

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

TOURISM FUTURES

*Sustainability, Artificial Intelligence, and Immersive Technologies
in the Transformation of the Tourism Experience*

University of Naples

December 9, 2026

Conference Theme

The “Tourism Futures” conference, which kicks off the 8th edition of ScOUT—School of Methodology and Socio-Cultural and Territorial Research on Tourism—is dedicated to the future of tourism and the transformations brought about by advanced technologies. Artificial intelligence, robotics, digital platforms, big data, and immersive technologies are redefining tourism experiences, the representation of places, and destination governance, raising new social, cultural, economic, ethical, and territorial issues. The conference aims to foster interdisciplinary reflection on the opportunities and challenges of these processes, in relation to the principles of sustainability, inclusion, accessibility, and territorial responsibility. Particular attention will be given to the sea, coastal areas, and island destinations, as prime contexts for observing and experimenting with current and future models of use, management, and technological protection of these territories. Organized in collaboration with the scientific journal “Fuori Luogo,” the call for abstracts is open to scholars from various disciplinary fields. We invite theoretical, methodological, and empirical contributions, case studies, comparative analyses, and applied experiences that explore the relationship between tourism, technological innovation, and future scenarios. The contributions deemed most meritorious by the Scientific Committee will be selected for publication in a special issue of the journal “Fuori Luogo” dedicated to the conference’s themes.

Contributions are welcome from the social sciences, humanities, economics, regional studies, computer science, and any other disciplinary field relevant to the themes of this call.

Thematic Areas

- **Sustainability of territories and seas:** governance of destinations and common goods; processes of touristification and overtourism; coastal, marine, and mountain areas; parks and protected natural areas; cultural and natural heritage; models of sustainable and regenerative tourism development.
- **Artificial Intelligence, Data, and Automation:** generative AI and large language models (LLMs); recommendation algorithms; predictive analytics; service personalization; ethics, transparency, and accountability; digital methods for tourism analysis.
- **Accessibility, Inclusion, and Social Justice:** physical, cognitive, linguistic, and sociocultural barriers; universal design; the right to tourism and the travel experience; community participation; territorial equity; policies for accessible and inclusive tourism

Participation and Submission of Proposals

This call is open to faculty members, researchers, research fellows, contract researchers, scholarship recipients, doctoral candidates, and young scholars. Contributions from sociology, geography, economics, urban and territorial studies, media studies, computer science, heritage studies, and related disciplines are encouraged.

Abstract: 300–500 words, in Italian or English.

Required elements: title; author's name, affiliation, and contact information; 4–5 keywords; chosen thematic area; brief biographical note (maximum 100 words); and whether the presentation will be online or in person.

Presentation format: 10-minute presentation, in person or online.

Submission: Submit proposals via email to out-dss@unina.it.

Deadline for abstract submission: September 21, 2026.

Notification of acceptance: by October 12, 2026.

Participation fee

	Full professors, associate professors, and fixed-term researchers (RTD-A, RTD-B, RTT)	Non-tenured staff (Ph.D. candidates, research fellows, research contract employees; scholarship recipients, independent researchers)
Online participation Early Bird Registration (between October 12 and 25, 2026)	100€	€70
In-Person Participation Early Bird Registration (between October 12 and 25, 2026)	€120	€100
Online participation Full Registration (by November 2, 2026)	120 €	€70
In-Person Participation Full Registration (by November 2, 2026)	€150	€100

REGISTRATION VIA BANK TRANSFER TO: FUORI LUOGO

IBAN IT64J0760103400001059221174

REASON FOR PAYMENT: 2026 SCOUT REGISTRATION “PARTICIPANT’S FIRST AND LAST NAME”

The registration fee includes

- participation in the plenary session and thematic panels (in person or online, depending on the format chosen);
- conference kit (for in-person participants);
- Certificate of participation issued by OUT – the University Observatory on Tourism at the University of Naples Federico II.

The registration fee does not include the social dinner. Attendance at the dinner is optional and requires a contribution of €30, to be paid directly to the host venue on the day of the event.

Scientific Program

The program includes a plenary session, an international keynote address, and several thematic panels. To ensure a broad scientific discussion and conclude the proceedings by 4:30 p.m., in the afternoon, following the lunch break, activities will continue with two parallel panels—one in-person and one online.

Schedule for the Day

9:30 a.m. Institutional greetings and introduction to the day's program

Keynote speech

Plenary session of the conference

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Panel 1

1:30 PM – 2:30 *PM Break*

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM Panel 2

Panel 3 (online) link <https://www.osservatorioturismo.com/streaming>

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM Opening of the temporary photography exhibition

8:30 PM Social dinner

Languages and Outputs

Working languages: Italian and English.

The Scientific Council will evaluate the submissions within one month of the conference's conclusion. The results of the selection process will be promptly communicated to the authors of the papers selected for publication.

“Fuori Luogo” is recognized by ANVUR as a scientific journal in Area 11 (Historical, Philosophical, Pedagogical, and Psychological Sciences) and Area 08 (Architecture and Civil Engineering), and as a Category A journal for sectors 14/GSPS-05 (General Sociology), 14/GSPS-06 (Sociology of Cultural and Communication Processes), 14/GSPS-07 (Sociology of Politics, Law, and Deviance), and 14/GSPS-08 (Sociology of Economic, Labor, Environmental, and Territorial Processes).

The criteria for the selection and preparation of articles, as well as the conference venue address with details of the room where the plenary session will take place, will be published closer to the conference date on the page www.osservatorioturismo.com/scout2026.



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COORDINATION AND ORGANIZATION

Scientific Coordination

Scientific Committee of OUT – University Observatory on Tourism
(<https://www.osservatorioturismo.com/chi-siamo/comitato-scientifico>)

Scientific Committee of the journal “Fuori Luogo”
(<https://serena.sharepress.it/fuoriluogo/about/editorialTeam>).

Organizing Committee

Antonella Berritto, Mariaelena De Stefano, Ciro Prospero, Carmine Urciuoli.

For contact and information

out-dss@unina.it

Website: www.osservatorioturismo.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OsservatorioturismoOUT/>

Instagram: [@scuolaout](https://www.instagram.com/scuolaout)

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/osservatorio-universitario-sul-turismo](https://www.linkedin.com/company/osservatorio-universitario-sul-turismo)