

**Mad Science: Biology, Technology, Systems of Power**  
International Interdisciplinary Conference  
'Gheorghe Asachi' Technical University of Iași, 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> June 2026

We are delighted to launch the call for papers for the second edition of the international interdisciplinary *Mad Science* conference, to take place in 2026 at 'Gheorghe Asachi' Technical University of Iași. This year's topic is **Biology, Technology and Systems of Power**, exploring current debates and points of inflection at the intersection of various disciplines. We welcome papers and workshop proposals in panels in **Romanian, English, French and German**.

The conference topic is inspired from the social and political events of the recent years, which have brought the social, political, cultural and ideological implications of technology to the fore. As the technological burrows ever so deeply into our lives, the questions that we raise are inevitably connected to the changing status of the human in relation to the technological. Has, in Foucauldian terms, technology become another means of disciplining the body and of social and political disciplining? Has the use of technology today been co-opted and instrumentalised by the powers that be? How are technology and scientific innovation used to reinforce or subvert systems of power and shape society, its culture and cultures? Where does the balance between the biological and the technological stand at the moment? How are the social, political and economic issues of today influenced by the pervasiveness of technology into the fabric of our everyday lives? Can the way technology is marketed to make us better human beings (in monitoring our health) bring back extremist ideologies of the past? We look forward to receiving your 200-word paper abstracts, as well as workshop proposals, via Google form.

**Organizer:** Foreign Languages Staff, Department of Teacher Training (DPPD), 'Gheorghe Asachi' Technical University of Iași; contact – [limbistraine@groups.tuiasi](mailto:limbistraine@groups.tuiasi)

**Where:** onsite and online

**When:** 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> June 2026

**Conference fee:** 60 euros/300 RON professors and academics, 20 euros/100 RON PhD students

**Application submission:** [via Google form](#)

**Conference languages:** French, Romanian, English, German

**Important deadlines:**

- Submission of abstracts – by 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026
- Notification of acceptance – by 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026
- Payment of conference fee – by 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026
- Receipt of full papers: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026
- Publication of conference papers: December 2026, *Les Cahiers Linguatek* (no publication fee for conference participants), CEEOL indexation

**Conference topics** include, but are not limited, to:

**Literature and film studies:**

- cyborgs, robots and androids in literature and film;
- technology and the posthuman;
- technology and anthropocentric fictions;
- dystopian takes on technology, science and progress;
- science fiction in the 21<sup>st</sup> century;
- biological and technological monsters;
- colonising space – technocratic fictions;
- technology and capitalism in fiction;
- AI-generated film and literature.

**Linguistics:**

- the language of scientific authority;
- discourses of power;
- the language of the posthuman;
- metaphors of science in public discourse;
- the semiotics and language of life;
- languages of humans, languages of robots: numbers as language;
- the body as cultural signifier;
- signifier and signified in the digital age;
- technology as cultural signifier.

**Translation studies:**

- ethical use of AI in translation studies;
- current directions in translation studies;
- the role of the translator in the age of AI;
- challenges in the translation of science and technology.

**Gender studies:**

- technology and the perpetuation of gender inequality;
- techbros and the rise of online toxic masculinity;
- technology – an appropriation of the patriarchy?;
- gaming culture and gender stereotyping;
- white feminism vs. intersectional feminism;
- transgender bodies and science;
- the restriction of reproductive laws and systems of power.

**The arts:**

- bioart – living matter as a work of art;
- the aesthetic of the hybrid;
- art, environment and technoscience;
- the machine as a work of art;
- arts of the body/the body in art;
- digital art and the liberalization of power;
- art and the ‘-isms’ – fascism, communism, socialism, extremism;
- art and biowarfare;
- the socially and politically engaged arts.

**Medical Humanities:**

- medical and pharmaceutical metaphors;
- uses and misuses of technology in medicine;
- medicine and AI – is the ‘human touch’ replaceable in medical care?;
- the ethics of biological manipulation;
- ethical and medical dilemmas of scientific discovery;
- technology and genetic engineering.

**Psychology and pedagogy:**

- affection and relationships in the digital age;
- the role of technology in enhancing or diminishing psychological conditions;
- burnout and technology;
- the development of children and technology;
- education and attention in the age of AI;
- the impact of technology on social and anti-social behaviour;
- technology and stress;
- mental numbing and technology;

- strategies on counteracting the negative effects of technological overstimulation.

### **Social and political science:**

- technology and the rise of fascism;
- biological warfare and authoritarian regimes;
- pathologies of power –the use of biological weapons;
- technology, capital and inequality;
- technology and the society of surveillance;
- technoscience and neoliberal governance;
- the future of democracy in the age of technology;
- democracy, science and the politics of race;
- the racialized body and the political body;
- technology and soft power;
- data science and governance – ethical and unethical practices.

### **Economics:**

- selling biodata: the commodification of the biological body through technology;
- technology and international trading policies;
- the economics of public health;
- technology and the labour market;
- venture capital and speculative futures;
- behavioural economics and algorithms.

### **Law:**

- technology and crime: the legal aspects of cybersecurity;
- viruses, loverboys and online fraud;
- stolen identities on the internet;
- children and elderly at risk on the internet;
- the legal aspects of data protection;
- state regulations, citizens' rights and technology;
- digital spying and international law;
- biosecurity and legislation;
- legal tenets of cyberbullying and harassment.

### **Technology and engineering:**

- the dangers of AI in cybersecurity;
- quantum computing;

- techbros, podcasts and the spreading of fake news;
- networks of power, networks of technology;
- the power of algorithms – devices that know you better than you do;
- electrical power, biopower and the energy of the future;
- technologies that enhance the body;
- “My body is no longer mine” – AI, IT giants and biometric data.

### **History:**

- the history of technology;
- technology and the rise of totalitarian regimes;
- technology and the rise of liberalism;
- the history of bioengineering;
- conflict and geopolitics in the era of hybrid war and biological warfare;
- biological warfare across historical eras.

### **Intercultural Communication and Cultural Theory:**

- cultural perceptions in the era of digital surveillance and monitoring; privacy, consent, trust;
- health communication across cultures;
- cultural norms and ethical considerations in technology development;
- “The human” and “the body” at the intersection of technology and cultural narratives.

### **Scientific board:**

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### **Suggested bibliography:**

Ruha Benjamin, *Race After Technology: Abolitionist Tools for the New Jim Code*, Polity, 2019.

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Max Weber, *Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft. Grundriss der verstehenden Soziologie*, Tübingen, 1976.

Sylvia Wynter, Dr. Joyce King, Peter Forbath, *'Do Not Call Us Negros': How 'Multicultural' Textbooks Perpetuate Racism*, Aspire Books, 1990.