

Call for Papers



NUS Sociology & Anthropology

Inter-Varsity Graduate Students Symposium 2026

24 April, 2026, Friday

New Frontiers in Sociology and Anthropology

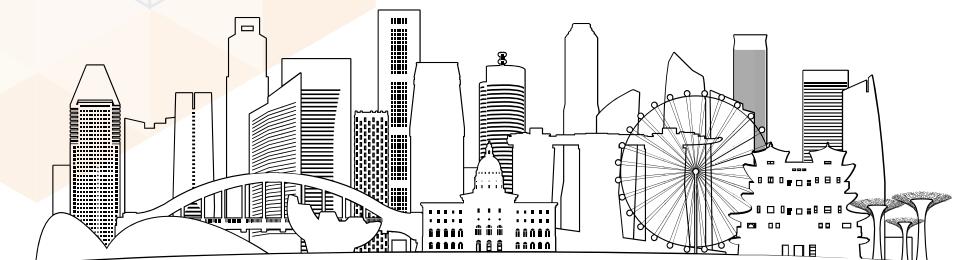
A “frontier” can be said to demarcate a geographic boundary or a physical and territorial limit which separates the wilderness from beyond it from the civilisation it encloses (Saraf, 2020). Simultaneously, to borrow a line from Johnson et al's (2011) study of borders, frontiers are not mere “fixed lines”, but can also be seen as “processes, practices, discourses, symbols, institutions or networks through which power works” (62). Of interest is also how frontiers may refer metaphorically and symbolically to spaces and parameters encompassing particular fields of knowledge and knowledge production (Dogan, 2000; Kinney, 2014). To say that a “new frontier” is always in reach in Sociology and Anthropology acknowledges that the peripheries of the disciplines are constantly expanding, evolving, and embracing new breakthroughs.

This year's inter-varsity symposium's theme New Frontiers in Sociology & Anthropology foregrounds contemporary transformations and discusses emergent theoretical concerns while opening a space for methodological innovation and reflexive critique, via the discussion of current research undertaken by Graduate Students in NUS, NTU, SMU, SUSS, and SUTD.

Singapore's universities host vibrant graduate communities in Sociology and Anthropology, yet meaningful inter-institutional engagement among students remains limited. As research questions increasingly cut across disciplines, institutions, and publics, there is strong value in building a collaborative intellectual ecosystem where graduate scholars can exchange ideas, test emerging research, and cultivate scholarly networks early in their careers.

References:

- Dogan, M. (2000) “The Moving Frontier of the Social Sciences,” in Quah, S. and Sales, A., *The International Handbook of Sociology*. London, United Kingdom: SAGE Publications Ltd, pp. 35–49. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781848608405.n2>.
- Johnson, C. et al. (2011) “Interventions on rethinking ‘the border’ in border studies,” *Political Geography*, 30, pp. 61–69.
- Kinney, D. (2014) *Frontiers of knowledge: scientific and spiritual sources for a new era*. S.l.: Kinney.
- Saraf, A. (2020) “Frontiers,” in Saraf, A., *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Anthropology*. Oxford University Press. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190854584.013.145>.



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The conveners of this symposium cordially invite the Graduate students of NUS, NTU, SMU, SUSS, and SUTD who are pursuing their Master or PhD in Sociology or Anthropology to present a paper or poster submission engaging with the symposium's main theme vis-à-vis the following sub-themes:

1. Urban Sociologies and Anthropologies

- Housing, City and Urban Landscapes, Parity, Poverty, Placemaking, Demographics, Institutions, Social Networks, Households, Rural/Urban, Animal-Human relations

2. Multi-species and More-than-human Intersections

- Multi-species Interactions and Existence, Cyborg, Alien, World-making

3. Sensory Sociologies and Anthropologies

- Embodiment, Sensory Landscapes, Phenomenology, Bodies and Lived Experiences

4. Politics, Identity, and Citizenship

- War, Refugees, Migration, Perspectives of Home, Belonging, Policy, Global and Local, Diaspora

5. Criminology and Violence

- Prisons, Gangs, Crimes, Discrimination, Acts of Transgression

6. Religion, Life, and Morality

- Orthodoxy and Unorthodoxy, Sacred and Profane, Religiosity, Rites, Rituals, Moral Codes, Death, Rites-of-passage, Beliefs

7. Gender and Sexuality

- Queer, Gender Roles, Subversion, Performativity

8. Disability and Debility

- Power, Care, Agency, Inclusion

9. Sports and Spectatorship

- Sporting Events, Olympics, Spectator Sports

10. Lifecourse

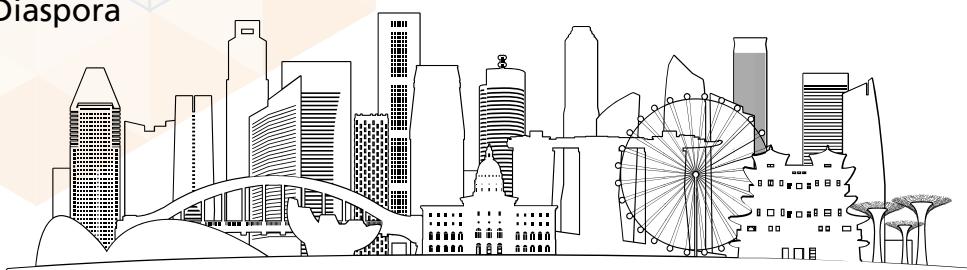
- Aging, Adulthood, Adolescence, Childhood, Child-bearing, Everyday Life, Health, Marriage, Family, Kinship, Work

11. Generative AI and its Applications

- Uses, Breakthroughs, Applications, Impact on Sociology and Anthropology

12. Decolonising Knowledges

- Indigenous Knowledges and Perspectives, Global South and Global North



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KEY DATES:

- Symposium date: **24 April 2026**
- Abstract Submission Window: **14 February to 14 March 2026**
- Final Abstract Submission Deadline: **14 March 2026**
- Results of abstract review and confirmation of author participation: **12 April 2026**
- Registration of Symposium Attendance: **13 to 21 April 2026**
- Full symposium paper submission (after the event): **24 April 2026**
- **Please note that submission of abstract does not constitute automatic participation.**

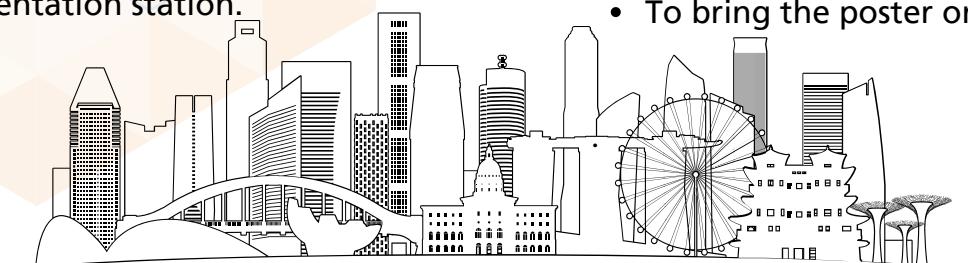
PRESENTATION FORMATS:

- Paper Presentation (15 minutes)

In person: 15-min lecture presentation featuring original research.

- Poster Presentation

A demonstration-style presentation in a multi-booth location during lunch, which involves interacting one on one or with small groups. A poster board is included at the presentation station.



SUBMISSION MECHANISMS:

- Participation in this symposium is only open to current Master and PhD students specialising in Sociology and Anthropology from NUS, NTU, SMU, SUSS, and SUTD.
- All contributions will undergo a process of critical peer review before being accepted for the symposium.

Please send all abstracts and papers to Brian Tan at e1448147@u.nus.edu

Abstract Guidelines:

- 400 words
- Word document
- Font: Times New Roman
- Font size #12
- Recommended Citation: APA, ASA, Harvard, or Chicago-Manual

Poster Guidelines:

- Upon confirmation of Poster Presentation please print
- 1 x high-resolution copy of the poster in size A1 - 594mm x 841mm
- To bring the poster on the day

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SUBMISSION MECHANISMS:

The corresponding author must provide the following information for the abstract submission:

1. Correct spelling of Full Name
2. Official Email address
3. Institution of affiliation
4. Discipline: Sociology / Anthropology
5. Degree track: Master / PhD
6. Paper Title - Full paper title for the presentation
7. Sub - theme
8. Keywords (include 5)
9. Category: Paper Presentation / Poster Presentation
10. Abstract (400 words)

Example:

- Name: Brian Tan YH
- Email: E1448147@u.nus.edu
- Institution: National University of Singapore
- Discipline: Anthropology
- Degree Track: PhD
- Paper Title: The Adult Educator Framework: Effective approaches towards andragogy
- Sub - theme: Education
- Keywords (include 5): Learner-centrality, Adult-Education, Immersive Pedagogy, Learner Feedback, Framework
- Category: Poster Presentation
- Abstract: [Insert Abstract]

Please send all abstracts and papers by 14 March 2026 to Brian Tan at [e1448147@u.nus.edu](mailto:E1448147@u.nus.edu)

If your abstract is selected, we will reach out to you via email correspondence.

