



I.A.K.E.
ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ ΑΝΘΡΩΠΙΣΤΙΚΩΝ
ΚΑΙ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΩΝ ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΩΝ
INSTITUTE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



1st Announcement

12TH INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

DIASPORA AND THE GLOBAL SYSTEM

Identities, Policies,
Bridges of Culture
and Education

Heraklion - Crete
May 5-10, 2026



www.iake.gr
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IMPORTANT DATES

- **Abstract submission opening: October 27, 2025**
- **Abstract submission deadline: January 12, 2026**
- **Notification of acceptance of abstracts & participation:
by February 2, 2026**
- **Competition entries deadline: March 9, 2026**
- **Full paper submission deadline: April 20, 2026**
- **Conducting Conference proceedings:
Online Presentations and Workshops: May 5-8, 2026
Onsite Presentations and Workshops: May 8-10, 2026**

The Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, following the successful completion of eleven international scientific conferences, is pleased to announce to its members, associates, friends, the scientific and educational community, and anyone else who might be interested that it's planning to organize the 12th International Scientific Conference, with the main theme:

THE DIASPORA AND THE GLOBAL SYSTEM
Identities, Policies, Bridges of Culture and Education



A few decades ago, interest in diasporas and their political, social, and cultural dimensions focused on certain very specific "classic" cases, such as the Greek, Jewish, and Armenian diasporas. Today, the study of diaspora has led to the recognition that diaspora is one of the most multifaceted and multidimensional concepts of the modern era. It is linked not only to population movements and settlement in new countries, but also to deeper processes of reflection, cultural interaction, identity reconstruction, and participation in interconnected global networks. Diaspora communities are a characteristic phenomenon of the global system: they develop, interact, assert themselves, create culture and political significance, bridging homelands, national narratives, and contemporary societies.

Many typologies of diaspora have been developed, based mainly on the initial causes that led to the diasporic phenomenon. Among other things, a typology of diasporas has been proposed based on general categories such as: "victims" (Jews and Armenians), "trade" (Chinese and Lebanese), "imperial" (British) and "labor" (Asians but also countries in Europe, such as Greece), etc. Others have identified diasporas created by conflicts and expressed as refugee diasporas (e.g., Tamils and Syrians). As has been pointed out, these typologies, although useful, present an oversimplified picture because they suggest that diasporas exist as homogeneous groups and ignore the fact that many forms of diaspora arise from a mixture of migration types and migration motives (Adamson, 2016).

Diaspora networks connecting populations in different nation-states can be used to facilitate the cross-border transfer of resources, skills, ideas, and influence. Positioning themselves in such advantageous ways gives them political power. At the same time, the basic characteristics of diaspora politics—of populations living in one country and engaging internationally with the politics of another—are certainly not entirely new.



In the United States in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, many immigrants maintained close ties to their countries of origin, sending remittances or participating in political movements in their homeland.

At the same time, the political and organizational expression of diasporas is a central issue. Diaspora communities are gaining a voice and influence not only in the public discourse of their host countries but also in the foreign policy of their countries of origin, shaping new forms of participation, activism, and international networks of influence (Shain & Barth, 2003). Education, new media, the arts, and cultural production are simultaneously becoming tools for social integration and spaces for the preservation or recreation of cultural roots (Kooy & Freitas, 2007).

The era of digital dispersion further reshapes these dynamics. Online presence, social media, and forms of networking are redefining the concept of community, transforming it into a global digital environment with strong political and cultural dimensions (see, for example, Kumar, 2018). "Digital diasporas" are not just places of communication, but are becoming the new "bridges of culture" and "platforms for political action."





Key Areas for Reflection

The 12th IAKE Conference draws inspiration from four distinct but interrelated thematic axes:

- **Identities and Hybridity:** The diaspora experience is characterized by the alternation and interpenetration of identities. The concepts of belonging, cultural roots, and reflective self-understanding constitute the identity of diasporic subjects, not as a static reality, but as a process of constant transformation.
- **Politics and Participation:** Diasporas now constitute distinct political entities. Through participation in political processes in their host countries, through actions to defend rights and shape policies for their country of origin, they create a space of active citizenship that transcends national borders.
- **Diaspora and Global Politics:** The political and organizational expression of diasporas and the ways in which they connect with their countries of origin and with third countries shape spheres of influence and tactical moves that interact with the foreign policy of the states concerned. As diaspora communities gain public voice and forms of influence in the domestic and foreign policy of host countries and countries of origin, they become involved in existing institutional forms of participation, activism, and international networks of influence, or are forming new ones.
- **Culture and Creation:** The cultural production of diaspora communities constitutes a space for creative synthesis. Through art, literature, music, cinema, and digital storytelling, diasporas form cultural hybrids, proposing new aesthetic and ideological frameworks.



- **Education and Training:** Education is perhaps the most crucial mechanism for integration, preservation of cultural identity, and cultivation of intercultural awareness. Schools, universities, lifelong learning and cultural exchange programs act as networks that build bridges between different linguistic, ethnic, and religious traditions. Educational policy for diasporas cannot be neutral: it must serve the values of inclusion, justice, and democracy.

In this context, approaches that incorporate the concepts of multilingual education, critical pedagogy, and citizenship as an educational goal, so that diasporic identities can find space for expression and development both within educational institutions and in the social sphere. Education thus emerges not only as a field for understanding diversity, but also as a basic tool for coexistence, peaceful cohabitation, and the creative interweaving of cultures.

The main objective of the 12th International Conference of the I.A.K.E. is to critically examine the multiple manifestations of the phenomenon of diaspora within the context of the global system. The Conference seeks to highlight diasporic identities, political actions, and cultural bridges created in conditions of transnational interaction, while also focusing on the role of education and training as key pillars of social cohesion, political participation, and cultural inclusion. The goal is to cultivate a fruitful dialogue for the enhancement of scientific knowledge, cultural understanding, and active citizenship in contemporary democratic societies.

As every year, the I.A.K.E. will honor a prominent figure of Hellenism during the opening Ceremonial Session, which this year will take place on May 8, 2026.



TOPICS OF THE 12TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Starting from the central theme, the Conference focuses on the following topics:

A. Diaspora, Collective Identities and the Global System

- A1. Sociology of Diaspora, Identities and Cultural Negotiation
- A2. Ethnography and Experiential Approaches to Migration/Refugee Experiences
- A3. Contemporary Geopolitical Dynamics, Cultural Diplomacy, and Tourism
- A4. The Concepts of "Homeland," "Belonging," and Cultural Heritage
- A5. Social Movements, Rights, Transnational Action and the Role of Civil Society
- A6. The Role of Art in Identity Reconstruction
- A7. Participatory Art and Cultural Transformation
- A8. Integration Policies, Social Networks, and Resilience
- A9. Economic Transformation and Development Strategies

B. Social Education, Education and Culture

- B1. Pedagogical, Educational, and Didactic Theory and Practice
- B2. Policies, Strategies, and Orientations for Education
- B3. Didactic Methodology and Curricula
- B4. History of Education
- B5. Teaching Proposals, Teaching Scenarios
- B6. Assessment Approaches in Education
- B7. Educational Leadership, Adaptability and Development
- B8. Educational Approaches for the Formation of Active Citizens
- B9. Creative Skills and Multiliteracies
- B10 Development of 21st-Century Skills
- B11. Learning Communities and Participatory Education
- B12. School and Local Community Cooperation Programs
- B13. Creative Pedagogy and Cultural Identity
- B14. Educational Initiatives for Sustainable Development and Sustainability



TOPICS OF THE 12TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

- B15. Social and Emotional Learning in School Communities
- B16. European, Innovative Programs (Erasmus, eTwinning, etc.)
- B17. Climate Awareness
- B18. Religion and Culture
- B19. Career Guidance - Social Entrepreneurship
- B20. Special Education, Social Inclusion and Integration
- B.21 Intercultural Education

C. Digital Technologies and Creative Initiatives

- C1. Online Digital Educational Platforms
- C2. Digital Cultural Heritage
- C3. Technological Innovation and Participatory Governance
- C4. Ethics and Deontology in the Digital Space
- C5. Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Education
- C6. Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Communities





THE FOLLOWING MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE

- ✓ Researchers, scientists, scholars
- ✓ Education officials and teachers of all levels working in public or private education, whether active or retired
- ✓ University Professors
- ✓ Doctoral candidates, doctors, postdoctoral researchers
- ✓ Executives and employees in the fields of culture, economics, politics, and local government
- ✓ Adult educators
- ✓ Undergraduate and graduate students
- ✓ Anyone interested in contributing fruitful ideas on the central theme and topics of the Conference.

TYPE OF WORK - ACTIVITIES

The following may be presented at the Conference:

- Presentations, with the speakers physically present
- Remote presentations via an online teleconferencing application
- Posted digital announcements (digital presentations or video presentations)
- Workshops with physical presence
- Remote laboratories

The proceedings of the conference will include the full texts of all papers approved by the reviewers, regardless of their presentation format. Detailed instructions on the structure and format of papers and presentations will be posted on the website:

www.iake.gr

In addition, the Conference proceedings include:

- **Presentations by invited expert speakers**
- **Themed banquets**
- **Competition for the best scientific papers and best teaching scenarios**
- **Parallel events**

Those who wish to participate in the conference as speakers - with a presentation, poster or workshop - must send a summary of their work using the special form available on the website www.iake.gr, where you will also find the necessary instructions. The abstract should be up to 300 words long and include the authors' details, the type of participation, and the theme of the work. No keywords are required when submitting the abstract.



Each paper may be submitted by one to four presenters. Each presenter may participate in a maximum of two papers, as first, second, third, or fourth presenter.

Acceptance or rejection of the abstract will be announced by February 2, 2026.

PARTICIPATION COST

- The cost of participation in the Conference for each speaker or co-speaker is €50, which covers: Conference folder, speaker certificate, digital book of abstracts, digital conference proceedings, and coffee/snacks during breaks. Each speaker may participate in up to two papers at this cost.
- The participation fee for delegates without a presentation is €10, which covers: Conference folder, digital book of abstracts, certificate of attendance, and coffee/snacks during breaks.
- Attending the conference is free of charge.

Speakers will pay the participation fee after their abstract has been approved, within the dates that will be announced to them.

COMPETITION - AWARD CEREMONY

The I.A.K.E. will award prizes for the best scientific papers, per thematic area of the Conference, in the following categories:

- A. Best scientific paper
- B. Best teaching proposal

With the aim of supporting young researchers and scientists, additional awards will be given to the most noteworthy projects submitted by: a) undergraduate students, b) graduate students, c) doctoral candidates, d) scientists-researchers who present an original scientific paper or teaching proposal.

The results of the Competition will be determined by the Scientific Committee based on the overall results of the anonymous evaluation of the final papers. The evaluation process for the final papers follows the evaluation of the abstracts. The full texts of the papers are evaluated based on their qualitative characteristics according to the following criteria: a) originality, b) methodology, c) structure, d) content, e) documentation.

Only works submitted by March 9, 2026, will be eligible for the award.

The awards and distinctions will be presented at the closing ceremony of the Conference. Instructions for preparing the full texts of the final papers are available on our website: www.iake.gr



PARALLEL EVENTS

As part of the conference, a series of parallel activities and events will be held, with the aim of promoting networking, entertainment, and interaction among conference participants and their companions.

- 1st parallel event: Guided tour of historical and archaeological monuments in the area.
- 2nd parallel event: Dinner overlooking the Cretan Sea, on the second day of the conference.
- 3rd parallel event: An entertaining evening to get acquainted with the music and cuisine of Crete, on the third day of the conference.
- 4th parallel event: Day trip to an archaeological and naturalistic destination in Crete on the fourth day of the conference.

More information about the Conference, accommodation in the city, etc. can be found on the I.A.K.E. website: www.iake.gr

Sincerely,

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