

Student Academic Conference

CARING FOR SOCIETY IN A POLARISED WORLD

March 6, 2027

2027 EDITION DESCRIPTION

At present, it is essential to find ways to promote social wellbeing, cohesion and meaningful dialogue in a context increasingly shaped by polarisation. Contemporary societies face growing divisions across political, cultural, social, economic and technological spheres, challenging coexistence, institutional trust and the ability to build shared projects. Across all fields of knowledge, valuable contributions can be made to reflect on how best to care for society in this environment.

Polarisation affects not only public debate and collective decision-making but also interpersonal relationships, mental health, family life, communities and organisations. Nevertheless, this context can also become an opportunity to foster new forms of encounter, cooperation and social innovation. Emerging technologies, scientific advances, artistic expression and community initiatives can all help create spaces for mutual understanding and the construction of the common good. Yet these same tools may amplify divisions, spread disinformation and reinforce dynamics of exclusion.

The word 'care' derives from the Latin *cura*, *curae*, meaning to look after, attend to, or worry about. From the same root come words such as *cure*, *procure* and *curious*. Care transcends all disciplines. To care for society in a meaningful way requires rethinking care across all domains of life: from family, science, politics, law and health to urban planning, the arts, communication, technology and individual responsibility.

The aim of this edition is to examine, through study and scientific rigour, the role of caring for society in a polarised world, by means of a transversal and interdisciplinary dialogue that

generates new questions, perspectives and solutions.

Undergraduate students from any discipline are invited to take part in the conference by submitting a scientific paper within one of the following **subject areas**:

1. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- Mental health and social polarisation
- Loneliness, vulnerability and community cohesion
- Promoting wellbeing in fragmented societies
- New models of care and emotional support
- The role of health professionals in building social trust

2. TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

- Artificial intelligence and social polarisation
- Algorithms, social media and echo chambers
- Technology in the service of dialogue and social cohesion
- Big data and understanding polarisation phenomena
- Digital ethics and technological responsibility

3. ART, ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

- Art as a space for encounter and reconciliation
- Design for inclusion and coexistence
- Architecture, urban spaces and social cohesion
- Creativity and innovation in the face of social fragmentation
- Culture, heritage and community building

4. HUMANITIES AND COMMUNICATION

- The role of the media in polarisation
- Disinformation, truth and public trust
- Literature, philosophy and the pursuit of the common good
- Music, cinema and narrative arts as instruments of dialogue
- Public discourse, freedom of expression and communicative responsibility

5. SOCIAL, LEGAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCES

- Political polarisation and democratic quality
- Family, education and the transmission of values in diverse societies
- Community, civic participation and social cohesion
- Law, justice and the protection of vulnerable groups
- Leadership, institutions and the construction of trust

PARTICIPATION

The only way to participate is through the submission of a research paper. Papers must be prepared by a group of between two and four undergraduate students from UIC or other universities.

A research paper is a piece of scholarly research in which the researcher formulates a hypothesis and, using a specific qualitative or quantitative methodology, obtains a set of results. These results address the initial hypothesis and are explained through discussion.

Finally, the paper presents its conclusions, limitations and recommendations for future research. The aim of this scholarly work is to contribute new knowledge, advance scientific understanding and promote knowledge transfer for the benefit of society.

All papers submitted must be original and must not have been previously published or presented in any competition, conference or similar event.

During the preparation of the paper, students must have an academic supervisor who will guide and support them throughout the research process and up to their participation in the conference. Supervisors must meet with students at least twice and submit a record of these meetings to the organising committee. Students are responsible for finding their own academic supervisor. Participation in the conference is subject to the approval of a supervisor, whose name and contact email address must be provided to the organisers. To help students identify a suitable supervisor, the conference website will include information about supervisors who have participated in previous editions. Academic supervisors do not need to be members of staff at UIC and may be affiliated with any university.

On the day of the conference, papers may be presented in one of two ways:

- 1. Research presentation:** The paper must be presented orally before a panel, with or without visual support.
- 2. Research poster:** The paper must be presented orally before a panel with the visual support of a poster. Choosing this format also requires submission of the research paper, subject to the same requirements as a research presentation.

The presentation of each paper must not exceed 12 minutes.

REGISTRATION PROCESS

All students must register individually using the conference [registration form](#) during the registration period (1 September–1 December 2026). Once registration has been received, participants will be granted access to the ProEvaluationSystem platform, through which all submissions for the two phases of the conference must be made.

SUBMISSION

The submission process consists of two stages:

1. Abstract submission:

Each participating group must submit an abstract of no more than 400 words via the conference submission platform by 13 December 2026.

Abstracts must include the following information:

1. Authors
2. Degree programme, year of study and university
3. Email address
4. Title of the paper
5. Text (including the research question, methodology and context)
6. Selected bibliography (three to five references)
7. Subject area of interest (see the list of subject areas)
8. Keywords (three to five)

The abstract must follow APA 7th edition guidelines. These can be consulted on specialised websites (for example, <https://normas-apa.org/>). All abstracts will be reviewed by members of the Scientific Committee, who will provide feedback to participants before 15 January 2027. Papers may be submitted in Catalan, Spanish or English.

2. Research paper submission:

Each group must upload a PDF version of its paper to the ProEvaluationSystem platform by 21 February 2027. The University reserves the right to collect and disseminate submitted papers. In order for a paper to be included in the institutional repository, "UIC Open Access Archive", it is essential to attach the authorisation form provided in Appendix 1.

Content, format and structure of the paper

The paper must include the following sections and must not exceed 8,000 words:

- Title of the paper
- Summary (abstract).
- Introduction: statement of the hypothesis and objectives
- Methodology
- Results/analysis: main arguments, analysis of the data obtained, case descriptions, analysis and discussion of other positions on the same topic, etc.
- Conclusions: conclusions drawn from the arguments or evidence presented in the paper
- Bibliographical references cited and used in the paper
- Appendix: "Declaration on the Use of Artificial Intelligence"

The abstract must follow APA 7th edition guidelines. These can be consulted on specialised websites (for example, <https://normas-apa.org/>).

Use of citations and references

Submitted papers must be original. Plagiarism of any kind will not be accepted. Examples of breaches of originality or plagiarism include:

Submitting another person's work as one's own.

Submitting work that has already been presented in another competition or academic module.

Including sentences, paragraphs or ideas from authors without citing them or referring to their work; failing to use quotation marks for direct quotations; providing incorrect information about references or citations; or paraphrasing without acknowledging the source.

All citations and references must comply with APA 7th edition guidelines. These can be consulted on specialist websites (for example, <https://normas-apa.org/>).

DECLARATION ON THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The use of generative artificial intelligence tools is permitted in the preparation of papers, provided that they are used responsibly and in accordance with the principles of academic integrity.

For this reason, all papers must include an Annex: Declaration on the Use of Artificial Intelligence, placed after the bibliography, specifying:

The AI tools used (where applicable).

The purpose for which they were used (for example, idea generation, language revision, information synthesis, draft generation, etc.).

The sections of the paper in which they were used.

The review and validation carried out by the authors, who remain solely responsible for the content submitted.

Failure to include this declaration, or the submission of a declaration that is clearly incomplete or false, may result in the paper being excluded from the evaluation process for failing to meet the submission requirements.

All papers will be analysed using Turnitin, the University's plagiarism prevention tool.

Registration deadline: 1 December 2026

Abstract submission deadline: 13 December 2026

Research paper submission deadline: 21 February 2027 at 23.59.

Annex 1

Vice-Rectorate for Research, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer
Library and Documentation Service

Authorisation to deposit work by students, teaching and administrative staff from the Universitat Internacional de Catalunya to the “UIC Open Access Archive” Institutional Repository (sole author).

Author's name and surname(s)

National ID or passport number

I hereby authorise the Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (UIC Barcelona) to deposit my work in the Institutional Repository, the Consorci de Serveis Universitaris de Catalunya (Catalan Consortium of University Services; CSUC), the RECERCAT depository or any other depository created by UIC Barcelona or the CSUC for the purpose of preserving and disseminating university research.

I also authorise UIC Barcelona and CSUC to undertake any steps necessary to enter the work into the above-mentioned repositories, preserve it and provide access via public communication. I understand that these institutions are under no obligation to reproduce the work in the same format or resolution in which it was originally deposited. The rights required to perform these actions are hereby transferred on a non-exclusive basis, i.e. I am free to publish the work wherever I like.

I hereby declare that, by signing this authorisation, and in relation to the content of this work, I have violated no third-party intellectual or industrial property rights, trade secrets or any other right. As a result, I hereby exonerate UIC Barcelona and CSUC from all liability regarding any legal actions that may arise as a result of the deposited work.

Lastly, I hereby agree that the repository may provide access via a *Creative Commons License, “Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)”*

Signature

Date and place
