

First circular letter Call for workshop proposals

The 28th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences will be organized on 19–23 August 2024 in Helsinki, Finland. The congress is organized by the University of Helsinki, in collaboration with the University of Turku, City of Helsinki, and the International Council of Onomastic Sciences.

Congress theme: Sustainability of names, naming and onomastics

Sustainability has become a crucial topic in society and science. The world is facing numerous complex and urgent challenges – such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, poverty and inequality – that force us to re-evaluate our procedures and modes of action in all sectors in our lives. These challenges are broadly recognized, and actions to overcome them have been summarized for example in the [United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals](#). There is a call for universities and research institutions to find solutions to these problems.

The concept of sustainability has traditionally been considered to consist of three dimensions: environmental, economic, and social. However, an increasing number of scholars and experts include cultural sustainability as the fourth dimension, meaning for example the maintenance of cultural beliefs and practices, heritage conservation, understanding culture as its own entity, and the future of cultures (see e.g. [Soini & Birkeland 2014](#)). Proper names and onomastic research can be linked to all the four dimensions but especially cultural sustainability.

With the congress theme, *Sustainability of names, naming and onomastics*, we organizers encourage onomasticians to evaluate how their research can support building sustainable societies. Examples of possible approaches to the congress theme are (but not limited to):

- People's relation to their environment (both physical and digital) from the standpoint of toponyms and other place-related names
- Names and minorities, the power relationships conveyed by names
- Urban toponymy in smart and sustainable cities
- Commercial names as a part of sustainable economy
- Identity and naming, the rights to express identities via names
- Changing names (place names, personal names, commercial names etc.)
- Names in the digital world
- Names and law-making
- Names in traffic and tourism
- Onomastics as a sustainable science

In accordance with the theme of sustainability, it is possible to participate in the congress also online. Online participants will have access to the keynote lectures and several paper sessions. However, we hope that most participants can travel to Helsinki to celebrate the possibility of meeting each other in person again.

Keynote speakers

- **Helen Kelly-Holmes**, University of Limerick, Ireland
- **Jane Pilcher**, Nottingham Trent University, UK
- **Väinö Syrjälä**, Södertörn University, Sweden

Important dates

- 31/5/2023: Deadline for workshop proposals
- 6/2023: Acceptance announcement (workshops)
- 10/2023: Abstracts for workshop and general session papers
- 1/2024: Letters of acceptance
- 3/2024: Registration for the congress starts
- 19.–23.8.2024: Congress in Helsinki

Conference fees

- Subsidised fee (Students, Doctoral students, Accompanying persons, online participation): 90 €
- Early bird ICOS member: 220 €
- Late fee ICOS member; early bird non-ICOS member: 340 €
- Late fee non-ICOS member: 400 €

Call for workshop proposals

We now invite proposals for workshops. Thematic workshops, either 90 or 180 min long, include several thematically connected presentations. A workshop can also have an introduction and/or a final discussion. The workshop convenors decide on the length of presentations in the workshop.

The convenors are asked to submit a description (max 500 words) of the workshop theme. The convenors should also decide whether they want to invite the workshop presenters themselves, or whether any congress participant can offer their paper to the workshop during the call for individual abstracts. If the presenters are invited, the description should include a list of the invited contributors and the titles of their presentations in the order in which the presentations will be given. All workshop contributors are required to submit individual abstracts, following the timetable and guidelines for individual presentations.

Workshop proposals should be submitted using an online form at the following link:
<https://elomake.helsinki.fi/lomakkeet/121642/lomake.html>

Proposal submission deadline: 31 May 2023

Notification of acceptance: by 30 June 2023.

The workshop proposals will be evaluated according to their quality, originality and impact.

More information

- **Congress website:** <https://www.helsinki.fi/en/conferences/28th-international-congress-onomastic-sciences>
- **Promotion video:** <https://youtu.be/PvIY7UoEFaw>
- **Contact email:** icos2024@helsinki.fi

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You're warmly welcome to Helsinki!

On behalf of the organising committee

Terhi Ainiala

