

BIENNALE *Arts and Edges*



UNIVERSITY OF THE
AEGEAN
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ
ΑΙΓΑΙΟΥ



Co-funded by
the European Union

2nd ERUA Biennale “Arts & Edges”

Lesvos, May 28-30, 2027

Call for Abstracts

The **University of the Aegean** presents the 2nd **ERUA Biennale “Arts & Edges”**, which will be hosted **in person** on the island of Lesvos **on May 28–30, 2027**.

The Biennale is addressed to academics (**faculty members, post-doctoral researchers, doctoral students, postgraduate students**) from the member and **associate institutions** of the ERUA Alliance, researchers and artists collaborating with these institutions, as well as local organizations of the ERUA Alliance regions, active in the relevant field.

This initiative is held within the framework of ERUA’s WP5, “Achieving Social Change in ERUA’s Local Communities and Regions” and continues the effort to open an interdisciplinary dialogue and creative exchange between the academic community, local communities and social actors around the “Arts & Edges” initiated through the ERUA Online Biennale 2025.

The Biennale is directly related to ERUA’s Knowledge Community of Creative and Artistic Engagement (CIKC3), supporting ERUA’s long-term strategy on Arts & Edges and aiming to connect the ERUA creative and artistic communities internally and with external local and international societal, cultural and creative actors while fostering cultural dialogue, innovation, and regional development across Europe¹ turning research excellence into education.

ERUA unites universities from across Europe’s East and West, North and South, embracing students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, both rural and urban, insular and mainland, local and global. These institutions and students stand “on a critical edge” in terms of values, geography, and social diversity. Geographically, the University of the Aegean, located at the borders of the European Union in Greece,

¹ The CIKC3 (Knowledge Community of Creative and Artistic Engagement) develops collaborative initiatives connecting ERUA members with students, artists, NGOs, cultural actors, local communities, and creative industries through activities such as Biennales, DigiTalks, Science Cafés, Hackathons, Creative Clusters, and participatory research and innovation projects related to the thematic areas of Arts & Edges, Culture(s) & Nature, and Aesthetics & Ethics. A central component of the initiative is “Creative ERUAners,” a creative community of students, academic and administrative staff connecting campuses with creative actors and local communities across the ERUA alliance.

BIENNALE *Arts and Edges*



UNIVERSITY OF THE
AEGEAN
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ
ΑΙΓΑΙΟΥ



Co-funded by
the European Union

serves as a bridge between Europe and Asia, while the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria connects Europe with Africa and America. SWPS University, Mykolas Romeris University, and European University Viadrina are situated in geopolitical contexts that play a crucial role in defending European democratic values, while Viadrina is also part of a border-and twin-city that is nowadays again characterized by inner-European border controls. Socially, universities such as Paris 8, SWPS, and New Bulgarian University, are situated on the outskirts of capital cities, provide access to a broader and more diverse student body.

Conceptual Framework

The concept of edge is inherently interdisciplinary and multidimensional, encapsulating the dynamic tension between what lies within a boundary and what extends beyond it. It operates precisely on this threshold, signifying both a crucial point where realities, actions, and interpretations can or should change, and an extremity at which existing configurations encounter their limits. An edge may therefore mark an end, but it can also become an intersection, a passage, or a turning point through which other possibilities begin to take shape.

Formally, edge can refer to the sharp side of a blade, the outermost point of an object, or a precarious position at the threshold of change. Conceptually, it brings these meanings into relation, generating multiple narratives and possibilities. Edges expose limits, tensions, and vulnerabilities, while also opening spaces for experimentation and for the reconfiguration of established relations. Across artistic, research, educational, social, and community-based practices, working at or through an edge can challenge established norms of thought, perception, and expression and bring different forms of knowledge and experience into unexpected proximity.

Within this framework, boundaries are not rigid dividers, whether between human culture and nature, order and disorder, inclusion and exclusion, or the global and the local. Instead, they can function as transition zones that encourage encounters and exchanges between diverse cognitive fields and cultural perspectives. The focus is not on centralised or metropolitan theories and practices but on the distinctive value and perspectives that may emerge from actions at the periphery. Such an approach creates space for experimental ways of living, thinking, and creating while bringing into view what is often considered marginal, less powerful, or non-dominant. In their article *Edge*, published in *Environmental Humanities*, Vanni and Crosby (2023, p. 165) cite Pratt

BIENNALE *Arts and Edges*



UNIVERSITY OF THE
AEGEAN
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ
ΑΙΓΑΙΟΥ



Co-funded by
the European Union

(1992), noting that, by crossing boundaries that are no longer seen simply as barriers, encounters can give rise to “contact zones” in which linguistic, cultural, and scientific diversity may generate new understandings of identity. Such encounters involve risk and uncertainty, but they also carry the possibility of new compositions within complex and fragile societies.

To work and live on the edge means cultivating sensitivity to otherness and critically engaging with processes of exclusion, distinction, marginalisation, minority status, and peripheralisation, as well as with the possibilities for social change that may arise through them. The edge is a “travelling concept” that carries multiple intellectual genealogies while retaining a central tension: it names a transition zone in which different systems, practices, and forms of experience meet, interfere with one another, and may give rise to new configurations (Pratt, 1992, as cited in Vanni & Crosby, 2023, p. 165). In the context of ERUA, the edge serves as a key thematic lens for exploring the role of the arts in research and critical inquiry. The second Arts & Edges Biennale continues this exploration, inviting renewed engagements with edges as sites of encounter, tension, experimentation, and possible transformation across the different contexts and thematic areas of the Alliance.

Objectives

The three-day in person “Arts & Edges” Biennale aims to:

- ✓ Further connect research to education within the ERUA community on issues related to arts and the concept of the Edge.
- ✓ Promote discussions on the interdisciplinary nature of the edge and its impact on ERUA’s interests and activities. ERUA unites universities from across Europe’s East and West, North and South, embracing students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds - rural and urban, insular and mainland, local and global. These institutions and students stand “on a critical edge” in terms of values, geography, and social diversity.
- ✓ Highlight the role of the arts in addressing social challenges.
- ✓ Connect arts with forms of sustainability (SDG’s).

BIENNALE *Arts and Edges*



UNIVERSITY OF THE
AEGEAN
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ
ΑΙΓΑΙΟΥ



Co-funded by
the European Union

- ✓ Provide specific case studies demonstrating how the intersection of the arts and different conceptualizations of the edge can drive innovation within ERUA and its local communities.

Within ERUA, the “Edge” functions as a transversal thematic area that foregrounds questions of boundaries, transitions, plurality, social transformation, and critical inquiry across disciplines, cultures, and communities. In this context, Arts & Edges are approached as crucial spaces for dialogue, experimentation, creativity, and socially engaged forms of research and practice.

Indicative Thematic Axes for Contributions

Proposals related to Arts & Edges may integrate at least one of the following areas:

- ✓ Migration, Exile, Refugees and Borders
- ✓ Environmental Transition
- ✓ Democracy, Human Rights, Inclusion, and Gender Equality
- ✓ Culture, Interculturality, and Multilingualism
- ✓ Cutting-Edge Issues in Public Space
- ✓ Innovative Practices : from Research to Education
- ✓ Interventions and Experiments in Local Societies

Indicative Formats of Participation

The Biennale welcomes interdisciplinary, experimental, artistic, educational, research-based, and community-oriented approaches related to the thematic areas of “Arts & Edges.” Possible formats may include presentations, workshops, performances, exhibitions, screenings, roundtables, participatory interventions, site-specific practices, collaborative laboratories, and other exploratory forms of engagement.

The Biennale particularly encourages proposals that foster dialogue between academic, artistic, social, and local communities, while opening spaces for critical reflection, collective experimentation, and creative exchange across different contexts and practices.

BIENNALE *Arts and Edges*



UNIVERSITY OF THE
AEGEAN
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ
ΑΙΓΑΙΟΥ



Co-funded by
the European Union

Support for External Artists

Limited opportunities for support towards travel expenses may be available for distinguished artists participating in the Biennale, subject to the eligibility criteria and funding availability of the respective ERUA universities. Distinguished artists interested in such support are invited to contact the ERUA Office or designated ERUA contact point at their home university for information on available funding opportunities and relevant procedures.

ERUA Contact Points for Artist Funding:

- **University of Paris 8 Vincennes** - Saint-Denis · Maxime Cacciutolo · maxime.cacciutolo@univ-paris8.fr
- **University of the Aegean** · George Stroglyopoulos · gstroglyopoulos@aegean.gr
- **New Bulgarian University** · Eduard Marinov · eddie.marinov@gmail.com
- **SWPS University** · Radek Stanczewski · rstanczewski@swps.edu.pl
- **Mykolas Romeris University** · Jolanta Bieliauskaitė · jolab@mruni.eu
- **University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria** · Paula Rodríguez Chirino · eruapm@ulpgc.es
- **University of Macerata** · Antonella Tiberi · antonella.tiberi@unimc.it
- **European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)** · Sandra Evans · Evans@europa-uni.de

Abstracts

You are warmly invited to participate in the Arts & Edges In Person Biennale by submitting your proposal by **15 February 2027 23:59 (CET)**.

Proposals require an abstract (up to 500 words), accompanied by up to 6 keywords and a short author's bio (up to 250 words).

Please fill in all the mandatory fields provided in the [Online Submission Form](#).

Further information and practical details concerning participation in the Biennale are available in the [“Useful Information” section](#) of the Biennale website.

Presenters will also have the opportunity to submit their full papers after the Biennale, for inclusion in the proceedings volume, following the guidelines they will receive.

BIENNALE *Arts and Edges*



UNIVERSITY OF THE
AEGEAN
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ
ΑΙΓΑΙΟΥ



ERUA
European Reform
University Alliance



Co-funded by
the European Union

Evaluation of Submissions

All proposals will be evaluated by the Scientific Committee of the Biennale based on the following criteria:

1. Relevance and engagement

Does the proposal engage clearly and substantially with the conceptual and thematic orientations of Arts & Edges and the areas and questions outlined in the Call ?

Is the proposal relevant to the broader context and aims of ERUA?

2. Clarity and coherence of the proposal

Are the proposal's central questions, aims, and approach clearly articulated?

Does the proposal provide sufficient grounding and development to support what it sets out to do?

3. Originality and exploratory potential

Does the proposal offer a distinctive or exploratory engagement with the questions and concerns of Arts & Edges?

Does it open up new perspectives, connections, or possibilities for thinking and practice within the context of the Biennale?

4. Potential for dialogue across fields, practices, and contexts

Does the proposal have the potential to generate dialogue among different fields, practices, perspectives, or communities?

Can it contribute to exchanges across disciplinary, cultural, institutional, or geographical contexts?

BIENNALE *Arts and Edges*



Evaluation Scale

Proposals will receive an overall assessment according to the following scale:

- 0 – Not relevant
- 1 – Not accepted
- 2 – Accepted subject to revisions
- 3 – Accepted without revisions

Scientific Committee

- Elena Theodoropoulou (University of the Aegean), Chair of the Biennale
- Anne Alombert (University Paris 8)
- Florence Gerard Lojacono (University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria)
- Evagelia Kavakli (University of the Aegean)
- Maria Klessmann (European University Viadrina)
- Eva Llorca Afonso (University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria)
- Polina Mihova (New Bulgarian University)
- Federica Monti (University of Macerata)
- Georgi Niagolov (New Bulgarian University)
- Silvia Pierosara (University of Macerata)
- Ilaria Pirone (University Paris 8)
- Arnaud Regnauld (University Paris 8)
- Monika Rosińska (SWPS University)
- Andrius Sprindžiūnas (Mykolas Romeris University)
- Jolanta Starzak (SWPS University)
- Rūta Marija Vabalaitė (Mykolas Romeris University)

BIENNALE *Arts and Edges*



UNIVERSITY OF THE
AEGEAN
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ
ΑΙΓΑΙΟΥ



Co-funded by
the European Union

Important dates

- Abstract submission deadline: **15 February 2027**, 23:59 (CET)
- Notification of acceptance: **By 1 March 2027**
- Presenters' registration (no fee required) deadline: **28 March 2027** 23:59 (CET)

We warmly invite members of academic, artistic, social, and local communities to engage with the Biennale process from its early stages and to contribute to the development of a shared space of experimentation, dialogue, networking and creative inquiry around the many dimensions of “Arts & Edges”.

For any general enquiries or clarifications, please contact the Biennale organizing team at erua-biennale@aegean.gr.

Co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).

Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.