

CALL No. 03/2026

Selection for T4EU Creativity Week 2026

PhD Conference

Thinking Creativity: An International PhD Conference in Philosophy

Braga, Portugal | 12–14 October 2026

As a member of the Transform4Europe (T4EU) Alliance, Universidade Católica Portuguesa (UCP) invites applications for the Creativity Week 2026 PhD Conference, organised within the framework of WP4 – Doctoral Education and Innovative Ecosystem and WP5 – Academy for Professional Excellence.

The PhD Conference forms part of the wider Creativity Week 2026, which also includes:

- Summer School – *Shaping the Future: Philosophy, Creativity, and Human Transformation in the Age of AI*
- Matchmaking Event – *Together We Create the Future*

The PhD Conference takes place from 12–14 October. Participants attending the PhD Conference will automatically participate in the Matchmaking Event, which continues to take place on 15 and 16 October, should they wish to extend their stay.

1) EVENT DETAILS

Event: Creativity Week 2026 – PhD Conference

Theme: Thinking Creativity: An International PhD Conference in Philosophy

Dates: 12–14 October 2026

Location: Braga, Portugal

Organiser: Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences (Braga Campus) from Universidade Católica Portuguesa, in collaboration with institutional, societal, academic, corporate and GLAM partners.

About the PhD Conference

How can creativity help us respond to the challenges of the twenty-first century?

Artificial Intelligence, climate change, geopolitical tensions and rapid technological transformation are reshaping society and raising fundamental questions about what it means to create, innovate and act as human beings.

The **T4EU Creativity Week PhD Conference** brings together doctoral students and candidates, postdoctoral researchers, academics and professionals from across Europe to explore creativity as a driver of innovation, sustainability and social transformation. Through keynote lectures, parallel sessions, workshops and scientific discussion, the conference promotes interdisciplinary dialogue between philosophy, the arts, science and technology.

As part of the Creativity Week 2026, participants will also take part in the **Matchmaking Event** providing opportunities to engage with researchers, industry representatives and societal stakeholders while expanding their European research networks.

Conference Objectives

The conference aims to:

- provide an international forum for presenting and discussing ongoing doctoral research;
- foster interdisciplinary dialogue on creativity from philosophical and related perspectives;
- strengthen collaboration among researchers across the Transform4Europe Alliance;
- support the development of academic presentation, discussion and networking skills.

2) EVENT PROGRAMME (Preliminary)

The PhD Conference takes place from 12–14 October 2026. Participants will also take part in the Matchmaking Event. They are welcome to participate in the Transformational Labs (15–16 October) should they wish to extend their stay.

	Monday (12/10)	Tuesday (13/10)	Wednesday (14/10)	Thursday (15/10)	Friday (16/10)
9h30	—	Keynote 2 (Ana Margarida Abrantes & Luísa Santos) ● ● ●	Keynote 3 (Pierre Cassou-Noguès) ● ●	Round-table: Creativity and sustainable solutions in industry or Workshop: Creativity and the Arts	Presentation Ch1 ● ● Presentation Ch 2 ● ● Presentation Ch 3 ● ●
11h00	Coffee-break	Coffee-break	Coffee-break	Coffee-break (11h00)	Coffee-break
11h30	10h30: Welcome session (Rector [Video], Paulo Dias, Bruno Nobre) ● ● ● Ice-breaking session (Anabela Rodrigues) ● ● ● Keynote 1 (Dustin Stokes) ● ● ●	Ch1 (Students) ● Ch 2 (Students) ● Ch 3 (Students) ● Launching a T4EU (post-) doctoral program in philosophy (Augusto Silva, Francisco Palma, Bruno Nobre) ● ● ●	Ch1 ● Ch 2 ● Ch 3 ● Short communications in parallel sessions (Students) ●	Round-table: Creativity and theology or Round-table: Creativity and geopolitics ● ● Ch 1 and Ch 2	Concluding Remarks and Commitments ● ●
13h00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
14h30	14h30		Cultural Afternoon & Science Cafe (no Muzeu)	Workshop with a Company	-----

	Presentation of potential forms of cooperation within T4EU Alliance followed by a Q&A session (Peter Hannenberg; Francisco Palma; chair: Bruno Nobre) ● ● ● 15h30 Informal networking ● ● Launching session Ch1 ● Launching session Ch 2 ● Launching session Ch 3 ●	Short communications in parallel sessions (Students)/PhD Thesis Presentations ● ● Funding strategy ● ●	(José Cândido Martins; Carla Pinto Rebelo) ● ● ●	(DST - Creativity and Entrepreneurship – How to generate more impact? - with Eng. José Teixeira) ● ● Ch 3	
16h00	Coffee break (16h30)	Coffee break	Coffee break		
16h30	(17h00) Collaboration and creative thinking tools ● ● ●	Wrap-up session ● Feedback sessions for PhD students/Feedback Communications ● ●	Cultural Afternoon ● ● ●		
18h30	Sunset social event ● ● ●	Public Conference	—	Public Conference ● ● (Manuela Veloso)	

19h15		Mystery dinner Time for informal talks and networking (Anabela Rodrigues)   	Social Dinner   	Dinner  	
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Matchmaking for excellence •

PhD Conference •

Summer School •

3) VACANCIES

Up to **5 candidates per university** may be nominated.

Applications are open to:

- PhD candidates
- PhD students
- Post-doc researchers
- Academic Staff involved in Doctoral Studies
- Professional staff working in doctoral education and research support

4) ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must:

- be affiliated with a T4EU member or partner university;

- belong to one of the eligible participant categories;
- demonstrate good communication skills in English (minimum B2 recommended);
- submit all required application documents by the deadline.

Applicants wishing to present a paper must additionally submit an abstract in accordance with the **Call for Papers** below.

5) APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applications will be managed **by the T4EU Office** at each participant's home university.

Following the internal selection process, each home university shall submit the details of its nominated participants to Universidade Católica Portuguesa **by 15 September 2026**.

All nominations should be sent to: creativityweek.braga@ucp.pt

6) APPLICATION TIMELINE

Activity	Date
Applications open	17 July 2026
Applicants' selection completed & sent to UCP	15 September 2026
Confirmation of candidates' acceptance by UCP	17 September 2026
Call Proposal Submission (Optional)	10 September 2026

7) EXCLUSION

Applications submitted after the deadline or missing any required documentation will not be considered.

8) RESULTS

Following confirmation of their nomination, selected participants will receive further enrolment information from Universidade Católica Portuguesa.

Results will be communicated **by 17 September 2026**.

9) CALL FOR PAPERS (Optional)

Participants selected by their home universities to attend the Creativity Week PhD Conference are invited to submit a proposal for a **15-minute oral presentation** on a topic related to creativity from a philosophical or interdisciplinary perspective.

Submission of a paper proposal is **entirely optional** and is **not a requirement** for participation in the conference.

9.1) Paper Proposal Requirements

Submissions should include:

- Title of the presentation
- Abstract (maximum 250 words)
- Three to five keywords
- Author's name and institutional affiliation
- Short biography (maximum 100 words)

Proposals may address, but are not limited to, the following themes:

- Philosophy of Creativity
- Artificial Intelligence and Creativity
- Creativity and Ethics
- Creativity and Sustainability
- Creativity and Conflict Resolution
- Creativity and Innovation
- Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Creativity

9.2) Submission of Paper Proposals

Participants wishing to present their research should submit their proposal **by 10 September 2026** to:

creativityweek.braga@ucp.pt

using the subject line:

Creativity Week 2026 – PhD Conference Paper Proposal

A maximum of **15 paper proposals** will be selected for oral presentation during the parallel scientific sessions.

Authors will be notified of the outcome of the Call for Papers by **20 September 2026**.

9.3) Evaluation Criteria for Paper Proposals

Paper proposals will be evaluated by the Scientific Committee according to the following criteria:

1. Relevance to the conference theme;
2. Originality and academic contribution;
3. Quality and clarity of the abstract;
4. Interdisciplinary relevance and potential for discussion;

5. Overall scientific merit.

9.4) Selection Committee for Paper Proposals

Paper proposals will be evaluated by a Scientific Committee appointed by the Executive Board of the Transform4Europe Alliance at Universidade Católica Portuguesa.

The Committee shall comprise representatives of:

- the Executive Board of the Transform4Europe Alliance at Universidade Católica Portuguesa;
- the Vice-Rectorate for Research and Doctoral Education;
- the Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences;
- CADOS – Católica Doctoral School.

The Committee's decisions are final.

Lisbon, 17 July 2026

Transform4Europe | Universidade Católica Portuguesa

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