

CALL FOR PAPERS

XII World Conference of the World Center for Women's Studies (WCWS)

United Kingdom, 2027

Global Communication: Dialogue as a Pathway to Mutual Understanding in the World

Conference Theme

In recent years, the global community has faced escalating political, social, cultural, and ideological divisions that challenge the foundations of mutual understanding. While previous international debates have emphasized peace-oriented frameworks and inclusive educational approaches, there is an increasing need to critically examine the processes through which understanding itself is produced, contested, and sustained in a deeply interconnected world.

The XII World Conference of the World Center for Women's Studies (WCWS), hosted in the United Kingdom in 2027, focuses on **global communication and dialogue as central mechanisms for fostering mutual understanding**. The conference moves beyond education as a primary framework and instead examines communication and dialogue as social practices shaping relationships among individuals, communities, institutions, and nations.

Communication is not merely the exchange of information; it is embedded in power relations, cultural contexts, historical legacies, and ethical considerations. Dialogue, in particular, holds the potential to bridge divisions, negotiate meaning across differences, and cultivate empathy and trust—but it can also reproduce inequalities and exclusions. This congress invites scholars, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers from across disciplines and regions to explore how dialogue functions as both a possibility and a challenge in addressing global fragmentation.

Objectives of the Conference

The conference aims to:

- critically analyse communication and dialogue as pathways to mutual understanding in a globalized world,
 - explore intercultural, gendered, and ethical dimensions of global communication,
 - examine dialogue in contexts of conflict, inequality, migration, and crisis,
 - foster interdisciplinary and international exchanges beyond educational paradigms,
 - contribute to theoretical, empirical, and practice-oriented debates on global understanding.
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Sub-Themes

Contributors are invited to submit abstracts related (but not limited) to the following sub-themes:

1. **Dialogue and Communication in a Fragmented World**
 2. **Intercultural Communication and the Negotiation of Meaning**
 3. **Communication, Dialogue, and Global Inequalities**
 4. **Media, Digital Communication, and Global Understanding**
 5. **Dialogue in Times of Conflict, Crisis, and Post-Conflict Contexts**
 6. **Global Communication, Power, and Ethics**
 7. **Dialogue as Social Practice: Trust, Empathy, and Understanding**
 8. **Gender, Communication, and Global Voices**
 9. **Policy, Diplomacy, and Global Dialogue**
 10. **Future Pathways: Rethinking Global Understanding Through Dialogue**
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Submission Guidelines

- Abstracts should be **250–300 words** and written in **English**.
 - Each abstract should include **up to five keywords**.
 - Submissions should clearly indicate the relevant sub-theme.
 - Both **theoretical and empirical papers** are welcome, as well as interdisciplinary and comparative approaches.
 - Selected papers may be considered for **post-conference publication** in an edited volume or special journal issue.
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Important Dates

(to be confirmed)

- Abstract submission deadline
 - Notification of acceptance
 - Full paper submission (for publication consideration)
 - Conference dates (2027)
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Conference Format

The conference will be organized as an **international, interdisciplinary event**, with panel sessions, round tables, and keynote lectures. A hybrid format (in-person and online participation) will support global accessibility.

References (Indicative Framework)

The conceptual foundations of the conference are informed by classic and contemporary scholarship, including but not limited to:

- Bakhtin, M. (1981). *The Dialogic Imagination*. University of Texas Press.
 - Buber, M. (1958). *I and Thou*. Charles Scribner's Sons.
 - Habermas, J. (1984). *The Theory of Communicative Action*. Beacon Press.
 - Freire, P. (1970). *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*. Continuum.
 - Appadurai, A. (1996). *Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization*. University of Minnesota Press.
 - Castells, M. (2009). *Communication Power*. Oxford University Press.
 - Deardorff, D. K. (2020). *Manual for Developing Intercultural Competencies*. UNESCO.
 - Tannen, D. (1998). *The Argument Culture*. Random House.
 - Sen, A. (2006). *Identity and Violence: The Illusion of Destiny*. Norton.
 - Fraser, N. (2007). *Transnationalizing the Public Sphere*. Polity Press.
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Organisers

The XII World Conference of WCWS will be hosted in the United Kingdom, with international academic partners and collaborators.
