

How should we live in cultural diversity? Building sustainable communities in times of fear
26th Nordic Intercultural Communication (NIC) Conference
November 28 - 30, 2019, Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences, Valmiera, Latvia

Save the dates! Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences invites you to participate in the 26th Nordic Intercultural Communication conference that will be held in Valmiera – a more than 700 years old Hanseatic town located about 100km North-East of Riga. The conference language is English.

This time the overarching theme of the conference is centred on exploring cultural diversity and intercultural sustainability.ⁱ The conference predominantly but not exclusively addresses the intercultural communication challenges and opportunities as illuminated, for instance, by international migration and diversity. Unfortunate by-products of these processes often are anger, fear, and societal division. Thus, the conference seeks to foreground the understanding of ways in which communities could be both diverse and integrated. The specific emphasis is on the notion of joint living *in* instead of merely *with* diversityⁱⁱ in a variety of realms e.g. in the practices of everyday interaction, education, policymaking, language and communication training, media, and so forth. Contributions from seasoned scholars as well as from students and practitioners interested in the various aspects of culture and communication are encouraged. The potential forms of participation include individual presentations of either fully developed papers or work in progress, as well as panels and workshops. Concerning publication, the participants are invited to submit articles for peer review to the Journal of Intercultural Communication.

This call for papers is addressed to scholars and practitioners focusing on but not limited to the following themes:

- Culture, communication and civic participation
- Building trust in societies
- Methods and practices of communicating, cultivating, and negotiating cultural diversity
- Cultural diversity in relation to education and pedagogy, training and management
- Intercultural aspects of migration and diasporic life
- Language training and cultural diversity
- Personal relationships across culturally diverse contexts
- Media, cultural diversity, and sustainable communities

During the conference, the 3rd ESPAnet Baltics annual meeting section “Social policy responses to the turbulence of the modern world – values, action, and communication” will take place and also invites proposals. More about the organization itself can be found at <https://blogg.hioa.no/espanet>.

Presentation proposals should follow the abstract format of approximately 500 words (including title and reference information). Panel proposals should also be approximately 500 words, including rationale, a list of proposed participants as well as their individual contribution.

The submission system will open on June 1, 2019 at <http://va.lv/en/nic-conference>. Submission deadline is September 1, 2019. We look forward to seeing you in Valmiera!

The 26th NIC conference is organized by the Faculty of Society and Science at the Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences. For further inquiry, you are welcome to contact the chair of the organizing committee Liene Ločmele at liene.locmele@va.lv.

ⁱ Busch, D. (2016). What is intercultural sustainability? A first exploration of linkages between culture and sustainability in intercultural research. *Journal of Sustainable Development*, 9 (1), p. 63-76.

ⁱⁱ Antonsich, M. (2016). Interculturalism versus multiculturalism – the Cattle-Modood debate. *Ethnicities*, 16 (3), p. 470-493.