



THE 7TH WORLD HUMANITIES FORUM

Dear Esteemed Scholars of Humanities,

My name is Chang-Ku Byun, the Chair of the Organizing Committee of the 7th World Humanities Forum.

The World Humanities Forum seeks to envision viable solutions to various crises that the humanity is facing today, and to emphasize the role of the Humanities in these turbulent times of radical transitions into the future. Indeed, we believe that the collective wisdom and scholarly insight of the scholars of Humanities are urgently called for as we face the humanity's future.

Marking its Seventh Forum, the World Humanities Forum is co-sponsored by the Ministry of Education and Busan Metropolitan City, and organized by the National Research Foundation of Korea. The forum will be held **November 8th (Wednesday) ~ 10th (Friday), 2023 in Busan City**, a city well-known for embodying tangible and intangible values of the Humanities.

The forum will feature many thought-provoking presentations and discussions under the main theme of "**The Humanities of Relationships: Toward Communication, Co-existence, and Empathy**," and sub-themes of "**Toward Solidarity through Communication**," "**Co-existence and Co-prosperity**," and "**Unity through Empathy**." Presenters and discussants will ask what solutions the Humanities can provide in the hyper-personalized era of the 21st century, especially in the aftermath of the pandemic, during which isolation and alienation among people have intensified.

We, at the Organizing Committee of the World Humanities Forum, would like to ask for active participation and interest not only among the scholars of the humanities but also academics in other disciplines interested in our theme.

Please refer to the WHF Call for Papers attached to this letter, and submit your proposal via the **official World Humanities Forum website** (www.whf.kr) by **June 27 (Tuesday), 2023**.

We would like to express our deep gratitude for your kind attention and interest for the 7th World Humanities Forum.

Sincerely yours,

Chang-Ku Byun

Chair of the Organizing Committee
The 7th World Humanities Forum



THE 7TH WORLD HUMANITIES FORUM

The 7th World Humanities Forum 2023

Call for Papers

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 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. The forum will expand and intensify the role of the Humanities based on a broad contemplation to realize communication, co-existence, and empathy.

[An Overview of the 7th World Humanities Forum]

▣ Objectives

- To provide a diverse space for worldwide scholars to explore new visions and the humanistic traditions of cultural diversity for the 21st century using the range of perspectives offered by the Humanities
- To promote Humanities in Korea toward a global dimension and to enhance academic collaboration among academia across the globe

▣ [Date/Venue]

November 8 – 10, 2023 / BEXCO, Busan, Korea

▣ [Hosted/Organized by]

The Ministry of Education of Republic of Korea, Busan Metropolitan City /

National Research Foundation of Korea

▣ [Theme]

(Main theme) The Humanities of Relationships: Toward Communication, Co-existence, and Empathy

(Sub-theme 1) Toward Solidarity through Communication

(Sub-theme 2) Co-existence and Co-prosperity

(Sub-theme 3) Unity through Empathy



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The 7th World Humanities Forum 2023

Concept Note

[Main Theme]

The Humanities of Relationships: Toward Communication, Co-existence and Empathy

Human beings exist in relationships. Human nature desires and seeks union with others in society, thus leading human beings to pursue inner communion and exchanges with others. Presently, however, we are facing an increasing number of personal and social pathologies, and deepening divisions among generations, genders, classes and cultures. With the advent of the 21st century, we are witnessing an acceleration of hyper-personalization, and the disconnection of relationships and the isolation of individuals have worsened. In particular, during the pandemic, face-to-face meetings, contacts and movements have been restricted, exacerbating the disconnect and isolation of people all over the world. In the meanwhile, various forms of hatred and intolerance have spread globally.

Our time calls for an establishment of a renewed culture of relationships based on individual autonomy, inclusive of humans, non-humans and nature. Above all, this era calls for communication and solidarity, co-existence and co-prosperity, as well as empathy and unity. In order to co-exist with the 'Other,' we need to communicate and acknowledge our differences. Also, 'empathy built through communication' enables bonding and unity with others by putting oneself in another's place. If empathy is a virtue that can restore humanity and promote human co-existence and harmony, then cultivating empathy is an important task for humanity. What solutions can the humanities offer to develop empathy through communication?

The humanities should play an important role in taking steps toward a united human community, overcoming hatred, hostility, global conflicts and crises. At a fundamental level, we need to think about the role of the humanities in fostering communication, co-existence and empathy. More specifically, we can think about how the humanities can contribute to the formulation of policies related to social integration in order to eliminate racism and all other forms of discrimination. It is also time to reflect on the specific role that the humanities can play in global citizenship education for integration and solidarity.

What role should the humanities play in solving social problems and promoting a new praxis? This is the question that we would like to address. We hope that the role of the humanities enabling communication, co-existence and empathy will be expanded and deepened.

[Sub-Theme 1] Toward Solidarity through Communication

The humanities should fundamentally analyze the problems of disconnection, hatred and conflict that the mankind faces after the pandemic, and seek solutions to move toward solidarity through communication. In order to overcome hatred and hostility against others, racism at the global level, and discrimination by micro-power operating at various levels, we can consider the humanities' approach to restoring otherness and the role of the humanities in implementing global citizenship education based on concrete policies. If the problem of disconnection and conflict can be understood as a phenomenon of drawing boundaries among regions, classes, generations, genders and disciplines then, it may be possible to seek, once again, trans-boundary humanities to break down these barriers. With the rapid development of AI, the tools of humanistic reflection and thought, speech and writing, are shifting from the realm of humans to the realm of technology. It may be time to fundamentally reflect on whether or not it is still possible for humans to communicate and connect through speech and writing and what it means to change the world through humanistic imagination. An interdisciplinary approach would be welcome, not only in terms of the various disciplines within the humanities, but also in terms of active communication with other disciplines outside the humanities.

[Sub-Theme 2] Co-existence and Co-prosperity

We live in a time when we need to ask again how we should relate to others. Others include everything that is not myself. Other people, animals, plants, nature, machines and the universe are all 'others.' COVID-19 has given rise to new ways of relating to each other, whether in person or virtually, and we now have to consider more than just bilateral relationships. When the vegetables and plants that we consume or grow are linked to climate change, the relationship between humans and plants is extended to the level of the natural ecosystem. The introduction of pets into the family, on the one hand and the mass production and mass slaughter of animals for food, on the other, require deep ethical reflection on the relationship between humans and animals. The relationship between humans and machines must be fundamentally redefined if machines such as AI and robots are to be humanized or artificially companionable. We need a new paradigm for the relationship between humans and non-human others. We can co-exist if we save each other. The paradigm of co-prosperity and co-existence is the alternative we are looking for. We seek a way of co-existence and co-prosperity in the humanities in terms of the relationship among individuals, individuals and communities, humans and viruses, humans and animals, humans and plants, humans and nature and humans and machines.

[Sub-Theme 3] Unity through Empathy

Empathy for others is urgently called for now more than ever, to overcome the lack of communication, discrimination and exclusion, ostracism and hatred that pervade our society. We should be able to feel the joy of being together through empathy, while acknowledging our differences. Emotional communion with others and the recognition of similarity are important foundations for building harmonious relationships. Empathy is an innate human ability, but it can also be developed with some effort. It is "play and the art" that serve as an opportunity to empathize with each other and act as a catalyst transcending conflicts between ideologies, religions, races and classes. Imagination, which is the foundation of play and art, enables humans to have a free and open mind to embrace others beyond their own selfish desires and attachments. Imagination leads to art, and through art, we can deeply empathize with others and the world. Play and art are a beautiful way of life that, in a free state, unconditionally unites humans and brings them into harmony with each other. Empathy, imagination, play and art will provide a foundation for the thinking that allows for harmonious relationships with others. Play and art, as expressions of the imagination, will enable communication and empathy between humans and provide opportunities to reflect on the meaning and role of relationships.



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Proposal Submission Guideline

The 7th World Humanities Forum (WHF) is now accepting proposals for presentation. The conference will entertain about 20 sessions, with four presentations in each session. Please be reminded that presentations will be limited to one per person.

1. Theme

- (Main theme) The Humanities of Relationships: Toward Communication, Co-existence, and Empathy
- (Sub-theme 1) Toward Solidarity through Communication
- (Sub-theme 2) Co-existence and Co-prosperity
- (Sub-theme 3) Unity through Empathy

2. Submission Deadlines

- **Deadline for Submitting Paper Proposal: June 27 (Tue.), 2023**

- Date of Acceptance Notification: July 26 (Wed.), 2023
- Deadline for Paper Submission: Sept. 18 (Mon.), 2023
- Dates of the Forum: Nov. 8 (Wed.) - 10 (Fri.), 2023

*Note: All deadlines are based on Korean Standard Time (KST).

3. Application

- Fill out the Application Form on the 7th WHF official website: www.whf.kr

4. Proposal Submission

- **For individuals:** An individual researcher can submit presentation proposals (choose a sub-theme).
- **For panelists:** A panel (up to no more than four) can submit presentation proposals (choose a sub-theme).
- ※ After evaluation, selected sub-themes can be classified into the session of other sub-themes depending on the suitability of the theme or content.

5. Proposal Length

- For proposal descriptions: 1,000 – 1,300 characters (Korean) or 500 – 650 words (English)
- For abstracts: 500 – 800 characters (Korean) or 250 – 400 words (English)

6. Final Submissions (Abstract & Manuscript)

- Length: Less than 8,000 characters (Korean) or 4,000 words (English)
- ※ All presenters' abstracts and manuscripts will be included in the forum's program book.

7. Official Language for Presentations

- All presentations will be delivered in either Korean or English.
- ※ Real-time interpretation service from Korean to English and English to Korean will be available at the forum.
Other language services may be provided, if necessary.



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8. Presentation Time

- An individual presentation will be limited to 20 minutes.

※ Each session includes one moderator, 4 presenters, and 2 discussants.

(The number of presenters and discussants may vary.)

※ Other details like presentation format and time will be announced after presentation proposals are selected.

All presenters will be paid a presentation fee, and accommodation and meals will be provided on their presentation date. Airfare will be provided in economy class for presenters traveling from overseas.

Please contact the forum Secretariat for more questions at whfoffice@khcu.ac.kr or +82-02-3299-8722.

We look forward to your participation.

Chang-Ku Byun

Chair of the Organizing Committee
The 7th World Humanities Forum