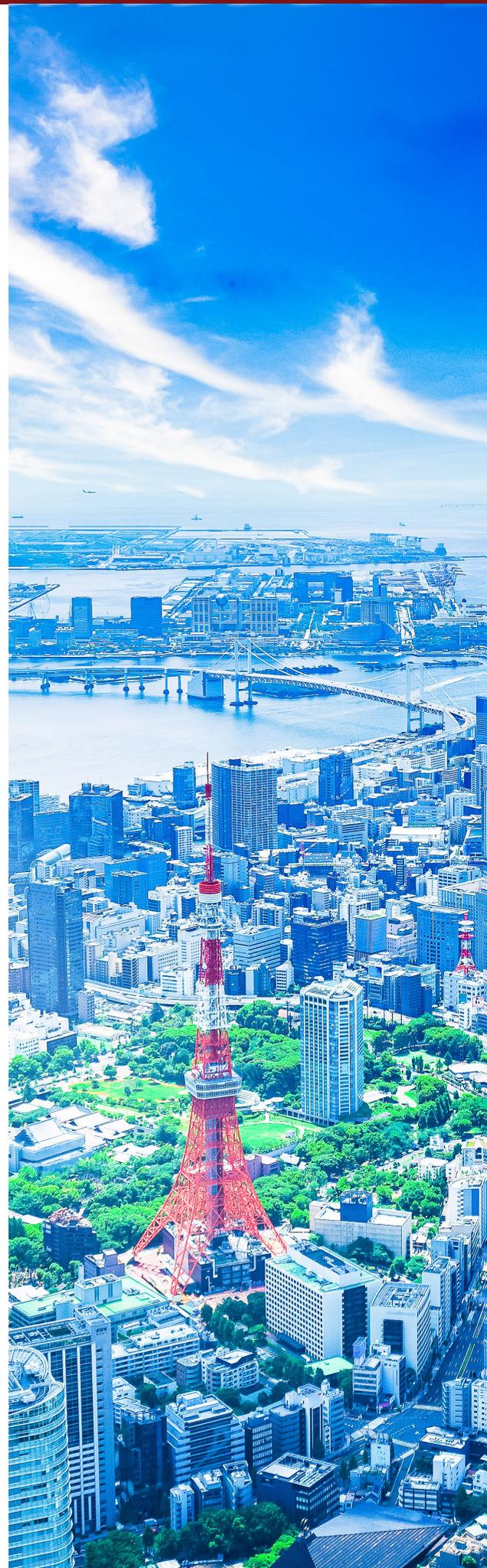
With the IAFOR Research Centre, we have engaged in a number of interdisciplinary initiatives we believe will have an important impact on domestic and international public policy conversations. It is through conferences like these that we expand our network and partners, and we have no doubt that ACCS2026 will offer a remarkable opportunity for the sharing of research and best practice, and for the meeting of people and ideas.

The 16th Asian Conference on Cultural Studies (ACCS2026) will be held alongside The 17th Asian Conference on Arts & Humanities (ACAH2026) and The 17th Asian Conference on the Social Sciences (ACSS2026). Registration for one of these conferences will allow delegates to attend sessions in all three. We look forward to welcoming you to our Spring Tokyo Conference Programme this year.

– The ACCS2026 Programme Committee



Visit [accs.iafor.org](https://accs.iafor.org)





## Conference Vision



### **To promote international exchange**

The conference supporters and organisers endeavour to connect scholars from around the world to share important research and ideas in a spirit of mutual respect.



### **To facilitate intercultural awareness**

We aim to promote intercultural events and discussions to place Japanese culture in dialogue with our international visitors.



### **To encourage interdisciplinary discussion**

The presentation streams in the ACCS2026 programme reach beyond the border of their academic disciplines, drawing on intersections from across disciplinary boundaries.



### **To generate and share new knowledge**

Conference organisers and supporters hope to connect scholars to engage in vital topics in education by sharing original research and perspectives.



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## About The International Academic Forum (IAFOR)

Founded in 2009, [The International Academic Forum \(IAFOR\)](#) is a mission-driven politically independent non-partisan and non-profit organisation dedicated to encouraging interdisciplinary discussion, facilitating intercultural awareness and promoting international exchange, principally through educational interaction and academic research. Based in Japan, its main administrative office is in Nagoya, and its research centre is in the Osaka School of International Public Policy (OSIPP), a graduate school of Osaka University.

Through its international, intercultural, and interdisciplinary conferences, research, and publications, IAFOR is a network hub for interdisciplinary discussion across Asia and beyond, connecting individuals and institutions across the globe, and the thought leaders of today with those of tomorrow.

IAFOR runs research projects and events in Asia, Europe, and North America in partnership with universities, think tanks, and learned societies. IAFOR has also worked on a number of multi-sector cooperative programs and events, including collaborations with the United Nations and the Government of Japan.

## IAFOR Partners



# Conference Overview

## Conference Programme Schedule

Day 1: Plenary Session, Cultural Workshop & Welcome Reception

Day 2: Plenary Session & Conference Dinner

Day 3: Onsite Parallel Sessions

Day 4: Onsite Parallel Sessions

Day 5: Online Parallel Sessions

## Presentation Formats

### Present Onsite

- Oral Presentation (25 minutes)
- Poster Presentation (60 minutes)
- Workshop Presentation (50 minutes)
- Panel Presentation (75 minutes)

### Present Online

- Live-Stream Presentation (25 minutes)
- Pre-Recorded Virtual Presentation
- Virtual Poster Presentation



## Venue

### Tokyo International Forum

The Tokyo International Forum (東京国際フォーラム) is a multi-purpose exhibition hall with a rich history, built on the former site of Tokyo City Hall. The venue hosts some of the biggest events in Japan every year. The Tokyo International Form offers outstanding accessibility, with direct connections to Tokyo Station and Yurakucho Station, and is within close reach of major business districts.

# The IAFOR Way: International, Intercultural, Interdisciplinary



## The IAFOR Conference Experience



### Registration Desk

When you arrive at an IAFOR conference, you'll be welcomed by our friendly regular staff. They'll check you into the event, provide your printed conference guide and name badge, and ensure you feel at home from the start.



### Information Sessions

Information is provided about the organisation, the design of the conference, and a range of frequently asked questions, from how to get the most out of your conference experience to publishing opportunities, and ways to get more involved.



### Welcome Reception

Held on one of the conference opening days, the Welcome Reception is a great opportunity to mingle with fellow delegates and start some conversations, and try a glass or two of something local!



### Keynote Presentations

Keynote presentations are designed to reach across the confines of the university to engage with other professions. Keynote speakers speak from their discipline, but speak to both their peers and those in other disciplines.



### Plenary Sessions

Plenary content is primarily organised over the opening days of the conference, and you will hear leading thinkers discussing zeitgeist issues and big ideas during these sessions, in the form of keynote addresses, panel discussions, or roundtables.



### Parallel Sessions

The parallel sessions are where original research is presented and then discussed by fellow panellists and the audience, and an important opportunity to disseminate, share, and receive feedback. They are a chance for you to hear the latest research in your and related fields.

An IAFOR conference is organised over several days onsite (usually between four and six), and includes hundreds of hours of programming to excite the mind. Added to this is live and recorded access to the online livestream sessions, as well as access to the pre-recorded virtual content and plenary sessions. Many personal and professional partnerships and collaborations have been forged and consolidated through IAFOR conferences over the years, and across the boundaries of nation, culture, and discipline, resulting in a myriad friendships, partnerships, projects, and career opportunities.

An IAFOR conference typically brings together hundreds of people from scores of countries. Like you, they are open and engaged, and like you, they are looking to write their own IAFOR stories. We encourage your active and open participation throughout the event!

**Nurturing global collaborations; that's the IAFOR Way.**



### Networking Opportunities

Our conferences are designed to offer countless networking opportunities to make and consolidate personal and professional connections, reconnect with colleagues, and meet new friends in a spirit of convivial collegiality.



### Forum Sessions

We want to engage and harness both the individual voices and collective intelligence of our conference participants as they respond to questions around zeitgeist issues, which helps us as an organisation be responsive and shape future programmes.



### Poster Presentations

A poster presentation is a convivial way to present one's research. It provides a less formal but more interactive presentation experience, as it involves more discussion and dialogue between presenters and their audience, allowing conversations to develop in a more relaxed way.



### Capacity-Building Sessions

Workshops allow great interactive engagement between delegates, and relaxed opportunities to engage and share, and attendees enjoy the easy 'takeaways'.



### Cultural Events

As two of our three watchwords are 'international' and 'intercultural', we take advantage of the physical location of each conference to try and offer delegates a taste of the host city or country, with cultural events scheduled within the programme.



### The Conference Dinner

The Conference Dinner is a separately ticketed event, and is an opportunity to engage with fellow delegates over some delicious food in some memorable locations. The conference dinners are always lively spaces for great times.



## Engage with One of IAFOR's Largest Academic Forums in Tokyo

The Spring Tokyo Conference Series has amassed a large network of academics and industry leaders over the years, attracting over 586 delegates from more than 52 countries to Tokyo to discuss novel and emerging problems and solutions within the fields of the arts and humanities in Japan and beyond. Attending the conference will connect you and your research with a longstanding international, intercultural, and interdisciplinary network.

# Participate in the Conference Online

As part of IAFOR's internationalising mission and commitment to accessibility, we are dedicated to providing platforms that make presentation and publishing possible for everyone. IAFOR's purpose-built online platform provides structured accountability and reporting for conference participation and attendance, both physical and virtual.

## What is an Online Presentation?

For many academics, Online Presentations are an excellent option, particularly for presenters who are unable to attend a conference in person, as they enable authors to participate in the conference and provide all the same publishing opportunities using online technologies.

IAFOR facilitates **Live-Stream Presentations** that allow real-time interaction between attendees during the online day of the conference. This creates opportunities for interaction, knowledge transfer, and feedback in the form of questions and critique. **Virtual Presentations** are pre-recorded and added to the **IAFOR Online Video Archive** before the conference begins, where they remain indefinitely.

## The Benefits of Online Presentation:

### Present

- ✓ Present to an international audience, and receive a certificate of presentation
- ✓ Engage with audience members through online Q&A sessions

### Participate

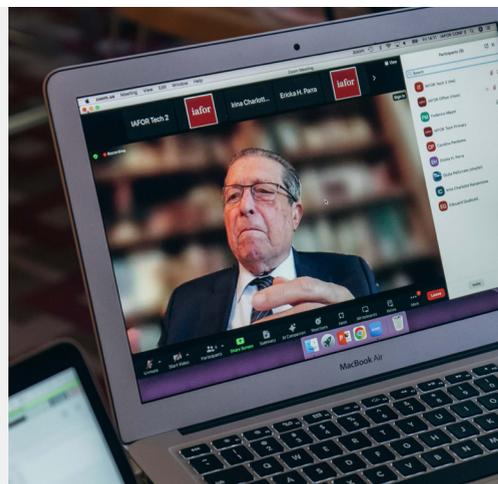
- ✓ Share, Comment, and Discuss your video presentation with peers from around the world
- ✓ Participate in plenary presentations and special sessions via live-stream

### Publish

- ✓ Publish your final paper in the Conference Proceedings, indexed with an ISSN
- ✓ Have your paper listed, indexed, and searchable online in the IAFOR Research Archive

## Online Presenters enjoy all of the following:

- Presentation published in IAFOR's Online Video Archive
- Final Paper published in the Conference Proceedings (optional)
- Listed in the Online Programme/Abstract Book
- Rigorous double-blind peer review acceptance standards
- Real-time engagement and interaction
- Access to plenary presentations via live-stream



# ACAH/ACCS/ACSS2025 Key Statistics

international  
intercultural  
interdisciplinary

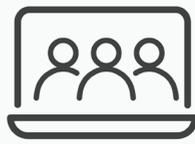
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Date of Creation: June 13, 2025

## 586 DELEGATES FROM 52 COUNTRIES



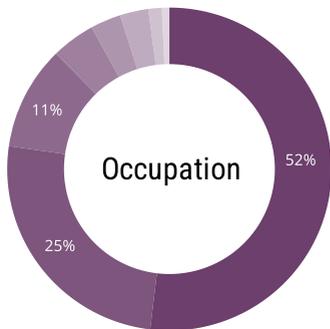
385  
Onsite  
Presentations



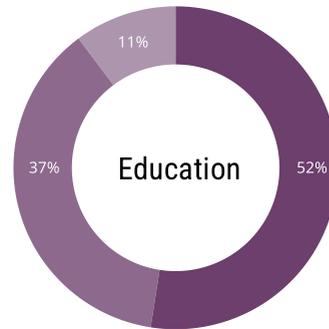
143  
Online  
Presentations



372  
Institutions and  
Organisations



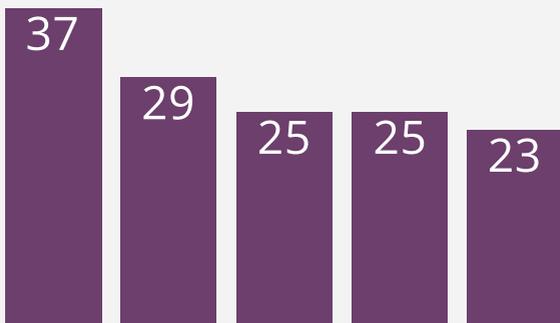
52% University Faculty  
25% Doctoral Student  
11% Postgraduate Student  
4% Other  
3% Public Sector/Practitioner  
3% Postdoctoral Fellow/Instructor  
1% Independent Scholar  
1% Private Sector



52% Doctoral Degree  
37% Masters Degree  
11% Bachelors Degree

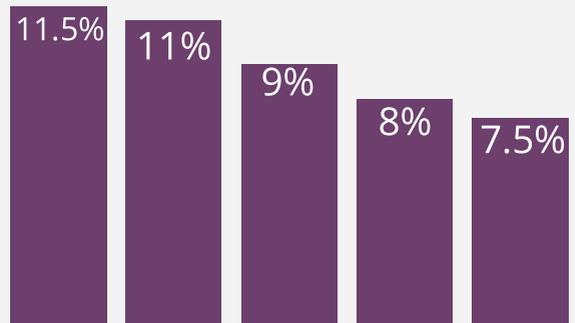
### Top Streams

1. Cultural Studies Politics (37)
2. Public Policy, Law & Criminology (29)
3. Literature/Literary Studies (25)
4. Teaching and Learning (25)
5. Education and Social Welfare (23)



### Top Countries by Delegate Attendance

1. Taiwan (11.5%)
2. Indonesia (11%)
3. Hong Kong (9%)
4. China (8%)
5. Thailand (7.5%)



528  
Total  
Presentations



232  
Hours of  
Content

### Multiple Authored vs. Single Authored Submissions





## IAFOR events are among the most **diverse** on Earth

Bridging divides of **nation**, **culture**, and **discipline**; informing and shaping ideas, research, practice, and policy in a comparative and contrastive space, IAFOR encourages the sharing and nurturing of diverse ideas.

Over the past year, more than 4,500 delegates from more than 120 countries have participated in an IAFOR event.



**4,500+**  
Delegates



**120+**  
Countries

Inspiring global collaborations, this diversity of peoples, nations, voices, cultures, and ideas is at the heart of what we do.

**It is our greatest strength. Join us.**



# ACAH/ACCS/ACSS2025 Conference Survey Results

international  
intercultural  
interdisciplinary

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Date of Creation: June 23, 2025

Your feedback plays a vital role in shaping the future of IAFOR conferences. Guided by the Japanese principle of 'kaizen' – a commitment to continuous, incremental improvement – we strive to enhance the delegate experience. The data presented in this report was collected from 107 respondents out of 586 delegates within 30 days of the conclusion of the event.



## Recommendation

84%

of delegates would recommend the IAFOR event to a friend or a colleague



## Returns

64%

of delegates have attended an IAFOR conference before

## Pre-Conference Communication & Support Rating

Overall Pre-Conference Support

5.0 ★★★★★

Registration Process

5.0 ★★★★★

Submission & Review System

5.0 ★★★★★



## Conference Satisfaction

89%

of delegates are satisfied or content with the event

*"This was a brilliantly organised conference. I was struck by the genuine appreciation shown to every participant. The keynotes were inspiring and set a warm, thoughtful tone from the start."*

## Conference Experience Rating

Overall Conference Experience

4.0 ★★★★★

Hospitality & Ambience

4.0 ★★★★★

Overall Networking Experience

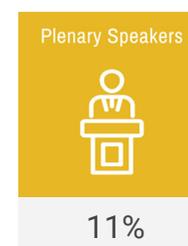
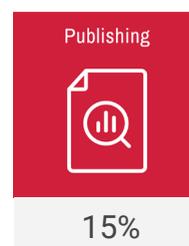
4.0 ★★★★★

Welcome Reception

5.0 ★★★★★

## Delegates' Motivation for Attending

\*Percentage based on 294 marked options from 107 responses



## Academic Quality Rating

Plenary Sessions & Featured Presentations

4.0 ★★★★★

Parallel Presentations

4.0 ★★★★★

Contents of the Conference

4.0 ★★★★★

international | intercultural | interdisciplinary

# IAFOR's Conference Themes for 2025-2029



IAFOR's conference programme provides an essential comparative and contrastive space for people to engage in multidisciplinary research across borders of nation, culture, discipline, and professions. We encourage mixed approaches and methodologies, combining theory and practice between and across the disciplines, and we look to harness the collective intelligence of our International Academic Forum in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time. Through the implementation of new formats in our conference programme over the last year, including Intelligence Briefings, Keynote Interviews, and The Forum, we gathered insights into what has been discussed at the theoretical and policy levels, identify the challenges, and the outlook for best practices in tackling global contemporary issues, which we have identified as the themes for 2025-2029. Our four themes can be seen as standalone themes, but they are also very much in conversation with each other. Themes may be seen as corollaries, complementary, or in opposition/juxtaposition with each other. The themes can be considered as widely as possible and are designed, in keeping with our mission, to encourage ideas across the disciplines.



## **1. Technology and Artificial Intelligence**

Examines the rapid pace of technological advancements, aided most particularly by those driven by artificial intelligence and its enormous and growing impact in all fields.

## **2. Humanity and Human Intelligence**

Asks us which principles, values, and attributes we wish to encourage, protect, and nurture and how we accomplish this. Technological advancements constantly ask us to reconsider and reimagine what it means to be human, including questions regarding communication, creativity, inclusivity, ethics, and care.



## **3. Global Citizenship and Education for Peace**

Consider our existence and coexistence with each other, within our communities and places of belonging, and with peoples of different countries, cultures, and backgrounds, as well as with our environment and our planet.

## **4. Leadership**

The continuing importance of leadership as a skill, particularly in light of difficult times, where recognising and encouraging best practices in leadership at all levels of society is critical.

## **Conference Themes in Theory, Policy, and Practice**

Many theories are born and initially tested in the academy, informing discussions in the public sphere that influence policy. IAFOR represents a unique combination of engagement emerging from the collaborative efforts of senior policymakers, administrators, and individuals working on the ground or in the field. IAFOR has made this rare combination of equitable theoretical and practical exchanges the standard for our organisation and represents a valuable model for how science should be done. We will develop conference and institutional programmes and publications around these themes as well as capacity building sessions for our conference programme over the next five years. It is our aim with the implementation of these themes, alongside the implementation and continuing refinement of new formats, to best harness the unique arena IAFOR and its network have built in regards to pressing issues of today and the future.

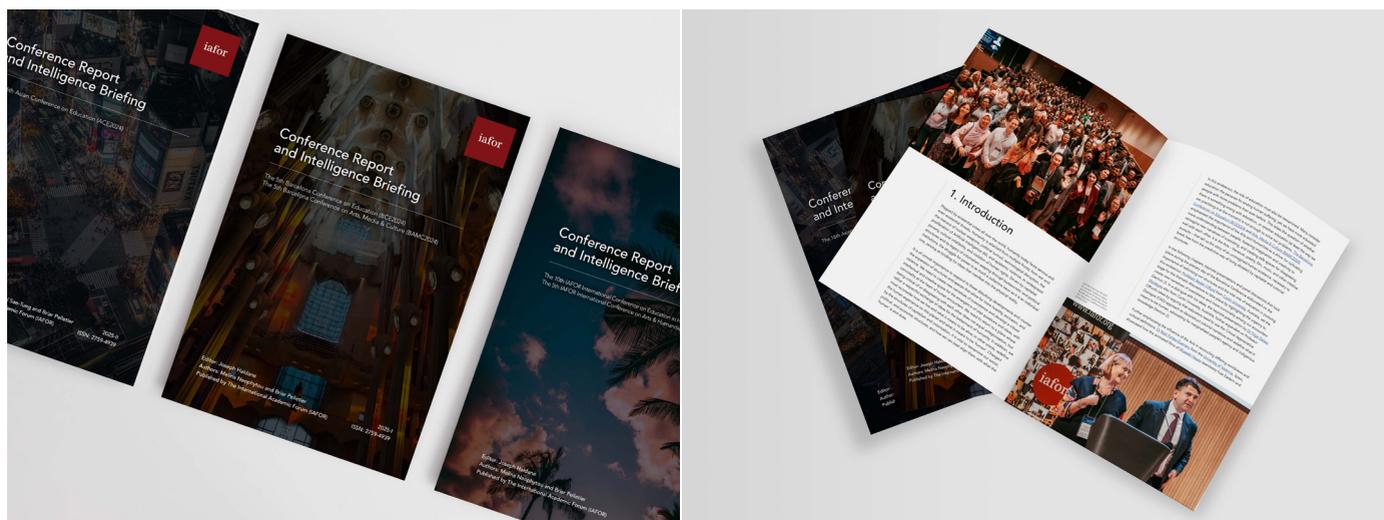


## Submission Streams

The Conference Programme Committee welcomes papers from a wide variety of interdisciplinary and theoretical perspectives, and submissions are organised into the streams and sub-streams listed below:

- Area Studies
- Architecture and Urban Studies/Design
- Cultural Studies
- Education / Pedagogy
- Environmental Studies
- Disability Studies
- Feminism / Black Feminism
- Gender Studies / Feminist Theory
- Geography
- Gerontology/ Ageing Studies
- Geology/Earth Sciences/Social Geography
- History
- Indigenous Studies – World Wide
- Journalism
- Legal Studies
- Linguistics, Language and Cultural Studies
- Literary Studies / All genres/ Theory
- Martial Studies/Martial Arts
- Media Studies
- Medical Studies / Nursing / Health and Well-being
- Musicology
- NGO policies and practice
- Politics/ Political Studies/ Political Sciences
- Postcolonial Studies
- Orientalism
- Political Philosophy
- Political Theory
- Race Theory
- The World Refugee Crisis
- Queer Theory
- Sciences
- Social Criticism
- Sociology
- Psychology
- Psychiatry
- United Nations
- Visual Culture
- Women's Studies

# IAFOR Conference Report and Intelligence Briefings



IAFOR produces conference reports that provide concise and coherent overviews of the ideas, conversations, and areas of research present. These include key themes and takeaways, referencing programme(s), speakers, and attendees, which are curated and archived for both those who attended the event and those who did not to stay abreast of many of the developments and insights provided by the conference and the collective intelligence of its participants. The reports are not meant to be, and indeed cannot be, exhaustive, and yet they aim to make a significant intellectual contribution drawn from the unique collaborative and contrastive space of IAFOR events.



Read the latest *Conference Report and Intelligence Briefing*  
[Conference Report and Intelligence Briefing \(ISSN: 2759-4939\)](#)

The conference report addresses the deepening global crises of social polarisation, climate challenges, and ethical erosion in public discourse. The keynote speakers and plenary panels explored how the neglect of values-based education and ethical reflection contributes to rising conflict and societal division. In a world increasingly shaped by reactive policies and commercialised education, the humanities—through literature, language, and the arts—were reaffirmed as essential tools for cultivating empathy, critical thinking, and mutual understanding.

Read more in the *ACAH/ACCS/ACSS2024 Conference Report for key insights and highlights.*



# Publishing Opportunities



## IAFOR Journals

IAFOR believes in “Open Access” publishing and, since 2009, has been committed to maintaining an online searchable research archive that offers free access to anyone, anywhere, where there is Internet access, regardless of institutional affiliation or scholarly rank. IAFOR publications are accessible on the website (Open Access) to researchers all over the world, completely free of charge and without delay or embargo. Authors and contributors are not required to pay charges of any sort towards the publication of IAFOR journals.

## Conference Proceedings

If your submission has been accepted and you presented the work at the conference, you are encouraged to submit a full paper via the online submission system for inclusion in the Conference Proceedings, which will be made available online.

IAFOR Conference Proceedings are Open Access research repositories that act as permanent records of the research generated by IAFOR conferences. Please note that works published in the Conference Proceedings cannot be considered for publication in IAFOR journals and Conference Proceedings are not peer-reviewed.



# ACCS2026 Programme Committee



**Umberto Ansaldo**

University of Hong Kong,  
Hong Kong



**Yasue Arimitsu**

Doshisha University, Japan



**Sue Ballyn**

University of Barcelona,  
Spain (Conference Co-chair)



**Keiko Bang**

Bang Singapore Pte Ltd., Singapore



**Thomas G. Endres**

University of Northern Colorado,  
United States



**Lorna Piatti-Farnell**

Auckland University of Technology,  
New Zealand



**Gerard Goggin**

Nanyang Technological University,  
Singapore



**Joseph Haldane**

IAFOR and Osaka University, Japan  
& University College London,  
United Kingdom



**Donald E. Hall**

Binghamton University,  
United States



**Baden Offord**

Centre for Human Rights Education,  
Curtin University, Australia & Cultural Studies  
Association of Australasia



**Seiko Yasumoto**

University of Sydney, Australia

## Networking & Cultural Events

### Welcome Reception

Join fellow delegates for a drink or two at the ACCS2026 Welcome Reception. This event provides a great opportunity for delegates to network and get to know each other. All registered presenters and audience members are welcome to attend.



### Conference Dinner

Celebrated for its blend of traditional and contemporary Japanese cuisine, Shunju Tameikesanno offers an experience where classic flavours meet modern culinary techniques. Join us for an evening of refined dining in Tokyo's cosmopolitan Midtown.

# The International Academic Forum (IAFOR)

International | Intercultural | Interdisciplinary



## Find us online



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admin@iafor.org

Where will your ideas  
take you next?

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