



Open Call

Vectors of Care in Experimental Arts

Toolkit of Care Conference
September 3-5 2026, Podgorica, Montenegro

Confronted with growing inequalities and precarity following the COVID-19 pandemic, escalating climate collapse, ongoing geopolitical turmoil, and spreading conflicts across the world, contemporary debates across humanities and the arts have increasingly foregrounded care as both an epistemic principle and an ethical imperative. Theories of care have been articulated across feminist theory (Haraway, 2013); ecology (Morton, 2016); critical animal studies (Wolfe, 2010); indigenous ontologies (De Castro, 2015; Kuokkanen, 2011); and much more broadly (Puig de la Bellacasa, 2017; Ferrando, 2023). Cost Action CA21102 Toolkit of Care (TOC) has been seeking to establish a critical network of care in creative arts over the last four years, acting as a model of how to successfully share knowledge and expertise across different contexts, regions and social groups. The TOC Conference sums up the work done in this respect while examining broad vectors of Care in experimental arts, creative milieux and beyond.

We accordingly invite artists, researchers, creative technologists, curators, activists, and cultural practitioners to contribute to a critical exploration of care at the intersections of art, technology, science, and life.

We particularly encourage proposals that engage with questions of mutual care; collective knowledge production; technological experimentation; environmental and social responsibility; and new forms of care-aware artistic practice.

Related vectors involve, but are not limited to

- Making / Crafting / Doing-It-Yourself / Doing-It-Together
- Experimental Art / Art beyond Commodity / Radical Aesthetics
- Open Sourcing / Commons / Free/Libre Software
- 4E Education / Art & Education / Workshopping
- Media Art Preservation & Archiving
- AI Bias & Digital Colonialism
- Theories of Care
- Social Activism / Care and Radical Politics / Grassroots Movements
- Pandemic/Crisis Aesthetics
- Feminism / Xeno-Feminism / Intersectionality
- Curatorial Practice & Care
- Critical Design / Speculative Design / Ludic Design
- Interfaces for (Accessible/Inclusive) Artistic Expression
- Planetary Care / Sustainability / Neg-Anthropocene

We welcome submissions for

Forums (actively involving the audience)

Submit: an anonymized extended abstract (500-1000 words with up to one image, pdf); expected/desired number of participants; planned duration.

Moderated Panels / Roundtables

Submit: a non-anonymized extended abstract (500-1000 words with up to one image, pdf); moderator or cohort; planned duration.

Short (10') Talks

Submit: an anonymized extended abstract (500-1000 words with up to one image, pdf).

Music / Media Performances / Screenings

Submit: a concept note (150-500 words, pdf); a technical rider (space and equipment requirements, pdf); links to audio, video, or image; a biography (150-300 words); planned duration (for time-based works).

Workshops

Submit: a non-anonymized abstract (150-500 words, pdf); a technical rider (space and equipment requirements, pdf); target audience and and planned duration.

Artefacts / Demos

Submit: an anonymized concept note (150-500 words, pdf); a technical rider (space and equipment requirements, pdf); links video or image.

Submissions should be sent to alexia.achilleos@cut.ac.cy, CC-ing thenoiser@gmail.com, and m.koutsomichalis@cut.ac.cy.

Travel Grants

Some grants are available. In your submission please indicate

- If you wish to apply for one
 - Whether you plan to attend the conference even if you do not receive one
-

Important Dates

Submission Deadline: 20th July 2026

Peer Review: 21st-29th July 2026

Notification of Acceptance: 29th July 2026

Conference dates: 3d-5th September 2026

Additional Information

Venues: To be announced with the conference program

Conference fee: No fees to attend or participate.

Chairing Committee: A. Achilleos, Dr R. Butler, M. Gapsevicius, Dr V. Graziano, Dr M. Koutsomichalis, Prof E. Lewis, J. Lindebrink, Dr A. Ludovico, D. Mišković, Dr J. Ottavi, J. Pickett, Asja Šašić.

Visa info: www.gov.me/en/government-of-montenegro/visas-and-entry-requirements

Acknowledgement: The TOC Conference is organised in the context of the COST Action CA21102 Toolkit of Care, supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology)

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding agency for research and innovation networks. Our Actions help connect research initiatives across Europe and enable scientists to grow their ideas by sharing them with their peers. This boosts their research, career and innovation
