

Call for Proposals
ESF / LiU Conferences in the Humanities 2008
within the framework of the ESF RESEARCH CONFERENCES SCHEME

ESF Standing Committee for the Humanities (SCH): Strategic Thematic Emphasis

The ESF Standing Committee for the Humanities will select for recommendation at least one research conference proposal covering one of the following three generic topics.

Proposals invited under all three topics should address different aspects of Humanities research*, but may contain strong interdisciplinary elements from within the Humanities and beyond.

An important element of the conferences is expected to be the exploration of new perspectives for research in the identified field.

Please note the deadline for the submission of proposals: 2 October 2006 (midnight CET)

Topic 1: Landscape studies – Archaeology – Cultural Heritage

Landscape studies – be it in rural, urban, industrial or post-industrial settings - have emerged as a major new field of interdisciplinary research, combining archaeology, history, law, heritage and environmental studies, demography and economics among other fields. The conference proposal would focus on the specific ways in which Humanities research can be the basis for the valorisation of the asset “landscape”.

Special requirement: historically and culturally comparative aspects (also outside Europe) are to be included.

Topic 2: Histories, stories and images of people in movement

Migration, immigration, emigration are and have been a reality for millions of people. The ESF Forward Look report on “Migration and Transcultural Identities” suggested new Humanities perspectives for research on migration <http://www.esf.org/publication/184/ICICE.pdf>. The conference proposal would follow this approach and focus on methodological issues, e.g. on the use of historical paradigms in understanding migration and constructing identities; on the role of tales, myths, experiences and images of identities of migrants, and their integration, in various, also non-European settings, through mainstream Humanities research. One focus could be on the creation of research infrastructures aimed at gathering corpora for the study of such experiences.

Special requirement: historically and culturally comparative aspects (also outside Europe) to be included; emphasis not on immigration issues alone, but on aspects related to displacement, migration and emigration experiences of both individuals and groups.

Topic 3: Cultures of Youth, Cultures of Childhood

The current emphasis on “youth cult” and “aging” on the one hand, and the political insistence on labour market integration on the other hand impact on our understanding of the notions of “childhood” and “youth”. The conference proposal would aim at discussing research agendas that re-establish the study of the experience of childhood and youth in their own right, taking into account in particular areas uniquely suited for Humanities approaches (such as literature and the arts), and seeking to integrate innovative approaches from cognitive sciences.

Special requirement: historically and culturally comparative aspects also outside Europe to be included.

For enquiries concerning the ESF Research Conference Scheme please see

<http://www.esf.org/conferences/Proposals2008> or contact: conferences@esf.org.

For enquiries concerning the thematic topics: humanities@esf.org

* SCH covers the following broad fields of research: Anthropology, Ethnology and Folklore; Archaeology; Art and Art History; Classical Studies; Cognitive Science; Gender Studies; Heritage Studies; History; History and Philosophy of Science; Linguistics; Literature; Media Studies; Music and Musicology; Oriental and African Studies; Pedagogical and Educational Research; Philosophy; Psychology; Religion and Theology.