

Call for Papers

The Institute of Sociology and The Culture Club @ ELTE TáTK at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest invites early career researchers and students at the bachelors, masters and doctoral level to submit papers to the

4th Students' Letters Conference, 2026

Date of the Conference: 20 November 2026

Location: Faculty of Social Sciences, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary.

In-Person Conference. Registration is FREE of charge

Conference Theme:

“Living with Uncertainty: Social Science Perspectives on Risk”

As Beck (2000:80)¹ reminds us:

“The mainstream considers that the concept of society is applicable only to the nation-state. Accordingly, the sociological perspective or gaze (the sociology of inequality, of the family, of politics and so on) is geared to and organized in terms of the nation-state. On the whole, sociology observes, measures and comments on its phenomena, for example, poverty and unemployment within a national context rather than in the context of world society. Within this frame, the theme of globalization means that there are an increasing number of social processes that are indifferent to national boundaries. This is based on an understanding of globalization that decodes it as ‘time-space compression’. Accordingly, for empirical purposes globalization is operationalized as interconnectedness between state societies. All three criteria – indifference to national boundaries, space-time compression and an increasing network-like interconnectedness between national societies – are exemplified primarily by economic globalization.”

¹ Beck, U. (2000). The cosmopolitan perspective: Sociology of the second age of modernity. *The British Journal of Sociology*, 51(1), 79–105. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-4446.2000.00079.x>

We are living in a time when the ground beneath our societies is shifting politically, economically, and culturally at a pace that challenges our ability to make sense of it all. To make an active response to it, the Culture Club @ ELTE TaTK, along with the Institute of Sociology at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, is organizing the 4th Students' Letters Conference, 2026, titled "*Living with Uncertainty: Social Science Perspectives on Risk*," and invites you to explore with us how **risk** is embedded in the fabric of modern life.

In an era marked by uncertainties jointly shaped by technological transformation, climate change, international migration, and public health challenges, individual experiences, institutional responses, and societal developments are also undergoing unprecedented changes. Drawing on Ulrich Beck's influential concept of the "risk society," we comprehend risk not simply as an immediate threat but rather as an unintended byproduct of modernization processes. Risk, instead of existing only on the societal periphery, it becomes increasingly intertwined with everyday life.

The conference offers a space for critical interdisciplinary discussion, reflection, and exchange of ideas on how risk is understood, experienced, and managed across different spheres of social life. We would like to encourage early-career researchers to contribute their critical perspectives that challenge assumptions, build bridges across disciplines, and deepen understanding of how individuals and societies navigate an increasingly uncertain world.

Submissions from all disciplines are welcome including: **anthropology, humanities, social sciences, political science, public policy, social work, legal studies, international relations, psychology, philosophy, communication, journalism, management, business, and economic studies.**

This conference is an open invitation to assess our current reality and to explore the doors that could lead us closer to it. We welcome papers in **English Language** on themes such as:

- Understanding of Risks and Uncertainty
- Risk management, Policy and Governance
- Social Inequality, Vulnerability, and Justice in risk society
- Environmental Risks and Climate Change
- Legal and Institutional Responses to Risks and Crisis
- International Relations in an Age of Risk and Crisis
- Economic Risks and the Transformation of Future Work
- Technology, AI and Digital Risks
- Migration, Mobility and Human Security in a Risk Society
- Media, Communication, and Public Trust
- Public Health Risks (Health, Well-being, Social Resilience)
- Any other related theme

Selected papers will be published in a Special Issue of the International Journal of Social Science Research and Review.

Link to the Previous Issue: <https://ijssrr.com/journal/issue/view/72>

Important Conference Deadlines:

- **30th June 2026** - Publication of the Call for Papers
- **15th August 2026** - Abstract submission deadline (Approx. 500 words). **Only a total of 36 abstracts will be accepted for presentation.** Please use the following link to submit abstracts - <https://forms.gle/MZ5ksnytsz6yf6xH7>
- **31st August 2026** - Notification of abstract acceptance
- **30th September 2026** – Publication of Conference Agenda
- **16th October 2026** - Draft paper submission (Approx. 6000 words). Please follow the Author Guidelines (Appendix) to format and reference the paper.
- **31st October 2026** - Publication of the Book of Abstracts
- **20th November 2026 – Conference date** – presentations, discussion, and feedback from session chairs and participants. The end of the conference **Networking Dinner** will have to be paid for by the participants. The Organizers will contact participants individually about it at a later date.
- **15TH December 2026** – Decision on selection for special issue publication (A maximum of 6-7 papers will be selected for publication, with up to 10 papers submitted for peer review).

Post-Conference Publication Deadlines:

- **15th January 2027** - Final papers submission deadline (for those selected for peer review)
- **28th February 2027** - Review reports returned to authors (single-blind review: reviewers might know the author's identity, but authors will not know the reviewers' identities)
- **31st March 2027** - Revised submissions deadline
- **30th April 2027** - Final decision: acceptance or rejection
- **31st May 2027** – Copyediting and final editorial approval and submission to the publisher

Conference Organizing Committee:

1. Alina Mikheeva
2. Judit Gyöngyösi
3. Jyldyz Djakypbay kzyz
4. Jialei Wu
5. Reka Czelleng
6. Wissam Bensaadi
7. Maria Moldova
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✉ Submissions and inquiries: culture.club@tatk.elte.hu

Conference Website: <https://url-shortener.me/NMFG>



Annexure 1 – Author Guidelines

Title Page

Please make sure your title page contains the following information.

- **Title**

The title should be concise and informative. (Left Aligned). A subtitle can be added. (Left aligned)

- **Author information**

The name(s) of the author(s).

The affiliation(s) of the author(s): (department), institution, city, (state), zip code, country. Footnotes to the list of authors should be indicated by superscript lower-case italicized letters.

A clear indication and an active e-mail address of all authors.

If available, the 16-digit ORCID of the author(s); **use the following format:**

Shuaiqi Li (<https://orcid.org/0000-0006-3034-6315>) and Xiaoxu Han (<https://orcid.org/0000-0004-3016-6317>).

*** Please do not include address information.**

- **Abstract**

Please provide an abstract of max 500 words. The abstract should not contain any undefined abbreviations or unspecified references.

- **Keywords**

Please provide 4 to 6 keywords which can be used for indexing purposes.

Text

- **Text Formatting**

Use only standard fonts: 12-point Times New Roman for text, 1.5 line spacing and justified. Use tab stops or other commands for indents, not the space bar. Do not end a line by pressing Enter unless this is the end of a paragraph. Make full use of your text editor functions: creation of footnotes, enabling and disabling automatic hyphenation, list formatting, indents, etc. Do not use field functions. Use the table function, not spreadsheets, to make tables. Avoid creating tables by hand using multiple spaces or tabs and containing no cells. Use periods rather than commas in decimals (correct: 0.25, incorrect: 0,25). Dates should be rendered in the following format: January 27, 2014.

Save your file in docx format (Word 2007 or higher) or doc format (older Word versions).

- **Headings**

Please use no more than three levels of displayed headings:

FIRST-LEVEL HEADING (centered)

Second-Level Heading (centered)

Third-level heading. (Left Aligned)

- **Contractions and Abbreviations**

Avoid word contractions altogether and word abbreviations whenever possible. They should be defined at first mention and used consistently thereafter.

- **Footnotes**

Footnotes can be used to give additional information, which may include the citation of a reference included in the reference list. They should not consist solely of a reference citation, and they should never include the bibliographic details of a reference. They should also not contain any figures or tables. Number footnotes to the text consecutively; those to tables should be indicated by superscript lower-case letters (or asterisks for significance values and other statistical data). Always use footnotes instead of endnotes.

- **Statements and Declarations**

Include the following standard sections for Statements and Declarations. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS. Any information about any assistance received when carrying out the work and preparing the manuscript. FUNDING. Information on grants and other sources of financial support. COMPLIANCE WITH ETHICAL STANDARDS. CONFLICT OF INTEREST. Disclose possible conflicts of interest (competing interests) for each author. AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS. This section is optional and describes the contribution of each author to the study. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. Everything that should be stated but is not suitable for other sections.

Reference

- **Citation**

Use the APA style referencing throughout the text. If there is a quote the page number must be included. **Example of In-text citation;**

[In Orientalism Said (1978) builds on this idea of psycho-affective violence and comes up with *violence of essentialization*. This form of violence also has an impact on the native's psyche, however, instead of being rooted in actual physical violence, it is rooted in essentialisation. The native is native because certain essential characteristics can be attributed to it. Characteristics that differentiate it from **humans**. Said (1978; 91) says;

*“...the limitations of Orientalism are, the limitations that follow upon disregarding, **essentializing**, denuding the humanity of another culture, people, or geographical region...”*]

- **Reference list**

The list of references should only include works that are cited in the text and that have been published or accepted for publication. Personal communications and unpublished works should only be mentioned in the text. All references must be listed in alphabetical order. Every item in the list of references should contain a reference to one source. If available, please always include DOIs as full DOI links in your reference list (e.g. “<https://doi.org/abc>”).

- **Examples**

- Journal Article
Wacquant, L. (2004). Pointers on Pierre Bourdieu and democratic politics. *Constellations*, 11(1), 3-15. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1351-0487.2004.00358.x>
- Book

Weber, M. (1978). *Economy and society: An outline of interpretive sociology* (Vol. 1). Univ of California Press.

- Book chapter

Spivak, G. C. (2012). *Subaltern studies: Deconstructing historiography*. In *In other worlds* (pp. 270-304). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203441114>

Ethical Responsibilities of Authors

This journal is committed to upholding the integrity of the scientific record. Authors should refrain from misrepresenting research results which could damage the trust in the journal, the professionalism of scientific authorship, and ultimately the entire scientific endeavour. Maintaining integrity of the research and its presentation is helped by following the rules of good scientific practice, which include:

- The manuscript should not be submitted to more than one journal for simultaneous consideration.
- The submitted work should be original and should not have been published elsewhere in any form or language (partially or in full), unless the new work concerns an expansion of previous work. (Please provide transparency on the re-use of material to avoid the concerns about text-recycling or self-plagiarism).
- A single study should not be split up into several parts to increase the quantity of submissions and submitted to various journals or to one journal over time (i.e. salami-slicing/publishing).
- Concurrent or secondary publication is sometimes justifiable, provided certain conditions are met. Examples include: translations or a manuscript that is intended for a different group of readers.
- Results should be presented clearly, honestly, and without fabrication, falsification or inappropriate data manipulation (including image-based manipulation). Authors should adhere to discipline-specific rules for acquiring, selecting and processing data.
- No data, text, or theories by others are presented as if they were the author's own ('plagiarism'). Proper acknowledgements to other works must be given (this includes material that is closely copied (near verbatim), summarized and/or paraphrased), quotation marks (to indicate words taken from another source) are used for verbatim copying of material, and permissions secured for material that is copyrighted.

Important note: the Conference Committee will use Turnitin to screen for plagiarism.