

CALL FOR PAPERS

for students & PhD candidates

The 4th International Humanities–Society–Identity Congress: Re-Action(s)
3–5.12.2025 | Faculty of Modern Languages, University of Warsaw

Re-Action(s): Humanities in a Time of Transformation and Turbulence

The world today is characterized by radical transformations: environmental degradation, political extremism, cultural and epistemic crises, the fracturing of public discourse, and technological disruption. At the same time, we witness persistent struggles over identity, belonging, memory, and meaning. In this volatile landscape, the humanities are not only being redefined—they are being called upon to act.

The Faculty of Modern Languages at the University of Warsaw, an institution devoted to multilingual and intercultural research, invites you to a Congress that embraces the full disciplinary richness of contemporary humanities. This event provides a transdisciplinary forum for philologists, linguists, philosophers, anthropologists, historians, literary scholars, educators, political theorists, and others who seek to understand—and re-act to—the intersecting forces shaping our societies.

The theme Re-Action(s) expresses this dual commitment: to *interpret* and to *intervene*. Through discourse, narration, embodiment, and resistance, we ask: how do the humanities help us make sense of the present? How can they respond to a world marked by fracture, uncertainty, and renewal?

As humanities scholars, we find ourselves confronting **multiple overlapping crises**:

- **The epistemic precarity of the humanities themselves**, often dismissed in public discourse or subordinated to utilitarian logic. We need a renewed defense of the humanities as critical forms of knowledge production.
- **The crisis of communication**—from toxic polarization and populism to the collapse of shared discursive norms. The humanities must reimagine civic engagement and rhetorical ethics in fragmented public spheres.
- **The ecological emergency** and its entanglement with myth, memory, and planetary injustice. Narratives of resistance and solidarity must be cultivated and theorized.
- **The persistence and return of myth**, not only as cultural nostalgia but as a political and philosophical force. How do myths re-emerge in contemporary crises, and in what ways do they shape or challenge collective identities and ideological formations?
- **The transformation of subjectivity** through trauma, migration, precarity, and algorithmic governance—challenges which demand new forms of life-writing, autobiographical practice, and narrative experimentation. These shifts also call for renewed engagement with critical theory, philosophy of the self, and posthumanism, as scholars rethink agency, embodiment, and identity beyond humanist paradigms.
- **The pedagogical challenge**: in a world shaped by digital acceleration and multilingual migration, how can we teach language, literature, and cultural empathy with greater efficacy and inclusivity?

These are not isolated concerns; they intersect, overlap, and reflect the deep complexity of the world we inhabit. The 2025 Congress is therefore conceived not as a series of fragmented discussions, but as a networked intellectual ecosystem, grounded in the shared belief that the humanities must re-act—by analyzing, historicizing, resisting, and reimagining.

This Congress aims not only to interpret the world but to imagine its possible futures—futures shaped by narrative, ethics, memory, and language. In a moment when humanity must re-act or retreat, we invite you to join this critical and creative collective endeavor.

Submission Guidelines:

Please submit an abstract (250–300 words), a short bio (100 words), and your institutional affiliation to hsic.students@uw.edu.pl by **15.07.2025**.

We seek contributions that address how cultural, linguistic, and literary expressions not only reflect but actively shape the lived realities of individuals and communities navigating the pressures of:

- Globalization and shifting identities
- Environmental degradation and eco-anxiety
- Cultural memory and reimagined traditions
- Affective polarization and public discourse
- Post-Truth and Epistemic Instability
- Technological disruption and language education

We especially encourage interdisciplinary approaches that explore the intersections of mythology, literature, language, ecology, and identity across time and cultures. Participants should submit papers that engage with the broader thematic framework of the Congress, which will be included in general sessions.

General thematic frameworks:

- Cross-Cultural Mythologies and the Construction of Reality
- Narratives of Emotion and Division: Literature, Language, and Social Tension
- Affective Landscapes: From Literary Intimacy to Public Discourse
- Rethinking Boundaries: Globalization and the Reconfiguration of Space, Culture, and Identity
- The Crisis of Knowledge: Post-Truth, Epistemic Instability, and Contested Realities
- Green Texts, Global Crises: Ecocritical Approaches to Literature and Culture
- Teaching Language in a Globalized World: Innovation, Technology, and Intercultural Competence

Key dates:

2 June 2025 – Call for Papers opens

15 July 2025 – Call for Papers closes

31 July - 30 September 2025 - Registration

November 2025 – Programme released online

3-5 December 2025 – 4th International Humanities-Society-Identity Congress. Re-Action(s)

Fees:

- all students & PhD candidates from University of Warsaw: fee waiver
- other PhD candidates: 60 EUR