

# CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

eco  
ppia

**ECO PARTNERSHIP  
FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY  
ACTION**



UNIVERSITÀ DELLA CALABRIA  
DIPARTIMENTO DI INGEGNERIA  
DELL'AMBIENTE

## **CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

The Department of Environmental Engineering  
of the University of Calabria  
in collaboration with the International Network ECOPIA

invites submissions for the  
First International Symposium

### **"ECOPIA - ECO Partnership for Interdisciplinary Action"**

The Symposium will take place from April 22 to 24, 2026, at University of Calabria.

In its first edition, the Symposium aims to provide a space for reflection and interaction through a range of activities, including keynote lectures, parallel sessions, round tables, and other formats designed to foster direct dialogue among diverse stakeholders.

The era we live in is marked by multiple and interconnected crises – humanitarian, environmental, social, political and epistemic –, by growing inequalities, loss of biodiversity, the climate crisis and the erosion of the commons.

Despite thirty years of rhetoric on sustainability – initiated with the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 – the concrete effects of the thousands of good practices implemented have remained limited. The concept of "sustainable development", consolidated too quickly, has failed to profoundly modify collective behaviours, production systems and power structures. The 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals represented an important step, but have not succeeded in triggering the necessary structural, cross-cutting and multi-level change.

It is now necessary to initiate a dialogue to co-construct a new vision, constantly evolving, capable of adapting to different contexts and changing circumstances, aimed at providing a positive interpretation of sustainability. No discipline, no territory, no community can face alone the complexity of contemporary challenges. What is needed is a choral convergence, capable of weaving together knowledge, practices and visions beyond all geographic, institutional and epistemic boundaries. The International Symposium "ECOPIA - ECO Partnership for Interdisciplinary Action" will be structured into four thematic sessions:

- **COLLABORATION FOR JUST AND EQUITABLE FUTURE**
- **ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**
- **FACING CRISES FOR LIVEABLE CITIES & RESILIENT TERRITORIES**
- **READING THE CLIMATE CRISIS: HUMANITIES AND ACTION IN THE ANTHROPOCENE ERA**

Starting from these themes, the Symposium intends to solicit contributions and stimulate discussion, with the aim of jointly defining the cultural horizons, research objectives, and study methodologies of the new network. The goal of the call is to involve all researchers interested in collaborating on the creation of an inclusive and shared cultural project.

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

The Call for Abstracts requires the submission of extended abstracts, according to the procedures and deadlines outlined below. Selected abstracts will be presented and discussed in parallel sessions according to the instructions provided by the Chairs. Abstracts will be sent in advance to all participants in the specific parallel session.

### Thematic Session - Structure and Organization

#### BEFORE THE CONFERENCE

Preparation

- **Abstract selection**  
Collection and evaluation of submitted contributions
- **Material distribution**  
Sending abstracts to all session participants to allow prior review

#### DURING THE CONFERENCE

Session proceedings

- **Brief presentations** (3 minutes per abstract)  
Each author presents their work concisely
- **Interactive discussion**  
Open exchange among:
  - Session participants
  - Audience members
  - Any invited expert guests

## ABSTRACT REQUIREMENTS

To participate, please submit an extended abstract of no more than 8,000 characters (including spaces) that must include the following information:

- title, author(s), affiliation, and contact information;
- three keywords;
- a short bibliography of 4-5 significant texts;
- two preferred sessions (first and second choice).

It is recommended that the abstract be structured by indicating the thesis supported (with reference to the ways in which the theme or experience described addresses issues inherent to the chosen topic), the arguments supporting the thesis, any cases discussed, the methodology adopted, and the contribution the paper intends to make to the construction of the Ecopia network.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

Abstracts must be uploaded to the Conference platform, accessible at <https://forms.gle/khwQZqZirFCmxs7W8> on the dates and following the instructions indicated. The long abstracts of all participants presented at the Conference will be published in Conference Proceedings with an ISBN. Selected Papers that, in the opinion of the Scientific Committee, make the greatest contribution to building the Ecopia network, will be published in the same volume. Authors of these papers will be invited to submit a full paper for publication after the Symposium, to allow participants to further develop their research.

## DEADLINES AND IMPORTANT DATES

- Deadline for submitting extended abstracts: January 7, 2026
- Notification of abstract acceptance: February 1, 2026
- Symposium registration deadline: March 1, 2026

For information: [ecopianetwork@gmail.com](mailto:ecopianetwork@gmail.com)

## GENERAL PROGRAM

<b>Wednesday 22nd</b>	<b>Thursday 23rd</b>	<b>Friday 24th</b>
Morning 9:00 Opening Session 10:00 Keynote 01 11:00 Dialogues 01	Morning 9:00 Prize & Miscellaneous 10:00 Keynote 02 11:00 Dialogues 02	Morning 9:00 Final Round Table 11:00 Closing Session
Afternoon 15:00 Keynote 03 16:00 Parallel Sessions	Afternoon 15:00 Keynote 04 16:00 Parallel Sessions	15:00 Ecopia Meeting

## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

**Matias Barberis Rami**, European Future Innovation System Centre, Belgium  
**Ana Elena Builes Vélez**, Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana de Medellín, Colombia  
**Paola Cannavò**, Università della Calabria, Italy  
**Andrea Casals Hill**, Universidad Finis Terrae, Chile  
**Pierfrancesco Celani**, Università della Calabria, Italy  
**Fábio Teodoro De Souza**, Pontificia Universidade Católica do Paraná, Brasil  
**Gianfranco Franz**, Università degli Studi di Ferrara, Italy  
**Ingrid Molderez**, KU Leuven, Belgium  
**Emma Regina Morales García de Alba**, ITESO Universidad Jesuita de Guadalajara, México  
**Caterina Rondoni**, Università degli Studi di Ferrara, Italy  
**Daniel Enrique Sardo**, ITESO Universidad Jesuita de Guadalajara, México  
**Gonzalo Valdivieso**, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Chile, Chile  
**Massimo Zupi**, Università della Calabria, Italy

# CONFERENCE THEMES

## **COLLABORATION FOR JUST AND EQUITABLE FUTURE**

#ParticipatoryChange #MultilevelJustice #SolidarityEconomies  
#CollaborativeGovernance

Collaboration among people, communities, social movements, institutions, and public and private sectors is essential for building a just and equitable future. It involves not only cooperation between individuals and collectives but also the creation of transversal, multilevel, and cross-sector governance frameworks that enable shared decision-making and the co-construction of collective visions across territories.

This perspective unfolds in multiple domains where justice, sustainability, and daily life converge. Food systems reveal how equity, ecological balance, and cultural identity can be aligned through participatory and context-based approaches. Energy communities demonstrate how citizens and institutions can work together to manage resources, promoting autonomy and ecological transition. Inclusive housing initiatives, meanwhile, highlight the potential of inter-institutional collaboration to guarantee the right to dignified and sustainable living spaces. These and other experiences — from local mobility and education to cultural and environmental cooperation — demonstrate that collaboration operates at many scales: from everyday practices to policy design, from grassroots innovation to institutional transformation. Together, they challenge extractive logics and open pathways toward just and equitable futures.

We invite contributions that explore experiences, models, and theories of reciprocity, cooperation, social and solidarity economy, and sustainability emerging from territories, to collectively reflect on how collaboration — in its community-based and systemic dimensions — can become a concrete driver for just and plural futures. We welcome submissions that address (but are not limited to) the following themes:

### **Collaborative and Multilevel Governance for Transformation**

- Governance frameworks connecting institutions, civil society, and territories across scales.
- Participatory and deliberative models enabling inclusive and shared decision-making.
- Co-design and co-production of public policies fostering transversal collaboration.
- Grassroots innovation and social movements driving institutional and systemic change.
- Integration between bottom-up initiatives and policy frameworks for adaptive governance.
- Innovative governance models for the management of ecosystems and natural resources.

### **Social Justice, Basic Rights, and Plural Futures**

- Inclusive housing, mobility, health, and education systems ensuring equitable access to essential rights and services.
- Participatory and community-led initiatives fostering dignity, care, and collective well-being.

- Intersectional and decolonial approaches linking social justice with ecological transition.
- Rights-based and capabilities frameworks supporting diverse and equitable futures.

### **Solidarity and Community Economies**

- Economic models based on reciprocity, cooperation, and collective well-being.
- Social and solidarity economy initiatives and alternative finance systems.
- Food systems as drivers of equity, cultural identity, and ecological transition.
- Community-centred development and local value re-embedding.
- Fair trade, ethical supply chains, and food–energy–water nexuses.
- Degrowth and post-extractive approaches to sustainability.
- Community energy initiatives and energy democracy.

### **Cultural Cooperation and Environmental Justice**

- Collaborative cultural and artistic initiatives fostering dialogue, memory, and territorial identity.
- Heritage preservation and intercultural exchange for collective and ecological resilience.
- Environmental and climate justice movements connecting social, cultural, and ecological rights.
- Community-based natural resource management.

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## **ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

#RegenerativeSystems #RightsOfNature #OneHealth #BeyondConservation  
#CircularSystems

Ecosystem management must go beyond conservation to embrace systemic transformation. This approach brings about a paradigm shift by challenging anthropocentric perspectives and emphasizing coexistence, reciprocity, and societies' duty to safeguard the ecological integrity of natural systems and, where possible, restore ecosystems.

Central to this transformation is the recognition of the Rights of Nature, a legal and philosophical framework that repositions ecosystems not as mere resources to be exploited or managed, but as entities possessing intrinsic value and legal standing. This ontological shift enables more effective responses to environmental risks while opening pathways for ecosystem restoration that simultaneously protects biodiversity and enhances human well-being. Achieving meaningful climate change adaptation requires innovative governance models that integrate cutting-edge scientific research with traditional and Indigenous knowledge systems.

Key components for achieving these goals include the development of circular systems, which propose regenerative frameworks aimed at reducing resource extraction, minimizing waste, and closing material cycles. These systems offer the possibility of aligning economic activities with ecological boundaries.

Equally important is the One Health perspective, which underscores the interdependence between ecological integrity, animal health, and human health.

This approach calls for transdisciplinary collaboration and reinforces the urgency of treating environmental sustainability and public health as inseparable concerns.

We welcome submissions that address (but are not limited to) the following themes:

### **Natural Heritage as Foundation for Human Well-being**

- Recognition of natural heritage as the primary resource underpinning human prosperity and well-being.
- Ecosystem services valuation and their contribution to quality of life.
- Intergenerational equity and natural capital preservation.
- Connection between biodiversity conservation and human health outcomes.

### **Regenerative and Circular Systems**

- Design and implementation of circular economy models at various scales.
- Nature-based solutions for sustainable production.
- Zero-waste strategies and closed-loop industrial systems.
- Regenerative agriculture, forestry, and aquaculture practices.
- Life cycle assessment and circular metrics.
- Post-Extractive Economies.

### **One Health Approaches**

- Integrated frameworks linking ecosystem, animal, and human health.
- Disease prevention through ecosystem management.
- Biodiversity loss and its impacts on health systems.
- Urban ecology and public health interfaces.
- Collaborative governance models for One Health implementation.

### **Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation**

- Large-scale ecosystem restoration projects and their outcomes.
- Nature-based solutions for climate adaptation and mitigation.
- Rewilding initiatives and their socio-ecological implications.
- Blue carbon and coastal ecosystem restoration.
- Integration of traditional ecological knowledge in restoration practices.

### **Rights of Nature and Legal Innovation**

- Decolonizing conservation practices.
- Bioregional and place-based frameworks integrating culture, ecology, and community well-being.
- Ecological restoration and biodiversity stewardship rooted in Indigenous and local knowledge.
- Rights of Nature and Legal Innovation.
- Case studies on legal personhood for rivers, forests, mountains, and other ecosystems.

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## **FACING CRISES FOR LIVEABLE CITIES & RESILIENT TERRITORIES**

#JustTransition #TerritorialJustice #CollaborativeGovernance #PostExtractivism  
liveable

Contemporary cities and regions are at the frontline of multiple, overlapping crises that challenge their liveability and resilience. Societies in general, and governments in particular, are facing the multifaceted challenges posed by the impacts emerging

of these crises. The environmental challenges - mainly associated with the climate crisis - are deeply entangled with social, cultural, and economic pressures, creating a complex web of risks that threaten the cohesion of communities and the sustainability of territories.

Responding to these crises requires more than technical fixes — it demands a reimagining of how cities function as social and ecological systems. Building truly resilient, liveable cities calls for strengthening the social fabric and empowering collective capacities for adaptation and transformation. This means cultivating solidarity, shared responsibility, and inclusive governance, so that communities are not just protected from harm but actively engaged in shaping just and regenerative futures. This entails a need to move beyond extractive logics — whether material, cultural, or symbolic — that erode ecosystems and undermine social trust.

Alternative development models must place care, reciprocity, and territorial justice at their core.

Urban planning decisions are pivotal in this transition, determining whether cities will reinforce exclusion and ecological degradation or foster equitable access to resources, cultural vitality, and ecological integrity. Multiple social and economic fragilities emerge in this landscape: dealing with housing dynamics and new forms of exclusion, access to adequate services, infrastructure and quality redesigned public spaces attending at new societal needs; addressing socio-spatial inequalities as well as demographic and territorial patterns shifts such as aging populations and the depopulation of rural and inland areas; the tourism pressures in an increasing commodification of urban environments, or the changing market dynamics requiring transformation of local economies. Addressing these issues requires cities and regions - in a whole-of-a-society approach- to foster diversified, circular, and community-centred economies that sustain both livelihoods and ecosystems in a resilient manner.

We welcome submissions that address (but are not limited to) the following themes:

### **Environmental & Climate Resilience**

- Climate adaptation strategies for urban and regional contexts.
- Nature-based solutions and green-blue infrastructure.
- Ecological restoration and biodiversity in urban settings.
- Low-carbon transitions and decarbonization pathways.
- Climate justice and vulnerable communities.

### **Territorial Justice & Inequalities**

- Socio-spatial inequalities and segregation patterns.
- Rural-urban linkages and territorial imbalances.
- Depopulation of inland and rural areas.
- Just transition strategies for declining regions.
- Infrastructure equity and service accessibility.

### **Demographic Transformations**

- Aging populations and age-friendly cities.
- Shrinking cities and demographic decline.
- Migration patterns and intercultural urbanism.
- Youth engagement and intergenerational justice.

## **Tourism, Public Space & Commons**

- Overtourism management and regulation.
- Alternative tourism models and community benefits.
- Reclaiming and democratizing public spaces.
- Urban nature as shared collective patrimony and common good.
- Urban blue-green infrastructure as public commons.
- Co-design and co-management of urban green spaces.
- Urban biodiversity and its role in social cohesion.

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## **READING THE CLIMATE CRISIS: HUMANITIES AND ACTION IN THE ANTHROPOCENE ERA**

#narratives, #CultureExperience #CulturalGeology

One of the main epistemological ruptures introduced by the Anthropocene, from within and so called hard sciences in debates on the environment, life, and nature, is the disjunction between the experience of local climate and the understanding of global climate. Although various theorists have pointed out the challenges posed by this fracture between experience and knowledge, literary and cultural artifacts produced globally addresses this issue by means of various creative and aesthetic strategies, vindicating a cultural geology that cannot be reduced to a universalized climate science of the Anthropocene. Thus, culture, climate, experience, and knowledge are placed in a disjunctive relationship. However, these fractures in narrative and knowledge do not operate as clear divisions, but rather constitute a field of tensions where literary representations and cultural artifacts play a key role. In this sense, a fundamental question arises: what kind of narratives allow us to navigate an ecological crisis that is at once local and planetary, historical and anticipatory, cultural and behavioural? The question of narrative and representation is crucial to understanding the Anthropocene, since, by marking a radical break with the past, it poses specific epistemological and ontological challenges. While the Anthropocene is a material phenomenon, measurable and experiential, it is also a representational construct that challenges the way we conceive the planet as a system in crisis. Leveraging the Environmental Humanities, encompassing disciplines such as literature, history, philosophy, and art, to facilitate a deeper comprehension of our current planetary moment within the Anthropocene. The Humanities provide critical analytical frameworks necessary for navigating the climate crisis, specifically by addressing foundational issues of environmental ethics, justice, and the politics of cultural memory.

We welcome contributions in these areas, and beyond:

### **Fractures in narrative**

- Fragmentation between micro and macro narratives: difficulty connecting individual stories with planetary processes.
- Collapse of modern grand narratives: progress, development, human control over nature.
- Dissonance between scientific narratives (data, models, projections) and cultural narratives (stories, myths, lived experiences).
- Not only limitations but also creative opportunities. New narrative forms emerge from the cracks.

### **Narratives of the ecological crisis**

- Apocalyptic Narratives (Sudden Collapse of Civilization).
- Techno-Optimistic Narratives (Technology Will Save Us).
- Transition/Transformation Narratives (Radical Paradigm Shift: Degrowth, Circular Economy, Environmental Justice).
- Resilience and Adaptation Narratives (Focus on How Communities Adapt to Change).
- Geography of Narratives.

### **Anticipatory futures**

- The future as an active force shaping current choices, policies, and behaviours.
- Anticipation vs. prediction: not predicting "the" future but exploring multiple, contingent futures.
- Intergenerational ethics: representing those not yet born.
- Literature as a tool to give "voice" to future generations.
- The future as a question of justice, not just prediction.

### **Cultural memory and the Anthropocene**

- Memory as an active construction, not simply a matter of preservation
- Memory as a resource for identity, social cohesion, and future orientation
- Role of literature and culture in the Anthropocene
- Literature and culture as spaces of prefiguration
- Beyond the written word in the Anthropocene: visual arts, performance, sound and movement, transmedia and integrated approaches.

### **Epistemological ruptures of the Anthropocene**

- End of the ontological separation between human and natural; need for new conceptual categories, rethinking subject/object
- Need for multi-scalar epistemologies: connecting microbes and planet, seconds and millennia
- Tension between corporeal, sensory, local knowledge and global, abstract scientific knowledge
- Decolonizing environmental knowledge
- Crisis of representation: Need for new metaphors, analogies, and expressive forms
- Situated and partial knowledge: All knowledge is geographically, culturally, and historically situated