

INFORMATION, MEDIUM & SOCIETY
TWENTY-FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON PUBLISHING STUDIES

BEYOND BORDERS

*Democratizing Knowledge
in a Polarized World*

NOVA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES
LISBON, PORTUGAL

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Information, Medium & Society: Twenty-fourth International Conference on Publishing Studies

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Welcome Letters



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Dear Conference Participants,

On behalf of the Information, Medium & Society – The Publishing Studies Research Network, I welcome you to the Information, Medium & Society: Twenty-fourth International Conference on Publishing Studies.

Founded in 2003, the Information, Medium & Society – The Publishing Studies Research Network is brought together by a shared interest in investigating publishing practices as distinctive modes of social knowledge production.

This truly international conference brings together a diverse group of scholars, practitioners, and thought leaders from around the world. We are proud to provide a platform for exchanging ideas, and presenting research, addressing some of the pressing issues of our time.

Our conference theme, "Beyond Borders: Democratizing Knowledge in a Polarized World," reflects our commitment to exploring new frontiers in research and practice. Over the next few days, In-Person or Online, you will have the opportunity to attend keynotes, panel discussions, and other session types led by our Emerging Scholars. We encourage you to take full advantage of these sessions to gain new insights, expand your professional network, and find inspiration for your own work.

We want to thank our keynote speakers Luís Duarte de Almeida, Paulo Ferreira de Castro, Teresa Araújo, Asun López-Varela, João Luís Lisboa, Zsuzsanna Varga, Local Chair Dr. Inês Thomas Almeida, presenters, and volunteers whose dedication and hard work have made this conference possible. We also thank our host partner NOVA School of Social Sciences and Humanities for their generous support.

We hope you find this conference to be an intellectually stimulating and rewarding experience. Your active participation is crucial to the success of this event, and we look forward to the lively discussions and valuable connections that will emerge over the next few days.

Warm regards,

Dr. Phillip Kalantzis Cope
Research Network Chair

Information, Medium & Society – The Publishing Studies Research Network



Information, Medium & Society: The Publishing Studies **Research Network**



Information, Medium & Society: The Publishing Studies Research Network was founded in 2003 with the inaugural International Conference on the Future of the Book. Since then, the Research Network has expanded its scope in two phases. The first was in 2009 when it became the Books, Publishing, and Libraries Research. In this iteration, the Research Network began to look beyond the book as the primary site of investigation. In 2019 the network underwent another change, to become Information, Medium & Society - The Publishing Studies Research Network.

Informational Foundations

A distinctive quality of our species being is that we are curious, investigative, and creative. We seek to explain the world around us. We produce knowledge and cultural artifacts. These desires, processes, and artifacts come to define the transmission of human culture through history. These artifacts embody a universal force of history that is always context-laden. The knowledge we as a species creates builds a catalog of who we are. And in this social practice of meaning-making, we discover genealogies of human agency.

At the same time, there is a meaningful association of the artifact to individual personhood. We call this authorship. The word “author” serves as an ontological cornerstone – “originator, creator, instigator”. In this informational foundation, we see our collective and individual purpose.

Information has modalities that are shaped too by historical forces. Our understanding of information was once dominated by language, or more specifically, written text. But we moved beyond to understand the informational qualities of still and moving image, sound. And now, in the era of artificial intelligence, derivative data, and meta-data. And adding multifactored complexity, layered into each information modality are styles and genres.

Here we have our first framing of what makes this domain of social practice a powerful site of considered investigation. At its foundation Publishing Studies is connected to the essential human acts – structuring and supporting the formulation of social knowledge, navigating the construction of common knowledge and cultural heritage, and the interweaving of these with individual and community subjectivities. At the existential center of this social practice is a conception of the public good in the pursuit of knowledge.

Mediums of Disruption

Mediums structure ways of presenting and receiving information. They shape what and how we know. “Mediums, more than direct personal experience, define people’s world picture” (Van der Weel, 2011, 1). As part of an industrial machine age, the printing press disrupted social and cultural realities. This machine came to define a long history in the production of social knowledge. A technology gave birth to a medium that allowed for mass communication of cultural artifacts on an unprecedented scale. It gave voice to many and provided cultural and intellectual sustenance to many more. It fundamentally transformed the information landscape from which individuals, cultures, and societies informed their decisions (Man, 2002).

In these print beginnings publishers established themselves as partners of content producers in the production of social knowledge. Content creators and publishing houses need each other, building collaborative relationships, particularly as review and editorial ethics add a defining dimension to this social practice. In this relationship the publisher becomes a “merchant of culture” (Thompson, 2011). In the age of print, publishing houses often became – or were left the responsibility – to fund the infrastructure of the medium. And the very materiality of the printed artifact demanded that the publisher to thread the needle of commercial viability and cultural value of the information resource.



Then comes another media disruption – a digital disruption. In a general mainstream social zeitgeist, a case is often made that this medium is “exceptional” (Kalantzis-Cope, 2018). For the social practice of publishing, digital communication tools and platforms allow for low-cost self-publishing – disrupting the relationship to the publisher to the content creator. They also give traditional publishers new tools for the production, distribution, and access of information – disrupting legacy processes and workflows. What makes this medium supposedly exceptional is ability to transcend the traditional gatekeepers and hierarchy-defining mediators of the print medium. But at the same time there is downward pressure on the creator, framed in a normative grammar of ‘autonomy,’ to negotiate commercial viability and personal value of the information resource in the context of the need to sustain a livelihood.

In these transitions and the coexistence of mediums – print and digital – there are deeper implications for consideration. These considerations include the changing nature of the artifact – “traditional” print vs digital (Thompson, 2005). Digital disruption affects various domains of publishing in different ways. For example, in academic publishing, we confront a new pollical economy with the Open Access movement, connecting the medium within a broader context of the “public good” (Willinsky, 2009). And, with the rise of social media platforms, the question arises of who and what a publisher is, and the responsibilities entailed with this title. At an epistemological level there is a medium-driven disruption of our species bringing to it a “digital order of knowledge” (Van der Weel, 2011).

In the unfolding history of disruptive media moments, I suggest a second framing of what makes this domain of social practice a powerful site of considered investigation. For this reason, Publishing Studies offers a pathway into a particular a media archeology (Huhtamo & Parikka, 2011). This can be approached in a comparative sense, outside-in – addressing the ways the social practices use existing mediums and mirror historical frames of development. Or it can be tackled inside-out – analyzing the ways the social practice produces its own mediums.

Publishing as a Social Practice

As a social activity, ‘publishing’ has defined principles and practices. Nonetheless, we must counter the claim that Publishing *Studies* has a “lack of theoretical and methodological rigor” as a consequence of its emphasis on the “vocational wing of publishing studies” (Murray, 2007 pg. 3). We need to turn this perceived weakness into a strength – the “general examination of the role of profession-orientated disciplines within universities; the effectiveness of the opportunities they are afforded for disciplinary development; and the extent to which they can invigorate professional practice through an enhanced awareness of a variety of methodologies for analyzing processes, enriching the interpretation of data gathered during practical work.” (Baverstock, Alison, Jackie, Steinitz, 2014 pg. 221). The case we want to make, and we walk with others in this journey, is that Publishing Studies is an ideal place to frame interdisciplinary and practice-focused domain of research, and that this powerfully connects to social impact.

This journal aims to be a forum for sustained investigation of the theory and practice of scholarly communication, information science, and trade, technical and scholarly publishing. It seeks perspectives that are both retrospective, documenting recent and historical experience, and prospective, examining trends in technologies and business processes that are destined to shape the social practices of publishing in the imminent future.



Social History and Impacts

Publishing is a socio-cultural phenomenon. It has its own social history – both of specific principles and practices and the societies that are shaped by its activity (Briggs et al, 2010). Both the internal professional and social-facing dimensions are steeped in cultural pre-suppositions that, if not critically approached, can calcify social practices into dangerously unchecked power.

The professional publishing industry forms kinds of communities. One layer in, Publishing “houses” produce and resource their own organizational cultures. These cultures, with their resonances and reflections across an industry, have direct effects on ‘what’ and ‘whose’ culture is produced – who is given a voice in the cultural landscape. From editorial acquisitions in trade publishing, to funding opportunities in academic publishing, gatekeeper effects can perpetuate and reinforce structural imbalances. These mirror mainstream social disparities and injustices. Such imbalances are manifest not only in content but also the workforce – who fills roles for production and design, marketing and distribution, or management and leadership.

An overarching force shaping cultures in and through publishing is the “market.” This demands critical reflection too. On the one hand, there are specific institutional logics and inertias that shape editorial decisions within “market logics” (Thornton, 2004). And, on the other, with the rise of digital platforms motivated by a data economy, the question of content accountability and the production of filter bubbles (Pariser, 2012).

The forces of the market also define boundaries of access – the cost of the published artifact in print and digital artifacts. We need to recognize and reflect on how institutions like libraries, who support and facilitate access, bear the brunt of these market forces. Then in a digital marketplace, we see new market logics shifting the role of authors as self-publishers, publishers and booksellers as they respond to online marketplaces, and even a “bookstore” – Amazon – that has becoming the defining force of digital commerce and web services. We also must consider the effects of consolidation in the industry that is now dominated by a few.

This leads us toward into some vexing social questions and a perhaps also an ambitious, proactive social agenda. Several examples: we need to reflect on the global structuring effects of copyright as an extension of western-European legal traditions. We need to ask, what is the role of publishing houses in the sustenance of alternative and autonomous communities? Consider, for instance: the history of feminist publishing houses and practices (Murray, 2004 (a) (b)); post-colonial publishing (Davis, 2005; Low 2011); or making a place of LGBTQ voices in publishing as a mode of praxis (Goltz & Zingsheim, 2015). These are only a few of a multitude of questions that reflect individual, communal and societal diversity.

Publishing Studies becomes a powerful site of considered investigation when we trace its connections to a broader social-institutional landscape. And when we do this, it becomes a metaphorical canary in the coal mine. From its informational basis to mediums of disruption we can critically consider the practice of social knowledge within publishing as a generative force within societies. Because publishing supports the production of formal artifacts out of shared experience and history, it's not just any domain of practice. In very grounded ways, publishing is a professional practice that is socially embedded, and for this reason itself is always in need of critical reflection and transformation. As much as it is of society, publishing is a pathway to transform societies themselves. In fact, we could argue, this is its *modus operandi* as a social practice since its beginnings.



Information Foundations

On the formation of social knowledge, navigating the construction of shared knowledge of the cultural and natural worlds, interweaving these with individual and community subjectivities.

- Genealogies of Human Agency – Understanding the Transmission of Human Culture Through History
- The Social Author – Originator, Creator, Instigator?
- From Oral to Textual Cultures – Our Informational Foundations
- Experiential Meaning Making – Still Image, Moving Images, and Sound
- Digital Dimensions – Artificial Intelligence, Derivative Data, and Meta-Data
- Whose Knowledge? – Public Good in the Pursuit of Knowledge

Mediums of Disruption

On the changing processes of textual production and distribution from past to present, and the impacts of digitization and the internet on the future of publishing.

- Disruptive Mediums – From a Machine Age, to the Digital Age, and Beyond
- Defining Collaborative Relations – The Creator and the Publisher
- Framing Information Landscapes – Production, Dissemination, Access
- Economic Realities – From the Printed Artifact to the Digital Object
- Open or Closed – Ethical Considerations for Content Creators and Publishers
- Media Archaeology – Historical Contexts for Mediums of Social Practice

Social History and Impacts

On the interdisciplinary and practice-focused nature of publishing as a domain of research, and measures of social impact.

- A Social History of Publishing – The Socio-Cultural Dimensions of the Social Practice
- From the Industry to a Publishing House – Macro and Micro Organizational Cultures
- Publishing as Praxis – Feminist, LGBTQ, Post-Colonial, and Anti-Capitalist Publishing
- Gatekeeper Effects – Whose Voices are Heard?
- Market Forces – Determining Content
- Filter Bubbles – Digital Content Spaces
- Boundaries of Access – Abilities and Disabilities
- Core and Periphery – Considering the Globalization of the Legal Traditions of Copyright



Phillip Kalantzis Cope, PhD

Chief Social Scientist, Common Ground Research Networks, USA



Phillip situates himself in a recursive dialogue between the grammars of media theory and the possibility of intervention that can be found in publishing.

His research stems from the traditions of critical theory and cultural studies. Through claims to the right to immaterial property, he investigates: political economies of information; the nature and forms of immaterial labor within digital networks; and the conceptual boundaries of the “material” and “immaterial” in critical and social theory. His writings have been published in numerous academic journals and books.

Phillip has lived around publishers most of his life. He has worked in new and traditional media settings, navigating contemporary print and online publishing transitions and modalities. In doing so, has managed content development, strategic planning in non-profit settings, and software development teams. He has worked at the intersection of scholarship and business in domains that require prudence, innovation, and a careful reading of contemporary social and economic transitions. Currently, Phillip is the Chief Social Scientist of Common Ground Research Networks(not-for-profit). He has also collaborated on publishing projects, acted as a consultant to research communities, and co-created digital platforms — New Criticals and Immaterial Books.

Phillip holds a BA in Public Policy from Monash University (Australia), a MA in International Relations from The Australian National University (Australia), and Ph.D. in Politics from The New School for Social Research (USA).

The Information, Medium & Society – The Publishing Studies Research Network is grateful for the foundational contributions, ongoing support, and continued service of our Advisory Board.

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Phillip Kalantzis Cope, PhD

Chief Social Scientist, Common Ground Research Networks, USA

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Information, Medium & Society:
**Twenty-fourth International
Conference on Publishing
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Founded in 2003, the **Information, Medium & Society – The Publishing Studies Research Network** is brought together by a common interest in established traditions while at the same time developing innovative practices and setting a renewed agenda for their future.

Past Events

- 2003 - Cairns, Australia
- 2004 - Beijing, China
- 2005 - Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, UK
- 2006 - Emerson College, Boston, Massachusetts, USA
- 2007 - Spanish National Research Council, Madrid, Spain
- 2008 - Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, USA
- 2009 - University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland
- 2010 - University of St. Gallen, Switzerland
- 2011 - University of Toronto, Canada
- 2012 - Universidad Abat Oliba CEU, Barcelona, Spain
- 2013 - Universität Regensburg Universitätsbibliothek, Regensburg, Germany
- 2014 - Simmons College, Boston, USA
- 2015 - UBC Robson Square, Vancouver, BC "The Event of the Book"
- 2017 - Imperial College London, London, UK
- 2018 - University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA
- 2019 - University of Granada, Granada, Spain
- 2020 - Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Venice, Italy (Virtual)
- 2021 - Universidad Complutense Madrid, Spain (Virtual)
- 2022 - University of the Aegean, Rhodes, Greece
- 2023 - Sorbonne Université, Paris, France
- 2024 - Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy
- 2025 - University of Hawaii, Hilo, USA



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Dra. Inês Thomas Almeida

Researcher, INET-md, NOVA School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Lisbon, Portugal



Inês Thomas Almeida holds a PhD in Historical Musicology from NOVA University of Lisbon (NOVA) and is a Visiting Assistant Professor at the same institution. In 2025, she was FLAD/Saab Visiting Professor at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, USA, and in 2026 she will be Visiting Professor at the Institute of Musicology of the University of Münster, Germany.

She is the creator and lecturer of the course Women Composers: A History of Composition in the Feminine from the Middle Ages to the 21st Century at the NOVA School of Social Sciences and Humanities. She is also a Visiting Professor in the PhD in Gender Studies (NOVA FCSH / ISCSP-UL / NOVA School of Law).

She is a researcher at the Institute of Ethnomusicology – Centre for Studies in Music and Dance (INET-md) at NOVA FCSH and Co-Coordinator of the Thematic Research Line in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Her research project FEMUS 18 – Spaces and Profiles of Women in Music in 18th-Century Portugal is funded by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) for 2024–2030. She is also Science Communication Coordinator of the COST Action Print Culture and Public Spheres in Central Europe (1500–1800), funded by the European Union for 2024–2028 and involving 203 researchers from 36 countries.

Her research areas in historical musicology focus on 18th-century music, travel accounts, women in music, early ballad traditions, Lusophone and postcolonial studies, and transnational cultural networks.

She was Associate Curator of the commemorative exhibition dedicated to Madalena de Azeredo Perdigão at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and co-author, with Rui Vieira Nery, of the book *Let's Take Risks: Selected Texts by Madalena de Azeredo Perdigão* (Tinta-da-China, 2023).

She has published widely in specialized journals and is a regular speaker at national and international conferences. She has been invited to give lectures at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and at Harvard, Yale, Brown, Madrid, and Vienna universities.

She was included by CIG – Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality in the Women for Equality list, which recognizes women in science, politics, culture, and activism.



Luís Duarte de Almeida

Professor of Jurisprudence, Nova School of Law, NOVA University of Lisbon, Portugal;
Honorary Professional Fellow, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom



"Law is a Foreign Language (that You'll Likely Never Learn)"

Luís Duarte de Almeida is Professor of Jurisprudence (Full Professor) at NOVA University in Lisbon; Researcher at CEDIS — R&D Centre on Law and Society; and Honorary Professorial Fellow at the University of Edinburgh. He was educated at the University of Lisbon (BA, 1999; Masters, 2003) and Oxford University (DPhil, 2011). He specialises in legal theory and philosophy and legal argumentation and writes and teaches extensively in these fields. Before joining NOVA University in 2022, he was (since 2017) Professor of Jurisprudence (Full Professor), Reader (2015-2017), and Chancellor's Fellow (2012-2015) at the University of Edinburgh. Before that, he was Junior Research Fellow at Churchill College, Cambridge, and Research Fellow at the University of Girona. He was a Fernand Braudel Senior Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy (2016/17); he is (since 2017) Visiting Professor at KU Leuven University, Belgium; and was appointed as a Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, Germany, for 2025/26.

July 1, 2:30 PM (Portugal Time)

Paulo Ferreira de Castro

Associate Professor of Musicology, CESEM, NOVA University of Lisbon, Portugal



"On Belonging: What I Learned from Music"

Paulo Ferreira de Castro studied musicology in Strasbourg and London, obtaining his PhD from Royal Holloway, University of London. He is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Musicology at NOVA FCSH in Lisbon. Between 1992 and 2000, he served as Director at the Teatro Nacional de São Carlos (Lisbon Opera House). He was the inaugural President of the Portuguese Society for Music Research and President of CESEM (Centre for Music Studies at NOVA FCSH). Since 2022, he has been a member of the Directorium of the International Musicological Society. He has published music criticism and studies on 18th- to 21st-century music in several languages and has delivered numerous lectures and scholarly papers in Portugal, other European countries, and the USA, Canada, and Brazil. Among his recent publications is the co-edited volume *Intertextuality in Music: Dialogic Composition* (Routledge).

July 2, 9:00 AM (Portugal Time)



Zsuzsanna Varga

Senior Lecturer, Central and East European Studies, Glasgow University



"Travel Writing and Social Change: Creating a Community of Readers"

Zsuzsanna Varga studied English, Hungarian and Portuguese studies at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest and took her PhD in English literature at the University of Edinburgh. Since 2008, she has taught Central European history and cultural studies at the University of Glasgow. She also works as the curator of the Hungarian collection at the Taylorian Library, Oxford. Her research interests include Central European publishing history and travel writing studies. Her recent work has included *Worlds of Hungarian Writing* (2017), *Popular Cinemas in East Central Europe* (2017) and *Reflections in the Library: Selected Literary Essays of Antal Szerb* (2017). She has also published and lectured on the work of the Nobel Prize-winning author László Krasznahorkai (2025). In 2026, she acted as Visiting Professor at Sapienza University, Rome.

July 3, 9:00 AM (Portugal Time)

Teresa Araújo

Full Professor at NOVA University Lisbon and scientific coordinator of the Institute for the Study of Literature and Tradition (IELT)



Teresa Araújo is Professor at the School of Social Sciences and Humanities of the NOVA University of Lisbon, where she received her PhD in Romance Literatures (2000). She has also taught several courses at Lumière-Lyon 2, Carlos III, Agostinho Neto, Salamanca and Oviedo universities, among others. She dedicates her teaching and research activity to Portuguese literature of the 17th and 18th centuries, but focuses mostly on the study of the ancient and modern romanceiro in Portugal from a pan-Hispanic perspective, as well as of theatre and fables. Among her most recent publications, there are "Silvestre ou jogo da (in)subordinação entre cinema & etnografia" (BLO, 2022) and the introductory study to the *Floresta de varios romances sacados de las historias antiguas de los hechos famosos de los doze Pares de Francia*. En Valencia, 1642 (México, 2019). From her experience in scientific coordination, it currently stands out the coordination of the Research Project supported by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and the Foundation for Science and Technology *Literary revisions: the creative application of ancient ballads (15th-18th centuries)*. [Scientific outputs]

July 3, 2:15 PM (Portugal Time)



Asun López-Varela

Associate Professor of Philology, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain (in Spanish)



La simbiosfera: comunidades sostenibles y el horizonte ético de los videojuegos (in Spanish)

Asunción López-Varela Azcárate is an Associate Professor in the Department of English Studies at the Complutense University of Madrid and a member of the Editorial Board of the Humanities and Social Sciences journal at Springer Nature. In 2007 she created the research program Studies on Intermediality and Intercultural Mediation SIIM which she still coordinates. The program has received funding from national and international sources. López-Varela has been awarded various grants, including a Fulbright Visiting Scholarship at Harvard University and a Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowship. A proactive member of the profession, López-Varela has been Vice-Chair at Marie Skłodowska-Curie European Postdoctoral Fellowships, Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC) and is a member of Marie Curie Alumni Association MCAA. She was also President of the European Society of Comparative Literature and is Research Chair of the New Directions in the Humanities Network since its creation. She has been founding editor of the journals of the network and continues to be chief editor of The International Journal of Literary Humanities (H-Index: 3- SCImago Journal Rank Q2; SJR 0.11) as well as its Spanish counterpart Revista Internacional de Humanidades.

July 2, 2:00 PM (Portugal Time)

João Luís Lisboa

Full Professor, Department of History, NOVA University Lisbon, Portugal



"Publishing as a fluid practice"

João Luís Lisboa is Full Professor in the Department of History at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities of NOVA University Lisbon (NOVA FCSH). He received his PhD in History and Civilization from the European University Institute (Florence) in 1998 with the dissertation *Mots (dits) écrits. Formes et valeurs de la diffusion des idées au XVIIIe siècle au Portugal*.

His research focuses on the history of books and reading, particularly their material and formal dimensions, as well as on European networks of information circulation and their agents, with a special emphasis on early modern Europe. He has participated in several national and international research projects related to these topics.

He is currently a researcher and Head of the Board of the CHAM – Centre for the Humanities, a research centre of NOVA FCSH and the University of the Azores.

July 1, 9:30 AM (Portugal Time)



Each year, a small number of **Emerging Scholar Awards** are given to outstanding early-career scholars or graduate students. Here are our 2026 Emerging Scholar Award Winners.

Pratiksha Ashok
Tilburg University,
Netherlands



Charles Chang
Duke Kunshan University,
China





Pre-Conference Tour: Lisbon Hilltop Castle & Old Town Walking Tour

Our journey begins at the top of the hill, where we will step inside the historic castle and soak in breathtaking panoramic views over the inner bay of the Tagus. From there, we will descend through the charming old town, passing by the magnificent Medieval Cathedral, before ending in Lisbon's grand riverside square, the iconic 'Terreiro do Paço'.

Date: Tuesday, June 30

Time: 5:00 PM

Meeting point: Castelo de São Jorge ([Maps](#))

Cost: \$40USD

What's included:

- Castle ticket/entrance
- Transmission system
- Professional guide delivering the tour in English and Spanish

This tour is developed and guided by João Paulo Oliveira e Costa, a distinguished historian and full professor at NOVA FCSH in Lisbon. He holds the UNESCO Chair in Maritime Cultural Heritage and is a leading specialist in the History of Portuguese Expansion, Medieval and Early Modern History. João Paulo has published numerous academic works on Portuguese history and has been invited to lecture at universities across the world. His expertise brings depth and context to every step of this experience, making it both educational and unforgettable.

Conference Dinner

Located in a majestic XVII-century palace, Casa do Alentejo is much more than a restaurant: it is a journey through the history and tradition of the Alentejo. Formerly an aristocratic palace and later the elegant Majestic Club, this building combines architectural beauty with the warmth of Alentejo culture.

Today, it is a living space that celebrates the roots and spirit of a unique region, hosting cultural events, exhibitions, recitals, and, of course, authentic cuisine that pays tribute to the flavors of southern Portugal.

Menu

Dinner will begin with a traditional Portuguese "couvert" (bread, olives, regional cheese, and cold cuts). From the selected menu, guests will enjoy:

Starter: Carrot and coriander soup

Main Course, Meat/Fish option:

- Salmon fillets with mustard sauce
- Chicken leg with Arabian rice

Main Course, Vegetarian option:

- Tofu and vegetable curry
- "À Brás"-style vegetables

Please select your preferred option (meat/fish or vegetarian) when making your reservation.

The meal will conclude with dessert. Wine and non-alcoholic beverages are included.

Dinner Details

Date: Thursday, July 2, 2026

Time: 20:00 (8:00 PM)

Location: R. das Portas de Santo Antão 58, 1150-268

Price: \$80 USD



Online Welcome and Training Session

Join other delegates for a pre-conference welcome reception and training session. This special event will walk you through the CGScholar Event Mircosite so you have a rich online experience by learning how to comment and participate online. It will also teach delegates how to update their profile and Presenter Pages in order to add digital media: video, sound, other files. This will be held "live" via Zoom.

1 JULY 2026 - 16:00 PM (Portugal Time Zone) / 10:00AM (Central Standard Time USA)

Online Talking Circle

Talking Circles are a distinctive feature of our in-person conference, and this year we are also taking them online. Talking Circles offer an opportunity to meet other delegates face-to-face, and engage in extended discussion about the issues and concerns they feel are of utmost importance to that segment of the Research Network. Participation is open, encouraged, and supported.

3 July 2026 - 16:00 PM (Portugal Time Zone) / 10:00AM (Central Standard Time USA)

Conference Closing Reception

International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities will be hosting a Closing Reception at the Colégio Almada Negreiros, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, directly following the Conference Closing and Award Ceremony. Join other delegates and plenary speakers to enjoy drinks and light hors d'oeuvres.

Date: 3 July 2026

Time: Directly following the last session of the day

Cost: Free to all conference delegates

Location: Colégio Almada Negreiros, Universidade Nova de Lisboa



Common Ground Research Networks



Founded in 1984, Common Ground is committed to building new kinds of knowledge communities, innovative in their media, and forward-thinking in their messages. Heritage knowledge systems are characterized by vertical separations--of discipline, professional association, institution, and country. Common Ground Research Networks takes some of the pivotal challenges of our time and curates research networks that cut horizontally across legacy knowledge structures. Sustainability, diversity, learning, the future of humanities, the nature of interdisciplinarity, the place of the arts in society, technology's connections with knowledge--these are deeply important questions of our time that require interdisciplinary thinking, global conversations, and cross-institutional intellectual collaborations.

Common Ground Research Networks are meeting places for people, ideas, and dialogue. However, the strength of ideas does not come from finding common denominators. Rather, the power and resilience of these ideas is that they are presented and tested in a shared space where differences can meet and safely connect--differences of perspective, experience, knowledge base, methodology, geographical or cultural origins, and institutional affiliation. These are the kinds of vigorous and sympathetic academic milieus in which the most productive deliberations about the future can be held. We strive to create places of intellectual interaction and imagination that our future deserves.

MEMBERS OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS



Common Ground Research Networks is not-for-profit corporation registered in the State of Illinois, USA, organized and operated pursuant to the General Not For Profit Corporation Act of 1986, 805 ILCS 105/101.01, et seq., (the "Act") or the corresponding section of any future Act.

www.cgnetworks.org



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The Common Ground Media Lab is the research and technology arm of Common Ground Research Networks. Common Ground Research Networks has been researching knowledge ecologies and building scholarly communication technologies since 1984.

Since 2009, we have had the fortune of being based in the University of Illinois Research Park while building our latest platform – CGScholar. This is a suite of apps based on the theoretical work of world-renowned scholars from the College of Education and Department of Computer Science at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. CGScholar has been built with the support of funding from the US Department of Education, Illinois Ventures, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The CGScholar platform is being used today by knowledge workers as diverse as: faculty in universities to deliver e-learning experiences; innovative schools wishing to challenge the ways learning and assessment have traditionally worked; and government and non-government organizations connecting local knowledge and experience to wider policy objectives and measurable outcomes. Each of these use cases illustrates the differing of knowledge that CGScholar serves while also opening spaces for new and emerging voices in the world of scholarly communication.

We aim to synthesize these use cases to build a platform that can become a trusted marketplace for knowledge work, one that rigorously democratizes the process of knowledge-making, rewards participants, and offers a secure basis for the sustainable creation and distribution of digital knowledge artifacts.

Our premise has been that media platforms—pre-digital and now also digital—have often not been designed to structure and facilitate a rigorous, democratic, and a sustainable knowledge economy. The Common Ground Media Lab seeks to leverage our own platform – CGScholar – to explore alternatives based on extended dialogue, reflexive feedback, and formal knowledge ontologies. We are developing AI-informed measures of knowledge artifacts, knowledge actors, and digital knowledge communities. We aim to build a trusted marketplace for knowledge work, that rewards participants and sustains knowledge production.

With 27,000 published works and 200,000 users, we have come a long way since our first web app twenty years ago. But we still only see this as the beginning.

As a not-for-profit, we are fundamentally guided by mission: to support the building of better societies and informed citizenries through rigorous and inclusive social knowledge practices, offering in-person and online scholarly communication spaces

Supporters & Partners

As they say, “it takes a village.” We are thankful for the generous support of:



And to our Research Network members!

www.cgnetworks.org/medialab



United Nations
Climate Change

**CLIMATE
NEUTRAL NOW**

Climate change is one of the most pressing problems facing our world today. It is in the interests of everyone that we engage in systemic change that averts climate catastrophe. At Common Ground Research Networks, we are committed to playing our part as an agent of transformation, promoting awareness, and making every attempt to lead by example. Our Climate Change: Impacts and Responses Research Network has been a forum for sharing critical findings and engaging scientific, theoretical, and practical issues that are raised by the realities of climate change. We've been a part of global policy debates as official observers at COP26 in Glasgow. And we are signatories of the United Nations Sustainability Publishers Compact and the United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative.

Measuring

In 2022 we start the process of tracking and measuring emissions for all aspects of what we do. The aim is to build a comprehensive picture of our baselines to identify areas where emissions can be reduced and construct a long-term plan of action based on the GHG Emissions Calculation Tool and standard established by the United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative.

Reducing

At the same time, we are not waiting to act. Here are some of the "low hanging fruit" initiatives we are moving on immediately: all conference programs from print to electronic-only; removing single-use cups and offering reusable bottles at all our conferences; working closely with all vendors, suppliers, and distributors on how we can work together to reduce waste; offering robust online options as a pathway to minimize travel. And this is only a small sample of what we'll be doing in the short term.

Contributing

As we work towards establishing and setting net-zero targets by 2050, as enshrined in the Paris Agreement and United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative, and to make further inroads in mitigating our impacts today, we are participating in the United Nations Carbon Offset program. As we see climate change as having broad social, economic, and political consequences, we are investing in the following projects.

- Fiji Nadarivatu Hydropower Project
- DelAgua Public Health Program in Eastern Africa
- Jangi Wind Farm in Gujarat

Long Term Goals

We're committing to long-term science-based net-zero targets for our operations – and we believe we can do this much sooner than 2050. We'll be reporting annually via The Climate Neutral Now reporting mechanism to transparently communicate how we are meeting our commitments to climate action.

www.cgnetworks.org/about/climate-pledge