

## International Conference on FutureTech 2026 (ICFT)

### Special Session Proposal

**Title: Humanities, Culture, and Education in the Age of Future Technologies (HCE-FT 2026)**

#### Organizing Committee

A broader organizing and review committee, including peer reviewers and session support roles, will be established during the preparation phase. The following are the principal members of the organizing team.

#### **Prof. Dr. Monika Pietrzak-Franger (Honorary Chair)**

University of Vienna, Austria.

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*Bio:* Prof. Pietrzak-Franger is Chair of British Cultural and Literary Studies at the University of Vienna, Austria. Her areas of research include Medical Humanities, Adaptation, Inter- and Transmedia Studies, Victorian and Neo-Victorian Studies, Biopics, Digital Fictions, and the Digital Literary Sphere.

#### **Dr. Bassmah B. AlTaher (Organizer, Primary Contact)**

German Jordanian University (GJU), School of Applied Humanities and Social Sciences, Applied Humanities Department, Amman, Jordan.

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*Bio:* Dr. AlTaher is an Associate Professor and Head of the Applied Humanities Department at GJU. Her research spans literature, culture, identity, and feminist studies, with a growing focus on digital discourse and AI in education. She is an active researcher and peer reviewer for indexed journals and integrates interdisciplinary approaches, bridging the humanities and emerging technologies.

#### **Prof. Dr. Gordon Mitchell (Organizer)**

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*Bio:* Professor Mitchell is an Emeritus Professor of the University of Hamburg in Germany and Professor in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the German Jordanian University in Amman, Jordan. Through the work of the Art Peace Project, he has sought to identify ways in which creative arts can provide a setting for learners to explore the intersections between biography, memory, and place. His emphasis is on tracing the educational potential of the creative arts within contexts characterized by high levels of societal conflict.

#### **Dr. Amani Alsarhan (Co-Organizer)**

University of Jordan (JU), Center for Women's Studies, Amman, Jordan.

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*Bio:* Dr. Al-Serhan is an Associate Professor of Women's Studies at the University of Jordan, specializing in gender and culture in Arab and Muslim societies. Her work spans Arab and postcolonial feminism, feminist pedagogy, and gender in development and forced migration. She teaches and supervises research on women's empowerment and political participation and actively contributes to regional and international feminist initiatives.

#### **Dr. Juhaina Al-Issawi (Co-Organizer)**

Middle East University (MEU), Faculty of Arts and Educational Sciences, Department of English Language and Translation

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*Bio:* Dr. Al-Issawi is an Assistant Professor of Applied Linguistics at MEU. Her research spans discourse analysis, semiotics, ESP, and TEFL, with a growing focus on digital discourse and AI in language education. She is an active researcher with international publications and contributes to curriculum development and academic supervision.

### **Conceptual Framing**

As emerging technologies continue to reshape how societies function, communicate, and produce knowledge, it becomes increasingly important to critically examine their human, cultural, and ethical implications. This special session asks: how can the humanities and education meaningfully engage with technological transformation while ensuring that innovation remains inclusive, ethical, and grounded in human experience? Rather than treating technology as a neutral force, the session foregrounds questions of power, representation, identity, and inequality in digitally mediated environments.

Bringing together perspectives from the humanities and education, this session explores how artificial intelligence, digital platforms, and immersive systems are reconfiguring culture, language, identity, and knowledge production. It emphasizes the role of critical and interdisciplinary inquiry in understanding how these technologies shape, and are shaped by, social, cultural, and educational contexts. By integrating insights from literary studies, cultural theory, linguistics, and educational research, the session positions the humanities and education as essential in shaping more ethical, inclusive, and human-centered technological futures.

### **Motivation and Timeliness**

The rapid integration of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, digital platforms, and immersive systems is transforming not only industries but also human experience, communication, and education. While ICFT 2026 highlights technical innovation, there remains a critical need to examine the cultural, linguistic, ethical, and pedagogical dimensions of these transformations.

This special session addresses this gap by positioning the humanities and education as essential contributors to technological development. It foregrounds key concerns surrounding digital identity, power, representation, and ethical responsibility, emphasizing that technological systems are not neutral but deeply embedded within social and cultural structures.

At a time when generative AI is reshaping knowledge production, authorship, and learning practices, this session provides a timely interdisciplinary platform to explore how language, narratives, and pedagogies are being reconfigured in algorithmically mediated environments, ensuring that innovation remains human-centered, inclusive, and critically informed.

### **Scope and Topics**

#### *In Scope*

#### **1. Digital Identity, Power, and Ethical Frameworks**

- Culture, identity, and representation in digital and AI-driven environments
- Algorithmic bias, power structures, and governance
- Feminist, postcolonial, and critical approaches to technology
- Ethical and human-centered frameworks for AI development

#### **2. Language, Discourse, and Algorithmic Mediation**

- Discourse analysis of social media and short-form content
- Language, power, and representation in algorithmically mediated environments
- Code-switching, multilingualism, and identity performance in digital spaces
- Natural Language Processing (NLP), computational linguistics, and translation in digital discourse and communication
- Lexicography, language technologies, and knowledge organization in digital environments

### 3. Digital Narratives, Creativity, and Cultural Production

- Electronic literature and digital storytelling
- Video games as cultural and narrative texts
- Storytelling, affect, and emotion in human–machine interaction
- Creative writing, performance, and hybrid digital forms

### 4. AI, Education, and Transformative Pedagogies

- Generative AI in education and language learning
- AI-supported pedagogy, simulation, and experiential learning
- Coaching, performance, and collaborative learning in AI-assisted environments
- Digital literacies, critical thinking, and ethical AI use

#### *Out of Scope*

- Purely technical AI model development without human or educational context
- Hardware-focused engineering solutions without cultural or social analysis
- Studies lacking clear relevance to human-centered or educational dimensions

#### **Format Plan**

The session is planned as a full-day special session designed to accommodate a large number of contributors while fostering interactive and interdisciplinary engagement. The program will include:

- Invited keynote talks (20–30 minutes each)
- Peer-reviewed contributed papers (10–12 minutes each), organized into thematic panels (parallel or sequential)
- Moderated panel discussions with open Q&A (30–45 minutes each)
- Poster session featuring additional reviewed contributions for discussion and networking (*poster presentations will not be included in the conference proceedings*)
- Interactive workshop (45–60 minutes) focused on applied practices, such as AI in education, digital storytelling, or human-centered technology design

All full papers will undergo peer review for inclusion in the conference proceedings. Poster submissions will be reviewed for relevance and quality, but are intended for interactive engagement rather than formal publication.

If submission volume is high, the session may run parallel panels or expand into multiple coordinated sessions within the conference program.

#### **Tentative Speaker Plan**

**Status:** To Be Announced (TBA)

The session will recruit:

- International scholars in digital humanities and cultural studies
- Researchers in AI and education
- Experts in discourse analysis and sociolinguistics
- Practitioners working on AI applications in real-world learning environments

Priority will be given to contributors working at the intersection of technology, culture, and education, ensuring a diverse and interdisciplinary lineup.

## Expected Audience and Impact

### Target Audience

- Researchers in the humanities, education, and social sciences
- AI and technology researchers interested in human-centered design
- Educators integrating AI into teaching and learning
- Industry professionals concerned with user experience, ethics, and communication

### Impact

- Bridges technological innovation with human, cultural, and educational inquiry
- Expands ICFT's interdisciplinary scope
- Promotes ethical, inclusive, and human-centered AI practices
- Strengthens dialogue across identity, language, narrative, and pedagogy in digital contexts

### Relevance to ICFT 2026 Tracks

This session aligns with and enhances the following ICFT tracks:

- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (human-centered AI, communication, ethics)
- Digital Transformation and Innovation (cultural, social, and educational impact of digital systems)

It complements these tracks by introducing critical, cultural, and pedagogical perspectives that are essential for sustainable technological development.

### Session Logistics

- **Duration:** Full-day
- **Equipment Needs:** Projector, presentation system, microphones
- **Format:** Hybrid (in-person and remote participation supported)
- **Room Setup:** Presentation panels with space for discussion and workshop interaction

### Diversity and Balance Plan

The session will ensure:

- Gender balance among speakers and contributors
- Geographical diversity, including regional and international representation
- Inclusion of both academic and industry perspectives
- Opportunities for early-career researchers alongside established scholars