



Call for Proposals

We are delighted to announce that the call for proposals for **Central Eurasian Studies Society's 2026 Regional Conference** is now open.

CESS Regional Conference 2026 is scheduled to take place in person in **Astana, Kazakhstan**, from **June 16 to June 19, 2026**, hosted by **Nazarbayev University**, a leading center of higher education in Kazakhstan, Central Asia, and the Caucasus.

Conference Scope

For 2026, we invite submissions relating to all aspects of humanities and social science scholarship that fall within the conference theme, “*(Re)thinking Central Eurasia: Spaces, Societies, and Power.*”

The geographic domain of Central Eurasia encompasses Central Asia, the Caucasus, Iran, Afghanistan, Xinjiang, Tibet, Mongolia, Siberia, Inner Asia, the Black Sea region, the Volga region, and East and Central Europe. Practitioners and scholars in all fields are encouraged to participate.

Panels will encompass the following fields:

- Anthropology & Archaeology
- Business, Finance & Management
- Cultural Studies, Art History & Fine Art
- Economics
- Education
- Gender Studies
- Geography & Ecology
- History
- Languages & Linguistics
- Literature
- Media Studies
- Political Science, International Relations & Law
- Public Administration & Public Policy
- Religion
- Sociology & Social Issues
- Urban Studies & Architecture
- And More

The conference will be in-person only.

Proposal and Submission Guidelines

We highly encourage all participants to form their own panels; however, individual proposals are also welcome.

In addition to “traditional” (chair, 3-4 presenters, discussant) panels and roundtables, we encourage other proposals, including:

- Scholarship-in-Progress panels or ones on recently published works of scholarship (including author-critic forums)
- Events-in-Progress panels on the evolving political, social, economic, and cultural situation in the region
- Pre-conference workshops

Our website provides more information about the requirements of each proposal type. See further details [here](#).

How to Submit a Proposal

Before submitting a proposal, please read the [Proposal Submission Information](#), which contains conference rules and language policy.

Submissions to the CESS2026 Conference are made [here](#).

The deadline for proposal submissions is **March 15, 2026** (23:59 Astana Time; 22:59 Tbilisi; 18:59 GMT; 14:59 EST).

Submissions will be reviewed on a rolling basis, and we will notify applicants of the outcomes of their submission no later than **April 15, 2026**.

Travel Grants, Sponsorship Opportunities, Registration, Waivers, and Forthcoming Information

Information on CESS 2026 travel grants, sponsorship opportunities, registration, waivers, travel, and logistics will be posted as it becomes available. Please refrain from inquiring about these opportunities until they are announced.

For updates, please refer to the [CESS2026 webpage](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [BlueSky](#) pages.

Nazarbayev University

Founded in 2010, Nazarbayev University (NU) is a flagship academic institution in Central Asia located in the heart of Kazakhstan's capital, Astana. Since its founding, NU has built partnerships with top universities and research centers across 22 countries, enhancing its global visibility. NU is dedicated to expanding its impact and reputation in Central Asia and globally.