

DIPS



**An organization to promote reasoned
Discourse In Public Spaces**

**is pleased to announce the
CALL FOR PAPERS**

for the

2026 International DIPS conference

The University of Hamburg (Germany)

August 20-23rd, 2026

Dialogue in public spaces (political, academic, social, virtual, etc.,) is too often unreasonable, uncivil, and lacking in reflection. Since reasonable, civil and reflective dialogue is the life breath of human flourishing, the goal of the present enterprise is to bring together people from all around the globe to create a dialogical symposium that will offer all of us the opportunity to come together to share our works, our concerns, and our enthusiasm.

INCLUSIVITY

In light of the fact that there are many who believe that genuinely engaged dialogue needs support in numerous venues, the heading of **DIPS**, or **D**iscourse in **P**ublic **S**paces, hopefully signals maximum inclusivity. Besides educators, the hope is that this symposium will attract scientists, policy makers, activists, and many others, whose concern is focused on enhancing dialogue in varying contexts.

THEME: DIALOGUE AND DEMOCRACY

In this time of turbulence, our goal is to bring together *dialogical enthusiasts* to share their wisdom on how best to handle, change, and assuage the various social currents to which we are all subject, so that they are supportive of, rather than detrimental to, the buoyancy of democracy, e.g., how to help folks negotiate social media, how to foster dialogue in deep social divides, how to translate scientific knowledge so that it effectively connects with laypeople, how to educate for genuinely responsible citizenship, i.e., not just voting, how to foster civility, etc.

YET MORE INCLUSIVITY

Everyone is welcome, either as a speaker or a learner. The plan is to have a 2-tier symposium fee so that those who come to learn rather than present will be offered a discount fee.

DATES

The dates of this international conference are *Aug 20, 21, and 22, 2026*—potentially followed by a morning debrief and/or an excursion, e.g., a harbor cruise.

The cutoff date for submission of abstracts *November 30, 2025*. *Reminders will be sent out July 1, and October 1, 2025*. All abstracts will be vetted for quality and results should be available before *March 1, 2026*. **Abstracts are to be no more than 700 words (not including bibliography).**

Posters and workshops are also welcome.

Abstracts are to be sent to: Prof. Dr. Kerstin Michalik, University of Hamburg
at kerstin.michalik@uni-hamburg.de

COST

Non-student presenters **200** euros.

Non-student attendees **100** euros.

Students **25** euros.

The cost includes the venue plus coffee, tea, water, fruit and cookies for three days. There will be a lunch break to explore the local food venues. An organized dinner will be extra as will outings.

Any questions can be directed to the DIPS website at <https://dipspace.org/> OR to the members of the conference committee:

Dr. Arie Kizel at akizel@edu.haifa.ac.il

Dr. Susan Gardner at sgardner@capilanou.ca

Dr. Kerstin Michalik at kerstin.michalik@uni-hamburg.de