

PsyHuman “Psychology and the Humanities” International School

5th edition

From tension to transformation:

narrative and participatory approaches to interpersonal, ideological and socio-cultural clashes

14-23 September 2026



PsyHuman
Lab

Department of Psychology and Cognitive Science, University of Trento (Italy)

SYLLABUS and ASSESSMENT

Entrance Requirement

International and Euregio students are welcome.

The PsyHuman International Summer School is primarily intended for second- and third-year Bachelor's students and Master's students. However, applications from first-year Bachelor's students and PhD candidates are also welcome. A minimum of 15 and a maximum of 25 participants will be admitted.

The programme is particularly suited for students in psychology, the humanities, social sciences, and gender studies, but it is not limited to these fields. We warmly welcome students from any discipline who are eager to enhance their multidisciplinary competence and engage with novel perspectives on conflict and agency.

A good command of English is essential, with a minimum proficiency of B2 level (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages).

Programme

Our immersive programme addresses issues of conflict and engagement with a focus on the participative processes involved in interpersonal, ideological and socio-cultural clashes.

The programme features in-person seminars, workshops, and outdoor activities, taking place from Monday to Friday in the first week and from Monday to Wednesday in the second week, leaving the weekend free for rest and exploration.

- Seminars will be delivered by both faculty members of the Euregio territory (UNITN, UNIBZ, and UIBK) and external guests, to ensure a multidisciplinary approach, and a variety of topics and methodologies. Participants will be encouraged to share their own knowledge and competencies in the classroom.
- Narrative Medicine and Photovoice Workshops: Activities based on the signature practices of Narrative Medicine and PhotoVoice for affiliation and perspective-taking.
- Outdoor activities: a range of full-day and half-day excursions, offering opportunities to explore the local area and engage in experiential learning (details to be announced).

Contents

The programme draws on a wide range of approaches to conflict and agency, including those of psychology, design, narrative medicine, gender studies, literature and the arts, philosophy, and history.

Seminars and workshops address issues such as

- academic freedom violations and youth education and activism
- designing technologies for emancipatory futures
- gendered spaces and inclusive public environments
- human rights NGOs and transnational activism during the 1970s
- mediating tensions in Australian Aboriginal literature and art
- narrative encounters with difficult pasts in literature related to colonial India
- narrative medicine and PhotoVoice

- participatory approaches to community interventions in social psychology
- peace and human rights
- psychological mechanisms behind intergroup conflict and reconciliation
- robot abuse
- scientific research without borders
- sexuality studies and activism
- the psychology of neoliberal ideology in the polycrisis
- trans rights and anti-gender backlash
- understanding men's responses to gender equality

Objectives and Learning Outcomes

The 2026 PsyHuman International Summer School aims at providing an interdisciplinary understanding of interpersonal, ideological, and socio-cultural tensions by integrating perspectives from psychology, the humanities, social sciences, design, and the arts. The programme explores how conflict can become an opportunity for dialogue, participation, and social transformation through narrative, participatory, and reflective approaches.

By combining seminars, workshops, experiential learning, and collaborative discussion, the Summer School encourages participants to critically examine contemporary social challenges, engage with diverse disciplinary perspectives, and develop the knowledge and skills needed to foster inclusive, dialogical, and participatory practices in their academic, professional, and civic contexts.

By the end of the Summer School, participants will be able to:

- Critically analyse interpersonal, ideological, and socio-cultural conflicts from multidisciplinary perspectives, integrating insights and methodological approaches from psychology, the humanities, social sciences, gender studies, design, and the arts.
- Apply narrative and participatory approaches – including Narrative Medicine and PhotoVoice – to foster perspective-taking, dialogue, and collaborative meaning-making.
- Demonstrate greater awareness of the psychological, cultural, historical, and social factors that shape individual and collective experiences of conflict.
- Communicate effectively and respectfully across disciplinary and cultural boundaries, engaging constructively with diverse viewpoints.
- Collaborate effectively in interdisciplinary and international learning environments, contributing actively to discussion, group activities, and shared reflection.
- Transfer the concepts and approaches explored during the Summer School to their own field of study, research, or professional practice.

Workload, Requirements and Assessment Criteria

Participation in all on-site seminars and workshops is mandatory. At the end of the programme, all participants will receive an **Attendance Certificate**.

Participants who wish to obtain a **Transcript of Records awarding 6 ECTS credits** with a final evaluation grade must also participate in the post-Summer School online session.

Please, **ask at your students' support desk** if this extracurricular activity can be recognised in terms of credits or thesis points or extra credits, according to the rules of your degree course.

To sum up:

	When?	What?	Which certificate?
a. In-presence attendance (mandatory)	During the PsyHuman Summer School	In-class activities	Attendance certificate

b. Online-session presentation and discussion (optional)	Few weeks after the summer school	Final oral test (online)	Transcript of Record (ToR) with 6 ECTS and evaluation mark
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a. In-presence attendance (mandatory)

Active in-class participation (seminars and workshops) is mandatory to receive your Attendance Certificate at the end of the two-week programme.

Assessment of in-presence attendance will take into consideration the following criteria:

- progress towards the acquisition of the learning objectives,
- interaction with peers and lecturers,
- active participation in class,
- commitment to carrying out the given tasks.

b. Online-session presentation and discussion (optional)

This assignment is mandatory only for those who want to receive an official UniTrento Transcript of Records with 6 ECTS and an evaluation mark.

Assignment: Post summer-school slide presentation and discussion of the student's personal interpretation of the connection between psychology and the humanities, with reference to the issues addressed in at least one seminar/workshop and at least one scientific paper on a chosen topic (from the student's course of study or from the PsyHuman programme).

The assignment will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- conceptual framing, coherence and argument building;
- capacity to re-elaborate from an original critical perspective the issues addressed in the seminars/workshops;
- capacity to trace multidisciplinary connections.

Bibliography (for the online session and ECTS credits)

- at least one scientific paper on a chosen topic (from the student's course of study or from the PsyHuman programme)
- seminars' and workshops' slides