

Nordic-East Asia Higher Education Research Symposium 2026

Turbulent times in Higher Education and Society

14th August 2026

Tampere University, Finland | Hybrid

The research symposium “Turbulent times in Higher Education and Society” brings together scholars to critically examine how higher education is being reshaped by profound social, political, economic, technological, and environmental disruptions of our time. Across the globe, universities and other higher education institutions are navigating intensifying pressures—from rapid geopolitical changes to digital transformation, artificial intelligence, funding instability, migration, climate crises, and growing demands for equity and inclusion.

The symposium is jointly organised by **Tampere University** in Finland, **University of Stavanger** in Norway, and **School of Transdisciplinary Studies of The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong**. The symposium invites interdisciplinary perspectives that interrogate how institutions and academics respond to uncertainty, how knowledge production is contested and reimagined, and how higher education both influences and is influenced by broader societal turbulence. By fostering dialogue across contexts and methodologies, the event aims to generate fresh insights, collaborative networks, and actionable ideas for strengthening the public purposes of higher education in an era defined by volatility and change.

Participants are invited to submit a proposal for a paper, presentation or a panel discussion on a topic that is relevant to the symposium theme. Proposals can have, for instance, a focus on the following topics:

- Crisis Management, Institutional Resilience, and Emergency Preparedness
- Global Engagement, Mobility, and Geopolitical Uncertainty
- Workforce Development, Graduate Futures, and Precarious Labor Markets
- Higher Education Policy, Regulation, and Quality Assurance in Times of Crisis
- Equity, Diversity, and Social Justice Amid Polarization
- Gender, Power, and Intersectionality in Changing Academic Landscapes
- Digital Transformation, Artificial Intelligence, and the Future of Learning
- Curriculum Innovation and Pedagogy for Uncertain Futures
- Governance, Leadership, and Institutional Sustainability
- Student Wellbeing, Mental Health, and Belonging in Disrupted Contexts

The symposium is free of charge.

Call for Abstracts

- **Abstract Submission (max. 1000 words) via this [link](#). Deadline: 31 March 2026**
- Notification of acceptance will be sent via email on 17 April 2026
- Registration deadline: 21 June 2026

Organising Committee

- Ka Ho Mok, The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong, HKSAR, China
- Dian Liu, University of Stavanger, Norway
- Jussi Kivistö, Tampere University, Finland
- Karol Leja, Tampere University, Finland
- Yuzhuo Cai, The Education University Hong Kong, HKSAR, China

For more information visit: <https://events.tuni.fi/NEAHERS2026> or contact the Organising Committee at: neahers2026@tuni.fi.