

Research Network 07, Sociology of Culture, European Sociological Association

Call for papers for 10th mid-term conference

Cultural Vulnerabilities and Planetary Problems:

Creating New Sociological Studies of Culture Between Fragility and Fortitude

21-23 January 2026, Sapienza University of Rome

Description

We live in a context of ever-deepening, interlocking, and mutually reinforcing political, technological, digital, and environmental crises. These extend existing vulnerabilities of cultural worlds – be they rural, urban, regional or even planetary – while constantly creating new ones. Accordingly, the research agendas of cultural sociology and the sociology of culture are being put into question and are currently in flux.

This conference invites participants to reflect on how scholars in these areas can creatively and proactively respond to interpenetrating crises. This is with a view to considering how both cultural actors and sociologists may consider the possibilities for transforming weaknesses into strengths, and challenging modes of defencelessness, helplessness, and powerlessness, altering them in more positive directions. What are the ‘resources of hope’ (Raymond Williams) today, and how to think about them in sociological ways?

Contributions are welcome from any perspectives within or near cultural sociology and the sociology of culture, and on any substantive topics related to the theme of vulnerabilities and their overcoming.

Themes

Themes for paper contributions include, but are not limited to, the following areas:

Culture and warfare

Culture and environmental crisis

Culture and existential threats

Cultures and/of extinction

Culture and far right, fundamentalist, and dictatorial politics and regimes

Culture and capitalism

Culture and the digital

Cultures of fakery and authenticity

Culture and technological change

Culture and Artificial Information

Culture and human rights

Culture and enforced and voluntary migrations

Culture and 'Fortress Europe'

Culture and gender controversies

Cultural heritage under threat

Culture, humans, non-humans, post-humans

Cultural contestations and politics

Dystopic and utopian cultures

Cultural pessimism and optimism

Culture and theories of crisis and salvation

Abstract submission

We welcome abstracts of **maximum of 300 words** to be submitted by **31st May 2025** to email address esarome2026@gmail.com. The submission should include

the title of presentation

name(s) and affiliation(s) of the author(s)

contact email of the corresponding author

the abstract

Please do not include bio or other details.

About Research Network RN07

RN07 Sociology of Culture is one of the oldest Research Networks within the ESA. It brings together a wide range of different approaches to sociological analyses of cultural practices and phenomena, from almost all traditions of European Sociology. The Network's very diverse membership, spanning all European countries as well as other parts of the world, is reflected in its executive Board, which has members from across Europe and beyond. The Network Chair 2024–2026 is Professor David Inglis, University of Helsinki, Finland, and the Co-Chair is Dominik Zelinsky, Slovak Academy of Sciences.

Conference Organising Committee

Chair: Anna-Mari Almila, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

Lia Luchetti, Roma Tre University, Italy

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