



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

ECHIC

inside/OUT

A European Conference for the Humanities 2017



IASH
ideas grow

A EUROPEAN CONFERENCE FOR THE HUMANITIES
EDINBURGH, UK
5-7 April 2017

PRELIMINARY CALL FOR PAPERS AND EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

In April 2017, the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH) is hosting a **European Conference for the Humanities** on behalf of the European Consortium of Humanities Institutes and Centres (ECHIC).

The Conference will comprise plenary presentations, panel paper sessions, lightning talks and roundtable reflections as well as opportunities for networking. It aims to probe some of the most pressing issues facing the humanities as academic disciplines and interdisciplinary fields. To do this we will place the motif of **inside/OUT** at the centre of our enquiries. Using this theme, we hope to show that humanities disciplines are not passive observers of the social and economic lifeworld, but are themselves transformative and disruptive—in productive ways.

Here are some of the important questions that have been at the forefront of our discussions in preparing this conference. We encourage responses to these and similar questions that explore the idea of **inside/OUT** in relation to the relevance and importance of the humanities as taught and researched in universities in Europe for understanding global challenges:

- What steps can we take to show how humanities disciplines are central to the objectives of universities to educate informed and critical citizens?
- Humanities disciplines: in the light of pressures on higher education funding and student employability are they now at the margins or in the mainstream?
- Interdisciplinarity, multidisciplinary, transdisciplinarity: humanities disciplines in engagement with and in confrontation with the social and behavioural sciences and STEMM disciplines. How? With what consequences? For whose benefit?
- For Early Career Researchers (ECRs) in the humanities, with cuts in research funding and a crisis in public finances, will the future lie inside or outside

academia? If the latter, what does the humanities PhD bring to wider society beyond the academy?

- In our mobile world, who gains and loses? Who is inside and who is outside? Is or ought our calculus to be economic or humanistic, or some combination of the two?
- Scotland / UK / Europe - who is inside and who is, or may be outside? How can the humanities help us to reflect on the fraught questions faced throughout the continent in the wake of the UK's 2016 referendum vote to leave the EU? What broader messages for cooperation within Europe and globally and for issues of identity can we learn from the referendum experience? What role is there here for studies of history, philosophy, linguistics, literature, art, etc.?

In addition to inviting a number of plenary speakers, as well as welcoming the ECHIC directors to Edinburgh, IASH Edinburgh is looking for responses to this call for papers for up to six paper sessions. The conference is open to all those who engage with the humanities as academic practices, directly or indirectly, at whatever stage of their career. Please note that if your proposal is not accepted for a panel session, you may be given the opportunity to give a lightning talk (a bite-sized research presentation). You may also choose to propose a lightning talk in the first instance.

Unfortunately we are unable to offer funding to all participants whose papers are accepted, although some ECR bursaries will be made available. A registration fee will be payable to attend the conference, and the Conference Organisers will provide information about different accommodation options in Edinburgh.

Please send your abstracts for 20-minute papers (max. 500 words) or proposals for 5-minute 'lightning talks' (max. 200 words) to iash@ed.ac.uk. If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact us.

KEY DATES

6 November 2016: Call for papers closes

- Abstracts for 20-minute papers should be no more than 500 words.
- Proposals for 5-minute 'lightning talks' should be no more than 200 words.
- All proposals to be reviewed by a local scientific committee.

1 December 2016: Early-bird registration opens. *Registration will open via the IASH website. Information about hotel options for different budgets will be provided at that time*

9 December 2016: Latest date presenters will be notified of the outcome of their proposal

13 January 2017: Presenters to confirm participation and register

1 February 2017: Early-bird registration closes

24 March 2017: Overall registration closes