



UNIVERSITY OF PADOVA, ITALY

August 26th – 28th, 2026

CALL FOR PAPERS

HEIRNET 2026: FUTURE TRAJECTORIES IN HISTORY EDUCATION RESEARCH

As education systems across the world wrestle with political polarisation, technological acceleration, and renewed contestation over cultural memory and identity, there is a pressing need to explore the ways in which history education, including teaching and learning and scholarship, can respond to urgent contemporary challenges.

In societies shaped by a multitude of cross-cutting, complex, and sometimes conflicting forces, history education faces renewed questions about its purposes, practices, and public responsibilities. By examining the diverse and wide-ranging trajectories that may shape history education over the coming decades, the 22nd annual HEIRNET conference aims to stimulate dialogue about the field's future contributions to society. As well as the regular themes (see the website), this year HEIRNET welcomes proposals that interrogate current and emerging research trajectories or demonstrate innovation in scholarship, policy, pedagogy, and public engagement with history. Building on international work exploring historical thinking, historical consciousness, disciplinary knowledge, and the uses of the past, this conference also invites researchers to critically consider how the field might develop across the coming decades.

Proposal Formats

Submissions may take the form of:

- Individual Papers: 15-minute presentations followed by discussion
- Panels: Groups of a minimum of 4 papers centred on a common theme (90 minutes)
- Workshops: Interactive sessions showcasing teaching strategies or tools (45 minutes)

Submission Guidelines:

- Abstracts - up to 300 words (including references) to include:
- Title
- Author(s), affiliation(s), email address(es)
- Research context and aims
- Conceptual and/or theoretical framing
- Methodology and preliminary findings (where applicable)
- Keywords

Key Dates:

- Abstract Submission: **15 April 2026**
- Early Bird registration: **15 June 2026**
- Registration of delegates making presentations: **15 July 2026**
- Registration of non-presenting delegates: **14 August**

Like last year, there will be a space for delegates to display research, newly published books, reports, projects, or calls for research. If you would like to reserve a space, please get in touch.

Questions?

Reach out to us on Facebook, X, LinkedIn, Bluesky or email us at conference@heirnetonline.com

For more information, submissions and registration

Visit our website at <https://heirnetonline.com/heirnet-2026-conf/>