19TH

COIMBRA | PORTUGAL
EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF TRAUMATIC STRESS STUDIES CONFERENCE | **3-6 JUNE, 2027**

TALKING ABOUT TRAUMA

THREATS, PROCEDURES AND CHALLENGES

CALL FOR PAPERS AND ABSTRACTS SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Any survey, even if perfunctory, of the contemporary circulation of discourse will quickly recognize that the concept of trauma has become a central reference for an understanding of the contemporary world, in particular concerning the impact of wars and of constellations of extreme violence, but also e.g. the consequences of increasingly recurrent natural disasters. The concept has definitely migrated from its original areas of application in psychotraumatology and become current in many different declinations and in many different domains. At the same time, this process of generalization carries along the ever-present threat of trivialization and of the correspondent loss of meaning and conceptual accuracy. Such a threat may only be countered by approaches that are able to take into consideration the different declinations of the concept and, in particular, to contextualize its use in specific spheres of the life-world, which is synonym to putting into dialogue the whole array of disciplines dealing with the notion of trauma, while, at the same time, paying special attention to empirical experiences of dealing with trauma situations and with victims of trauma. From neuroscience to sociology, from migration studies to the arts, the conference fosters a truly multidisciplinary conversation addressing prevention, intervention, representation, and resilience.

Under this general perspective, and with a view on the cross-fertilization of different approaches, the congress is organized along **five thematic tracks.**

Find all the detailed information about the five thematic tracks and presentation type below.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. Abstracts must be submitted online using the electronic abstract portal. Abstracts sent by post or email will not be accepted.

2. All abstracts must be submitted in English and require the structured sections identified at the section regarding the abstract template.

3. All abstracts must be submitted by no later than 23h59 (UTC+1) 24 January 2027.

4. All suggested presentations should be original contributions and ideally include new data. If data has been previously presented elsewhere, the suggested presentation should include new data or insights compared to the previous presentation.

5. Only complete proposals will be evaluated (i.e. no drafts).

6. All suggested contributions should be sufficiently detailed to evaluate its originality, relevance and quality.

7. Abstracts submitted to the conference are blindly reviewed by experts.

8. The submitting author will be notified of the Committee's decision in March 2027 by email to the same email address provided in their ESTSS 2027 profile.

9. Full presentation guidelines will be included in the acceptance email.

10. For all accepted abstracts, the lead author will be required to register until 2 April 2027. If the registration is not confirmed by that date, the abstract will be excluded from the conference programme.

11. Accepted abstracts will be published in European Journal of Psychotraumatology (EJPT; 2025 impact factor 4.209).

12. In the submission process all abstracts must select a thematic track, identify a preferred format, provide a brief bio note up to a maximum of 80 words (max. 200 characters, including spaces) and carefully follow the abstract template indicated.

13. It is necessary to identify the conference thematic track (only 1 track can be selected):

1) Psychotraumatology
2) Representations of Trauma
3) Media and Trauma
4) Global Changes and Trauma
5) Displacements and Trauma

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EACH THEMATIC TRACK

1) Psychotraumatology

Psychotraumatology lies at the heart of contemporary efforts to understand, prevent, and address the consequences of traumatic experiences. This thematic section welcomes contributions exploring the psychological, biological, social, and cultural dimensions of trauma, as well as advances in assessment, diagnosis, prevention, intervention, and recovery. Particular attention is given to the diverse manifestations of trauma across the lifespan, the factors that promote resilience and posttraumatic growth, and the challenges faced by professionals, families, and communities exposed to traumatic stress.

- **Impact of Traumatic Experiences**
- **Complex Trauma and Cumulative Trauma**
- **Trauma Across the Lifespan**
- **Trauma and Physical Health**
- **Diagnosis and Classification of PTSD and Related Disorders**
- **Psychological Assessment and Screening**
- **Neurobiology and Psychophysiology of Trauma**
- **Psychotherapeutic Interventions**
- **Pharmacological Interventions**
- **Neurophysiological and Somatic Approaches**
- **Virtual and Digital Interventions**
- **Prevention, Psychological First Aid and Skills for Psychological Recovery**
- **Organizational, Social, Cultural and Community Interventions**

- **Secondary Traumatic Stress, Compassion Fatigue and Burnout**
- **Aggression, Violence and Trauma**
- **Resilience**
- **Trauma-Informed Education/ Trauma-Informed Practices**

2) Representations of Trauma

Within a conference devoted to reflecting on the many dimensions of trauma in contemporary societies, the thematic section "Representations of Trauma" seeks to provide a multidisciplinary space for the exploration of the multiple issues raised by the articulation of post-traumatic memories in therapeutic settings, testimonial narratives, and the arts of image and word. Contributions may address literary, visual, performative, and cultural representations of trauma, as well as the ways in which individual and collective experiences of suffering are narrated, remembered, transmitted, and transformed.

- **Languages and Silences in the Face of Trauma**
- **Posttraumatic Autobiographies**
- **Intergenerational Narratives of Trauma**
- **The Arts of Trauma**
- **Enactments of Trauma - Performativities**
- **Memory and Testimony**
- **Trauma and Cultural Memory**
- **Historical Trauma and Public Memory**

3) Media & Trauma

The media play a crucial role in shaping how traumatic events are represented, communicated, experienced, and remembered. This thematic section welcomes contributions that examine the relationship between trauma and traditional, digital, and social media, including journalistic practices, media representations, ethical challenges, crisis communication, and the impact of media exposure on individuals, communities, and professionals. Particular attention is given to trauma-informed approaches to communication and reporting in contexts of crisis, violence, disaster, and social change.

- **Media Representations of Trauma**
- **Journalistic Coverage of Traumatic Events**
- **Impact of Media Coverage on Survivors, Audiences, and Journalists**
- **Journalist Training in Trauma Reporting**
- **Ethical Suffering and Moral Injury**
- **Crisis and Risk Communication**
- **Social Media and Trauma**

4) Global Changes & Trauma

Contemporary societies are increasingly confronted with global transformations that generate new forms of vulnerability, uncertainty, and psychological distress. Climate change, global health crises, armed conflicts, technological developments, and large-scale social disruptions challenge individuals, communities, and institutions worldwide. This thematic section invites contributions exploring the traumatic impact of these global changes, as well as the strategies developed to foster adaptation, resilience, and recovery in rapidly changing environments.

- **Climate Change**
- **Global Health**
- **War, Armed Conflict, and Political Violence**
- **Humanitarian Emergencies**
- **Artificial intelligence, Cybersecurity and Trauma**
- **Collective Trauma in a Globalized World**
- **Socioeconomic Inequalities and Trauma**
- **Human Rights and Trauma**
- **Future Challenges in Psychotraumatology**
- **Natural Catastrophes**

5) Displacements & Trauma

Human displacement has become one of the defining challenges of contemporary societies, resulting from armed conflicts, forced migration, climate change, political instability, socioeconomic inequalities, and humanitarian crises. Displacement experiences frequently involve multiple and cumulative forms of trauma that affect individuals, families, and communities across different stages of the migratory process—before, during, and after displacement. This thematic section welcomes contributions exploring the psychological, social, cultural, and political dimensions of displacement, bringing together research, clinical practice, humanitarian action, and public policy perspectives. Particular attention is given to identity, belonging, psychosocial adaptation, community responses, trauma-informed interventions, and the development of protective and resilience-promoting strategies across diverse contexts. Contributions addressing the experiences of refugees, asylum seekers, migrants, internally displaced populations, and professionals working in humanitarian settings are especially welcome, as are studies exploring the impact of displacement on the professionals and practitioners who support displaced populations throughout the different stages of the displacement process.

- **Migration and Trauma**
- **Gender, Protection and Vulnerability in Displacement Contexts**
- **Mental Health and Well-being**
- **Humanitarian Workers, First Responders and Trauma**
- **Psychosocial Interventions and Mental Health in Humanitarian Settings**
- **Trauma Across Borders: From Transit to Resettlement**

- **Refugees, Forced Migration and Humanitarian Crises**
- **Transcultural Trauma, Identity Loss and Belonging**
- **Climate Change, Environmental Trauma and Displacement**
- **Community Integration, Resilience and Posttraumatic Growth**

14. You will need to select a presentation type for your original research or clinical work during the submission process:

1) Pre-conference workshops and courses
2) Oral communication
3) Poster presentation only
4) Symposia
5) Roundtable discussions
6) Masterclass

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EACH PRESENTATION TYPE

1) Pre-conference workshop and courses

Between 3 to 6 hour interactive in-person pre-conference educational sessions.

Sessions without a minimum number of registered participants may be cancelled with registration refunded.

Submitters should provide:

- Rationale: Why the topic is important and its relevance to trauma
- Targeted audience: Be as specific as possible when identifying the target audience for your workshop to help participants make an informed decision about whether to attend.
- Learning objectives: What participants will be able to do as a result of this session.
- Structure: Description of the session format and the activities that will be used to actively involve the participants. Provide estimated timeline and time allotted for each activity within the proposed 3 or 6 hour session.
- Intended outcomes: Describe intended outcomes and how you will evaluate achievement of these outcomes.
- Minimum number of participants needed Preferred maximum number of participants.

2) Oral communication

If the abstract gets accepted for an oral communication, the presenter will be asked to prepare a 8-minute presentation, with 4 minutes discussion. Submitters should provide:

- Rationale/Background: Why is this topic important? What is the theoretical, clinical, social, or scientific context that justifies this work?
- Aims: What are the main objectives or research questions addressed by the study?
- Methods: Describe the study design, participants, procedures, instruments, and analytical strategy.
- Results: Summarize the main findings, highlighting the most relevant outcomes in relation to the study aims.
- Discussion: Interpret the findings in light of previous literature, theoretical frameworks, and methodological considerations.
- Implications and Conclusions: Outline the contributions of the study to research.

3) Poster presentation only

If the abstract is accepted for a poster presentation, the presenter will be asked to prepare a poster. Submitters should provide:

- Rationale/Background: Why is this topic important? What is the theoretical, clinical, social, or scientific context that justifies this work?
- Aims: What are the main objectives or research questions addressed by the study?
- Methods: Describe the study design, participants, procedures, instruments, and analytical strategy.
- Results: Summarize the main findings, highlighting the most relevant outcomes in relation to the study aims.
- Discussion: Interpret the findings in light of previous literature, theoretical frameworks, and methodological considerations.
- Implications and Conclusions: Outline the contributions of the study to research.

4) Symposia

Symposia are designed to capture a coherent set of three to five individual presentations that centre on one theme in which speakers address in depth an issue or a question of relevance. 15 to 20-minutes presentation.

A Symposium starts with a chairperson who briefly introduces the focus and it is followed by at least three but no more than five individual presentations. When submitting, the symposium abstract should be submitted as one single abstract. Submitters should provide:

- Rationale: Why is the topic important, and what do you want to achieve?

- For each speaker: A brief abstract of each speaker's contribution, without identifying the chair or speakers by name.
- Qualification of speaker: Without identifying chair or speakers by name, supply the expertise/experience of the speakers regarding the symposium topic.

5) Roundtable discussion

Roundtable Discussions are gatherings of individuals with similar interests and needs for sharing ideas and/or resources. Roundtable Discussions provide opportunities for open discussion, which should be facilitated by the abstract author/s and stimulated by a moderator. 15-minutes presentation. Submitters should provide:

- Rationale: Why is the topic important, and what do you want to achieve?
- For each speaker: A brief abstract of each speaker's contribution, without identifying the chair or speakers by name.
- Qualification of speaker: Without identifying chair or speakers by name, supply the expertise/experience of the speakers regarding the roundtable topic.

6) Masterclass

These are 1 hour interactive in-person educational sessions focusing on knowledge enhancement and give practical tips, skills or strategies on a topic. Submitters should provide:

- Rationale: Why the topic is important and its relevance to trauma.
- Targeted audience: Describe who should participate.
- Specific learning objectives: What participants will be able to do as a result of this session.
- Structure of masterclass: Description of the session format and the activities that will be used to involve the participants.
- Describe intended outcomes from the Masterclass and how you will evaluate achievement of these outcomes.
- Minimum number of participants needed.
- Preferred maximum number of participants.

15. Please carefully proofread your abstract before submitting.

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IMPORTANT DATES

Submission Period	15 September 2026 – 24 January 2027
Review Process conducted by expert reviewers	24 January – 24 February 2027
Notification of acceptance sent to authors by email	15 March 2027
Deadline for presenters to confirm acceptance of their presentation	30 March 2027
Registration deadline for presenters	2 April 2027

Please direct any questions about abstracts submission to the Official Agency of the conference: secretariado@factorchave.pt

Organisation

ESTSS

OBSERVATÓRIO DO TRAUMA

ces Centro de Estudos Sociais Universidade de Coimbra

1 2 9 0 UNIVERSIDADE D COIMBRA