19TH COIMBRA | PORTUGAL
EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF TRAUMATIC STRESS STUDIES CONFERENCE | **3-6 JUNE, 2027**

TALKING ABOUT TRAUMA
THREATS, PROCEDURES AND CHALLENGES



CALL FOR PAPERS

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.

Detailed description of each thematic track

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.

o Impact of Traumatic Experienceso Complex Trauma and Cumulative Trauma

o Trauma Across the Lifespan

o Trauma and Physical Health

o Diagnosis and Classification of PTSD and Related Disorders

o Psychological Assessment and Screening

o Neurobiology and Psychophysiology of Trauma

o Psychotherapeutic Interventions

o Pharmacological Interventions

o Neurophysiological and Somatic Approaches

o Virtual and Digital Interventions

o Prevention, Psychological First Aid and Skills for Psychological Recovery

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o Organizational, Social, Cultural and Community Interventions

o Secondary Traumatic Stress, Compassion Fatigue and Burnout

o Aggression, Violence and Trauma

o Resilience

o Trauma-Informed Education/ Trauma-Informed Practices

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.

o Languages and Silences in the Face of Trauma

o Posttraumatic Autobiographies

o Intergenerational Narratives of Trauma

o The Arts of Trauma

o Enactments of Trauma - Performativities

o Memory and Testimony

o Trauma and Cultural Memory

o Historical Trauma and Public Memory

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.

o Media Representations of Trauma

o Journalistic Coverage of Traumatic Events

o Impact of Media Coverage on Survivors, Audiences, and Journalists

o Journalist Training in Trauma Reporting

o Ethical Suffering and Moral Injury

o Crisis and Risk Communication

o Social Media and Trauma

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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.

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

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.

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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.

- o Migration and Trauma
- o Gender, Protection and Vulnerability in Displacement Contexts
- o Mental Health and Well-being
- o Humanitarian Workers, First Responders and Trauma
- o Psychosocial Interventions and Mental Health in Humanitarian Settings
- o Trauma Across Borders: From Transit to Resettlement
- o Refugees, Forced Migration and Humanitarian Crises
- o Transcultural Trauma, Identity Loss and Belonging
- o Climate Change, Environmental Trauma and Displacement
- o Community Integration, Resilience and Posttraumatic Growth



Organisation

ESTSS The European Society for Traumatic Stress Studies

OBSERVATÓRIO DO TRAUMA

ces Centro de Estudos Sociais Universidade de Coimbra

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