



THE 6TH WORLD HUMANITIES FORUM

The 6th World Humanities Forum 2020

Call for Papers

The crux of human civilization could be explained as a constant process of investigating and reflecting on the self and the other. Seen in other guises as “an encounter between what is familiar and what is strange” or “a dialogue between the old and the new,” what is essential to this is the constant process of redefinition, where tradition is simultaneously reinforced and challenged, not only by what is possible but also acceptable, in thought, feeling, and action. In this sense, the humanities could be called an academic discipline without need of completion nor conclusion; we are not in search of a “unified theory of humanity.” Rather, ours is a discipline that seeks steady progress through constant encounters, to ask and answer the continuously unique questions that demand our attention as we try to understand and influence the human condition.

The World Humanities Forum (WHF) has provided a unique space for critical engagement with precisely these questions, addressing them from the wide range of cultural contexts in which they spring. We are thus pleased to announce the 6th edition, set to take place from November 19 to 21, 2020, in Gyeongju, Korea, a city whose ancient past as a major cultural hub attests to our own continuous process of cultural redefinition and growth through the development of international relationships.

The 6th World Humanities Forum opens its doors to all scholars with insightful and original questions in the field of the humanities. We seek to make the forum an excellent opportunity to create “wisdom that matters,” where the sharing of insights extends directly into our present day lives and beyond, into a future we seek to create. At the same time, the 6th WHF welcomes researchers from beyond the field of humanities, in the hopes of creating new, mutually beneficial relationships outside of the discipline.

Main Theme

The Humanities of Harmony: Striving towards Coexistence and Mutual Prosperity

The forum’s main theme is divided into the three sub-themes, elaborated below with key words and ideas to serve as guidelines for your presentation.

Sub-Theme 1: Exchanges & Empathy

Our ability to metaphorically expand our horizons literally depends on us seeking that which lies beyond. The rich and maturing aspects of our lived experiences depend on a “beyond” and what we learn as we negotiate our similarities and differences within a shared space of harmony. So too with human culture on a grand scale. The development of human civilization lies in our efforts to overcome temporal constraints of time and space and to reach out to others, to interact, and make joint progress with them.

The subtheme “Exchanges & Empathy” delves into the various kinds of interactions that take place across cultural, regional, and disciplinary boundaries. Our most careful attention will be paid to exchanges between civilizations and empathetic dialogues between the East and the West in topics encompassing language, literature, arts, philosophy and religion. The subtheme also includes discussions on the succession and interaction of cultures, within and across civilizations, the formation of cultural heritages, static and dynamic, tangible and intangible. This includes the world of academic culture and the ongoing dialogues between academic disciplines that continues to this day.



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Sub-Theme 2: Conflict & Embrace

While our encountering and acknowledgement of others has expanded our horizons, perhaps just as often it has also led to substantial conflict. Human history can be said to be marked by a combination of continuous cooperation punctuated by confrontation and conflict. This subtheme is dedicated to examining the problems plaguing humanity, both longstanding and novel.

At the top of the list of perennial problems facing humankind is the inequality and segregation based on ethnicity, gender, class and region. Notwithstanding its persistence, we will search for and make suggestions to bring about mature ways of coexistence. Sharing space at the top of that list is the other existential threat facing humanity, one that will only exacerbate the first, that of the environment. This subtheme provides space for a careful reflection on the relationship between humans and nature, particularly in light of the increasing damage that ever-developing human technology has been inflicting on the environment. The theme also seeks to widen its perspective and conceive of new and well thought out ways to create a harmonious state of coevolution between humans, nature, and machines.

Sub-Theme 3: Sharing & Spreading

The humanities are not truly human unless they are anchored to our real lives. While humanistic research and reflection should not be confined strictly to “everyday reality,” it should set as its goal the common human objective of contributing something tangible to the improvement of our daily lives.

It is imperative for the humanities to address reality and share its research findings with society in a way that is useful. It should make sure to attend to the voices of people at their workplace, at home, at play, and in conflict with one another. The humanities can truly resonate when combined with the hard data of our own lives, when insights from past and present can be connected and employed for the purpose of forming a desirable and feasible vision of the future. In this vein, the “Sharing & Spreading” subtheme is aimed at forming a “humanities for all,” where knowledge is not a product to own or consume, but rather a tangible asset to be held in common with humanity.

This sub-theme will specifically deal with a variety of emerging topics, such as the advent of cultural hybridity, the new age of humanities in the presence of new media, prospects for a post- (trans-) human age, and the possibility and sustainability of humanistic reasoning therein. Our focus will be to highlight those aspects of the humanities that represent its flourishing within the public, such as the development and promotion of promising contents like K-contents and K-culture, as well as insights offered into the development of the future of human cities as sites of mature living.

【The 6th World Humanities Forum: An Overview】

- (Purpose) To promote humanities studies in Korea towards a global dimension and to enhance academic collaboration between academia across the globe
 - ※ Held biannually since 2011 with accumulated attendance of 13,120
- (Date/Place) Nov 19 – 21 (Thu to Sat), 2020 / Gyeongju-si,
- (Hosted by) Ministry of Education of Korea, Gyeongsangbuk-do, City of Gyeongju, UNESCO, National Research Foundation of Korea
- (Theme) The Humanities of Harmony: Striving towards Coexistence and Mutual Prosperity



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Proposal Submission Guideline

The 6th World Humanities Forum ("WHF") is now accepting proposals for presentation. The conference will entertain about 20 sessions, with five presentations in each session. Please be reminded that presentations will be limited to one per person.

1. Submission Procedure

You may submit your proposals for the 6th WHF either individually or as a group (Panel):

(1) Individual Paper Proposal

Please submit your proposal by June 30th using the Individual Paper Proposal Form on the WHF website www.worldhumanitiesforum.com. Please refer to the forum's theme and subthemes when filling out the Form. It may be written in either English or Korean.

You will need to provide your proposal description, between 600 to 750 words, and abstract between 200 to 250 words. It is fine for your abstract to appear in your description, in part or whole.

Your submission will be reviewed by the forum's board of reviewers. We will send a notification letter by email by July 20th. We will also put up a notice on our website.

(2) Panel Proposal

You can also form a Panel. Please submit your Panel proposal by June 30th using the Panel Proposal Form on the WHF website www.worldhumanitiesforum.com. The representative of the Panel will need to provide the title of the Panel, a list of panelists, a description or rationale for presenting the Panel and short abstracts of each panelists' paper. Panel proposals will be reviewed by a group of reviewers with particular attention to its suitability to the forum. We will send a notification letter to the email address you provided by July 20th. Once selected, the representative will be required to send a final Panel proposal.

2. Final Submissions

All presenters should submit the final version of their paper and abstract by Oct. 1st, 2020 (Thursday). Papers should be no more than 4,000 English words and they will be printed in the official Proceedings.

3. Language and Format

All presentations will be delivered in English. Official ceremonies and key speeches of the forum will be interpreted simultaneously from Korean to English. Interpretation is available for any other language should the forum recognize that there are sufficient grounds for it. Language adjustments may be called for to ensure a smooth-running session. Each session will be comprised of one moderator and five presenters and will run for a total of 90 minutes. Individual presentations will be limited to 15 minutes. Please keep in mind that given the limited amount of time, presenters will be asked to provide summarized accounts of their paper. For overseas presenters, we will be using a video conferencing system due to COVID-19 and presentations will be done online. For more information, we will explain how to use the program, how to present the paper, and guide you through the pre-test process.

4. All presenters will be paid a presentation fee. Presenters in Korea will be provided with accommodation and meals during the conference.

Please contact the forum Secretariat for more questions at whfoffice3@nrf.re.kr or +82-53-770-5052.

We look forward to all of your participation.

Taesoo Lee
Chair of the Organizing Committee
The Sixth World Humanities Forum