

Call for Papers - “*Understanding Plastics: From Heritage to Controversy and Beyond*” November 5th to 7th, 2025, São João da Madeira, The northern region of Portugal.

In the framework of the project “*The Plastics Metamorphoses - the reality and the multiple approaches to a material*”, focussed on the multidisciplinary approaches to these materials, we invite all interested partners to submit papers, posters and communications to the incoming congress “*Understanding Plastics: From Heritage to Controversy and Beyond*”.

This congress aims to explore the inherent tensions that plastics present across various domains, including their indispensable role in modern life and their significant environmental impact.

Topics could address well-known antinomies, such as:

- Luxury – Ubiquity
- Durability – Degradation
- Innovation - Imitation
- Natural – Artificial/synthetic
- Handmade - Mass production
- Collection - Disposal
- Recycling/Recovery – Littering
- Environmental friendliness -pollution

The congress aims to foster a dialogue that spans disciplines such as history, anthropology, conservation, design, environmental studies, and engineering. Also, contributions that address the historical evolution of plastics, their socio-economic implications, the environmental paradoxes they embody as well as the abovementioned antinomies within plastic materials culture are particularly encouraged.

The programme committee suggests the following non-exhaustive sub-themes for contributors of individual papers, and posters:

- Bio-based materials for packaging;
- Plastics as cultural heritage;
- Material properties as vehicles of innovation;
- Artisanal and industrial design;
- Colonialism and pollution (Environmental education?);
- The ethics of plastics;
- Plastics sustainability.

All proposals must be in English. For advice on preparing your submission and the conference presentation, please consult the congress guidelines.

In addition to the scientific programme, the congress will include various social events.

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

SESSION proposals must include (1) an abstract of the session (350 words at maximum), listing the proposed papers and a session chairperson; (2) abstracts for each paper (200-350 words); (3) a one-page CV for each contributor and chairperson. Sessions should consist of at least one set of presentations – but no more than four time slots of 60 minutes – and they may include three or four papers in each, which might extend series of successive sections. Proposing a commentator – instead of the fourth presenter – is also possible. The programme committee reserves the right to relocate papers to different themes and add papers to sessions. We also encourage proposing roundtables and other "untraditional" as well as experimental session formats. Whatever the session format will be, organizers and chairs are expected to reserve enough time for general discussion between the presenters and audience.

INDIVIDUAL PAPER proposals must include: (1) a 200-350-words abstract; and (2) a one-page CV.

Abstracts should include the author's name and email address, affiliation, a short descriptive title, a concise statement of the thesis, a brief discussion of the sources, and a summary of the major conclusions. If you are submitting a paper proposal dealing with a particular subtheme, please indicate this in your proposal.

In preparing your paper, remember that presentations are not full-length articles. Depending on the number of papers in the session, you will have no more than 15 minutes to speak and 5 minutes for Q&A. For more recommendations about preparing your conference presentation, please consult the guidelines at the conference website.

POSTER proposals must include (1) a 200-350-word abstract; and (2) a one-page CV. Abstracts should include the author's name and email address, a short descriptive title, a concise statement of the thesis, a brief discussion of the sources, and a summary of the major conclusions. Please, indicate one of the specified subthemes for your poster.

Poster Flash Talk Presentations

All poster presenters are kindly requested to prepare and present in front of the auditorium a Poster Flash Talk. During the plenary sessions, the authors will have the opportunity to show THREE PowerPoint slides focusing on the main aim of their research and key findings.

Poster Flash Talks are meant to be SHORT (2 minutes MAX, ONLY 3 slides) presentation.

The purpose of the Flash Talk is to stimulate the audience to view the posters and to discuss the research with the authors during the whole congress breaks, posters social time in the exhibition area, where the posters are displayed.

A POSTER AWARD is considered for the three best posters.

Poster Size

Size	Width x Height (mm)	Width x Height (in)
A0	841 x 1189 mm	33.1 x 46.8 in

PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS

Proposals should be sent electronically (as a **word file**) to mopraproject@fc.ul.pt and to Maria Elvira Callapez (mariaelviraacallapez@gmail.com), the chair of the programme committee.

Contributors will be encouraged to submit full-length versions of their papers after the congress.

Publishing guidelines will be provided in the future. Please visit the website that is currently under construction:
<https://plasticmetamorphoses.ciuhct.org/>

5 November 2024	Submission of sessions proposals opens
24 January 2025	Submission of sessions proposal closes 23.59GMT
2 December 2024	Submission of individual paper proposals opens
10 February 2025	Acceptance/rejection of session proposals announced
21 February 2025	Submission of individual papers proposals closes at 23.59GMT
21 April 2025	Acceptance/rejection of individual paper proposals announced
28 April 2025	Draft programme published and opening of Early Bird registration
1 Setembro 2025	Late registration
29 Setembro 2025	Draft final programme issued
13 October 2025	Publication of final programme
31 October 2025	Final deadline for registration

Accommodation suggestions in São João da Madeira (<https://plasticmetamorphoses.ciuhct.org/informacoes-para-os-participantes1/>)

Hotels in S. João da Madeira

- Golden Tulip
- AS
- Central Suites
- Residencial Solar S. João

Hotels in Region

Santa Maria da Feira: Nova Cruz + DS Hotel Lusopark
Oliveira de Azeméis :: Hotel Dighton + Hotel Vale do Rio

Looking forward to meeting you at ***“Understanding Plastics: From Heritage to Controversy and Beyond”***, Congress in 2025, Portugal.

With best regards,
Maria Elvira Callapez