



CALL FOR PAPERS

THREADS OF CHANGE: WEAVING SILK ROAD COOPERATION FOR A RESILIENT WORLD

A Multidisciplinary Conference on Climate, Society, and the Cognitive Built Environment

Date:

November 15-18, 2026.

Organized alongside the General Assembly of the Silk-Road Universities Network. The conference will be held across four locations in Algeria: Tlemcen, Bejaia, Setif, and Algiers.

Venue:

Organized by: Canadian University Dubai (CUD), the Silk-Road Universities Network (SUN), and the International Association for Silk-Road Studies (IASS), in collaboration with the following Algerian host universities: Abou Bekr Belkaïd University of Tlemcen, Ferhat Abbas University Sétif 1, Abderrahmane Mira University of Béjaïa, and the University of Science and Technology Houari Boumediene (USTHB), Algiers.

Format:

In-person attendance is strongly preferred. The program spans four calendar days, including three conference days and one travel and cultural-visit day.

November 15: Conference sessions in Tlemcen

November 16: Intercity travel and optional cultural visits

November 17-18: Parallel conference sessions in Bejaia, Setif and Algiers

1. Conference Overview

The Silk Road University Network (SUN)—uniting **87 universities across 27 countries** along the historic land and maritime Silk Roads—stands as a living testament to the "Spirit of the Silk Road": a legacy of bridge-building between East and West, North and South.

In a world defined by accelerating environmental, social, and technological disruption, this network is uniquely positioned to answer a defining question of our era: **How can societies strengthen their resilience in the face of accelerating environmental, social, and technological change?**

This three-day multidisciplinary academic conference, invites scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and innovators from **Business and Management, Technology, Sciences, Medicine, Law, Humanities, Architecture, Engineering and Urban Planning, and other fields** to move beyond disciplinary silos. We seek contributions that weave together diverse expertise to foster resilience across four interconnected pillars:

1. **Climate Change:** Sharing adaptation strategies and renewable innovations across Arctic, desert, temperate, and tropical zones.
2. **Social Sustainability:** Preserving cultural heritage and community cohesion amid migration, urbanization, and economic transformation.
3. **Cognitive & Resilient Built Environments:** Leveraging digital twins, AI, and nature-based solutions to create smart, safe, and culturally responsive cities.
4. **Academic & Scientific Forums – Area Studies, History, and Transdisciplinary Knowledge:** This conference comprises five specialized forums that will provide an in-depth look into the history, socio-economics, geopolitics, languages, medicine, sport and knowledge systems that define Silk Road civilizations, ensuring that the conference honors the rich cultural tapestry underlying all discussions of resilience and innovation.

2. Why Participate?

This is not a traditional academic gathering. As the SUN Assembly welcomes new member institutions, this conference serves as a launchpad for **actionable collaborations**. We highly encourage submissions that go beyond theory to present:

- **Local Case Studies & Best Practices:** Ground-level solutions from your community.
- **Cross-Institutional Collaborations:** Initiatives already connecting universities across the Silk Road.
- **Open-Access Outputs & Technology Transfer:** Scalable models for global impact.
- **Pilot Projects:** Early-stage experiments in climate resilience, social inclusion, or smart cities.
- **Historical & Area Studies Research:** Archival discoveries, linguistic analyses, and socio-economic histories that illuminate the Silk Road's enduring legacy.
- **Networking & Partnership Development:** Dedicated forums and social sessions to connect with like-minded researchers, practitioners, and policymakers from 27 countries.
- **Dedicated Academic & Scientific Forums for Deep Engagement:** This conference offers a unique opportunity to present and connect within five specialized forums, each hosted by a distinguished SUN member institution. These forums provide a focused platform for scholars in area studies, history, languages, medicine, sports science, and transdisciplinary research to share their work and build lasting partnerships.

The conference aims to generate project ideas, facilitate new research partnerships, and strengthen a shared commitment to weaving the "Threads of Change" into the fabric of SUN's next decade.

3. Conference Themes & Disciplinary Tracks

We welcome abstracts from all majors and faculties. The conference is organized around three simultaneous thematic panels complemented by five specialized academic forums. Presenters are encouraged to address the **cross-cutting questions** that link their field to the broader Silk Road context.

Panel 1: Climate Change – Shared Challenges, Diverse Solutions

Themes: Water scarcity, extreme heat, sea-level rise, renewable energy corridors, cross-border early warning systems, climate-induced migration.

- *For Business & Management:* Green finance models, carbon market integration along trade routes.

- *For Sciences & Engineering:* Decarbonization technologies, climate modeling for diverse geographies.
- *For Law & Policy:* Transboundary environmental governance, climate justice frameworks.
- *For Medicine:* Health impacts of extreme heat and air pollution, epidemic surveillance in changing climates.
- **Cross-cutting question:** How do climate impacts on the Silk Road affect global political and economic stability?

Panel 2: Social Sustainability – Preserving Heritage While Building the Future

Themes: Cultural heritage conservation, intergenerational justice, inclusive urbanization, migration and identity, equitable access to education and healthcare.

- *For Business & Management:* Social entrepreneurship, sustainable tourism, inclusive supply chains.
- *For Humanities & Law:* Cultural property rights, historical narrative preservation, refugee law.
- *For Medicine:* Mental health in displaced populations, aging societies and social care.
- *For Technology:* Digital archiving of cultural heritage, AI for social inclusion.
- **Cross-cutting question:** Can the Silk Road spirit of exchange survive the pressures of globalization, nationalism and climate migration?

Panel 3: Cognitive & Resilient Built Environments – Smart Cities Along the Silk Road

Themes: Digital twins, AI for disaster response, heat-resilient urban design, flood-prone area management, nature-based solutions, data sovereignty.

- *For Technology & Engineering:* IoT sensors, predictive analytics for infrastructure, green building materials.
- *For Business & Management:* Smart city ROI, public-private partnerships for urban tech.
- *For Law & Ethics:* Data privacy, cybersecurity, cross-border data governance.
- *For Sciences:* Urban ecology, biodiversity in cities, climate-resilient agriculture.

- *For Medicine:* Healthy city design, reducing urban heat island effects on vulnerable populations.
- **Cross-cutting question:** How can digital infrastructure respect cultural diversity and data sovereignty?

Academic & Scientific Forums: Area Studies, History, and Transdisciplinary Knowledge

This dedicated track comprises five specialized forums, each hosted by a leading SUN member institution, focusing on the deep historical, cultural, linguistic, medical, and collaborative dimensions of the Silk Road.

• **Forum 4.1: The Silk Road Cultural Heritage Forum**

Hosted by: University of Naples "L'Orientale", Italy

Themes: Archaeological discoveries along ancient routes, preservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, digital humanities for historical reconstruction, museology and cultural diplomacy, Silk Road art, music, and literature traditions.

- **Call for Submissions:** Papers exploring heritage conservation challenges, cross-cultural artistic exchanges, and the role of cultural memory in fostering contemporary resilience.
- **Cross-cutting question:** How can shared heritage narratives build trust and cooperation among Silk Road nations today?

• **Forum 4.2: The Silk Road Medical Forum**

Hosted by: University of Pompeu Fabra, Spain

Themes: History of medical knowledge exchange along the Silk Road (Greek, Persian, Indian, Chinese traditions), traditional medicine and pharmacopoeia, cross-border health challenges, epidemic history and pandemic preparedness, One Health approaches connecting human, animal, and environmental health.

- **Call for Submissions:** Papers on historical medical texts, comparative health systems, traditional healing practices, and contemporary public health collaborations across the Silk Road region.
- **Cross-cutting question:** What can historical medical exchanges teach us about building resilient health systems in a globalized world?

- **Forum 4.3: The Silk Road International and Transdisciplinary Research Collaboration Forum**

Hosted by: Canadian University Dubai, UAE

Themes: Best practices in cross-border research partnerships, funding mechanisms for international collaborative projects, capacity building and knowledge transfer, ethics of transdisciplinary research, science diplomacy, and the role of universities in sustainable development along the Silk Road.

- **Call for Submissions:** Case studies of successful collaborative projects, analyses of barriers to transdisciplinary work, and proposals for new research networks addressing shared challenges.
- **Cross-cutting question:** How can universities move beyond institutional boundaries to co-create solutions that are locally relevant and globally scalable?

- **Forum 4.4: The Silk Road Sports Forum**

Hosted by: University of Donja Gorica, Montenegro

Themes: Traditional sports and games along the Silk Road, sport as a tool for social cohesion and youth engagement, mega-events and soft power, sports diplomacy between East and West, physical education and public health, inclusive and adaptive sports for diverse communities.

- **Call for Submissions:** Papers exploring the cultural significance of traditional sports, the role of sport in peacebuilding, and innovative sports-based interventions for social inclusion.
- **Cross-cutting question:** Can shared sporting traditions and competitions foster people-to-people connections that transcend political boundaries?

- **Forum 4.5: The Silk Road Language Forum**

Hosted by: Uzbekistan State University of World Languages, Uzbekistan

Themes: Linguistic diversity and language preservation along the Silk Road, historical linguistics and contact languages, translation and interpretation as tools of diplomacy, multilingual education policies, digital language documentation, and the role of language in cultural identity and integration.

- **Call for Submissions:** Papers on endangered languages, translation studies, language policy in multicultural societies, and innovative pedagogical approaches to multilingual education.

- **Cross-cutting question:** How can linguistic diversity be preserved and leveraged as a resource for mutual understanding in an increasingly interconnected world?

4. Special Features

- **Keynote Dialogue:** A high-level conversation between representatives of Eastern and Western thought on the future of global cooperation.
- **Thematic Panels:** Each panel will pair one scholar from Asia, one from the Middle East/Africa, and one from Europe to ensure balanced, diverse perspectives.
- **Concurrent Workshops:** the conference will feature a series of high-impact, practitioner-led workshops designed to equip participants with actionable skills and real-world knowledge. These sessions will be facilitated by distinguished professional experts, including industry leaders, policymakers, urban planners, legal advisors, and technology innovators—who work at the forefront of sustainability, resilience, and digital transformation.
- **Networking & Partnership Forums:** Dedicated time for participants to meet potential collaborators and develop joint proposals.

5. Submission Guidelines

We invite submissions for **individual papers, panel proposals, or pilot project showcases.**

- **Abstract Length:** 300–500 words, word document and pdf formats are accepted.
- **Language:** English.
- **Keywords:** Please identify 3–5 keywords and indicate which of the three panels your work best aligns with.
- **Discipline:** Clearly state your primary academic field (e.g., Business, Law, Medicine, Engineering, Architecture, Computer Science, etc.) to help us assemble multidisciplinary sessions.

Important Dates:

- Abstract Submission Deadline: Extended to October 1, 2026
- Notification of Acceptance: Starting September 10, 2026
- Full Paper Submission (optional for proceedings): October 31, 2026
- Conference Dates: November 15-18, 2026

How to Submit:

Please submit your abstract via [Insert Submission Portal/Email Address] with the subject line: *"CFP Submission – [Your Last Name] – [Panel Number]"*

Abstract Upload link: Abstracts are submitted as part of conference registration, through the [single registration form \(https://form.jotform.com/262251248586462\)](https://form.jotform.com/262251248586462). You can also register without submitting an abstract.

Please Note:

- Approved papers will be published in the conference proceedings.
- Best papers will be considered for publication in high-end journals (publication fees covered by the Silk-Road Universities Network (SUN)).
- Best paper and presentation awards (First, Second, and Third place) will be presented per panel and per location.

6. Join the Threads of Change

This is a call to thinkers, doers, and bridge-builders. Whether you are a scientist modeling glacial melt in Central Asia, a lawyer designing climate migration policies, a business professor studying green supply chains, or a medical researcher tracking vector-borne diseases in new climates —your expertise is a vital thread in the tapestry of a resilient world.

We look forward to welcoming you to Algeria in November 2026 to weave those threads together.

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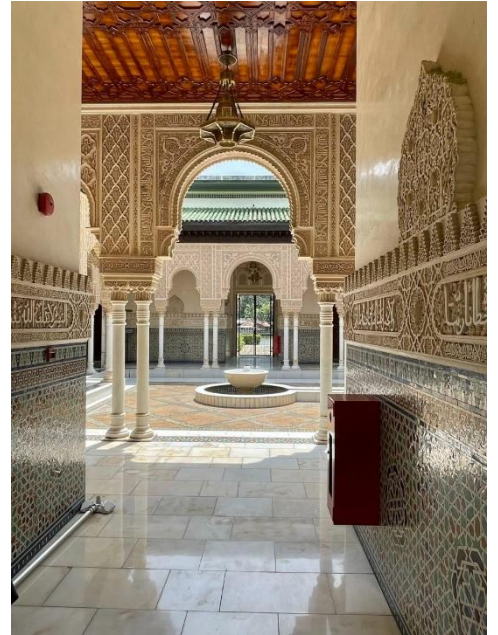
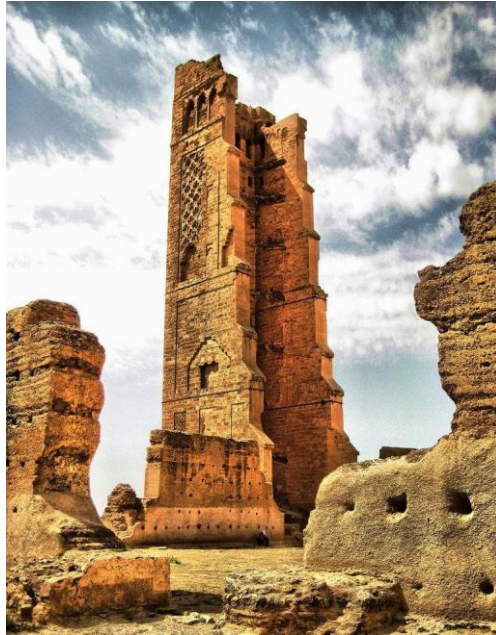
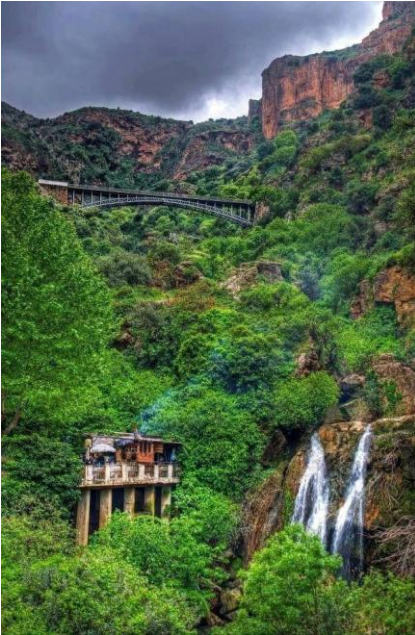
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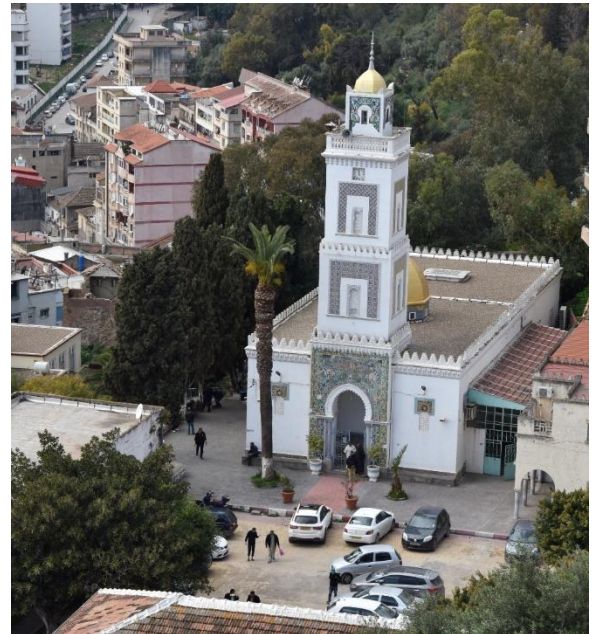
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LOCATIONS

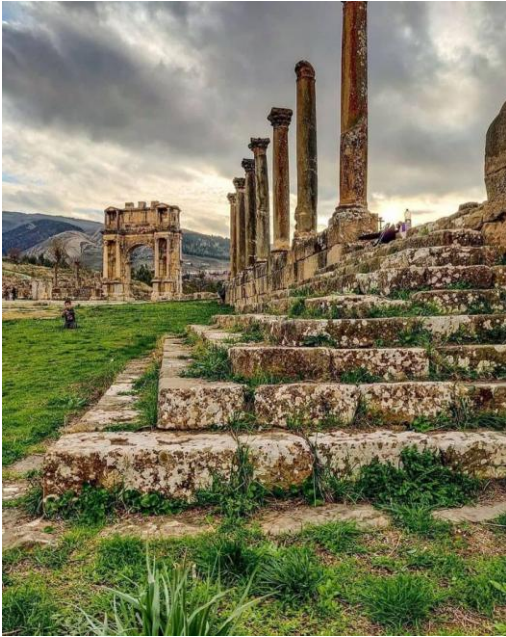
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