

Call for Papers

2026 GELYDA International Conference in Seoul



Theme

***Building Civic and Community Engagement in Youth Development:
A Shared Responsibility of Schools and Extended Education***

GELYDA and the Education and Future Institute at Sungkyunkwan University invite scholars, researchers, and practitioners from around the world to participate in the world's international conference in the field of extended education, to be held in the dynamic global city of Seoul, South Korea, in Summer 2026.

Background

Rapid advances in AI promise more efficient and productive futures, yet they also pose serious threats to democracy and human development when they erode the critical and reflective capacities that define us as *Homo sapiens*. The coexistence of humans and AI requires rigorous ethical, philosophical, and pedagogical inquiry, as well as the careful design of modes of coexistence that preserve, rather than diminish, our shared humanity.

The integration of AI into everyday life has introduced significant challenges of widening economic and social gaps, particularly through unequal access to and use of AI technologies. In this context, social solidarity, civic responsibility, and inclusion are indispensable for sustaining democratic life. Only if future generations learn democratic values and are enabled to enact solidarity, civic participation, and inclusion will AI function as an instrument of productive and humane innovation rather than a source of further inequality.

There is also growing concern that societies may shift from being governed by reason and reciprocity to being dominated by power and self-interest. Preparing the future generation to become civic-minded democratic citizens capable of sustaining a rational and coexistent way of life is an urgent imperative. Children and youth need meaningful opportunities to learn civic values and experience them concretely in both public schooling and everyday life. They must develop the values, competencies, and dispositions required to uphold social norms, pursue social justice, cultivate civics, and contribute to a more equitable, multicultural, and interconnected global society.

Democratic capacities such as empathy, responsibility, cooperation, and commitment to the common good do not arise spontaneously. They are cultivated through intentional, systematic educational experiences. These capacities should be fostered not only through the formal curriculum but also through experiential learning in extended education. The synergy between public schools and afterschool programs is essential for nurturing whole persons with strong civic dispositions and a lived sense of community engagement.

The cultivation of democratic citizens who embody humanity, human dignity, multicultural respect, social solidarity, and inclusion is a shared responsibility of schools and communities. Together, they must create rich spaces of learning and experience in which children and youth can learn democratic values and social norms and practice civic and community engagement.

Seoul, a city where deep-rooted traditions coexist with rapidly developing technologies and cultural trends, provides a setting for these critical dialogues.

Potential topics

We welcome theoretical, empirical, comparative, and practice-oriented contributions. Papers and symposia may address, but are not limited to, the following themes:

- Fostering social solidarity, inclusion, civicness, and human dignity through extended education programs
- Enhancing young people's understanding of the importance of multiculturalism and diversity
- Defining and enacting the new educational responsibilities of extended education in democratic societies
- Designing educational ecosystems that integrate formal, non-formal, and community-based learning for democratic life
- Understanding wellness, resiliency, and thriving from the perspective of extended learning and positive youth development.
- Building civic and community engagement in youth development in the era of AI by extended education programs

Formats of participation

- Presentation of Individual Papers / Thematic Sessions
 - Research-based, conceptual, or practice-oriented papers aligned with the conference theme and sub-themes.
- Organized Symposia
 - Symposia in which a convener brings together multiple presenters under a clearly defined theme.
 - Organized sessions are welcome from:
 - National or regional organizations related to extended education
 - Practitioner groups in specific fields (e.g., youth work, community education, afterschool program leadership)
 - Country sessions showcasing cases, policies, or practices from particular countries or regions
- Symposia are organized in advance by the proposers, while thematic sessions are formed by the program committee based on the submitted papers.



Key Information

- **Conference Date:** June 24 – 26, 2026
- **Venue:** HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES CAMPUS, International Hall, 25-2 Sungkyunkwan-ro, Jongno-gu, Seoul 03063, Korea
- **Submission Deadline:** February 28, 2026
- **Notification of Acceptance:** March 15, 2026

Contact & Inquiries

For further information regarding the 2026 GELYDA Seoul Conference, please contact:

- **Seoul Conference Planning Committee :** 2026.gelyda.conference@gmail.com
- **Official Conference Website :** <https://public.thinkonweb.com/sites/gelyda>
- **Official Website:** www.gelyda.org

Join us in Seoul to advance this essential agenda for the future of our youth and our global community.

Dr. Gil Noam, Chair of GELYDA

Dr. Sang Hoon Bae, Chair of Education and Future Institute