

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS !

International Conference

2nd POSTHUMAN STUDIES CONFERENCE (PSC)

Ethics of Emerging Technologies

In Between Transhumanism and Critical Posthumanism

June 12–13, 2026

Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Prof. Dr. Stefan Lorenz Sorgner, John Cabot University, Rome, Italy

Prof. Dr. Maurizio Balistreri, University of Tuscia, Viterbo, Italy

CONFERENCE DESCRIPTION

Within today's context of rapid scientific and technological evolution, algorithmic governance, and political crises, posthuman ethics calls for both practical and conceptual reconsiderations of ethical normativities and discourses—particularly those concerning the notions of life, death, health, aging, sexuality, happiness, pain and suffering, virtue, innovation, and experimentation—within the paradigms of critical posthumanism and the various strands of transhumanism (original, classic, and Euro-Transhumanism). These notions are now being challenged by a range of emerging technologies including neurotechnology, nanotechnology, genetic engineering, biotechnology, cyborg technologies, gene therapy, rejuvenation therapies, artificial intelligence, digital technologies, robotics, mind-uploading, and more. In the face of these challenges, open perspectives of interpretation that criticize paternalistic, dualistic, authoritarian, essentialist, and utopian modes of thinking regarding human well-being, enhancement, flourishing, freedom, and equality, become increasingly relevant. This calls for a re-evaluation of both traditional and liberal ethics as well as contemporary bioethical theories, which often remain anchored in classical utilitarian, deontological, and bio-conservative assumptions. These transformations raise urgent questions: What constitutes a good life in the posthuman paradigm shift? Does the future need the past in order to meaningfully reshape our becoming, and enable the realization of the posthuman paradigm shift? Is simply extending healthspan enough for a good life? Is radical life extension feasible, and what are the ethical implications of unregulated longevity interventions? What are the ethical considerations regarding predictive analytics in healthcare concerning data privacy and algorithmic bias? How can digital data be ethically used to strengthen democratic systems, and who should have access to our digital data? What new forms of vulnerability and discrimination might arise from technological enhancements, and how should they be addressed from a posthuman ethical perspective? How are sexuality and intimacy reconfigured through sexbots, VR, AI intimacies, and space travel? This conference invites philosophers, humanists, posthumanists,

transhumanists, metahumanists, and scholars generally to explore the ethical implications of the various emerging technologies in terms of the posthuman paradigm shift.

PROPOSED TOPICS

Possible topics include (but are not limited to):

- The concepts of life and death within critical, cultural, philosophical, existential, radical, and speculative posthumanism.
- The notions of life and death within original transhumanism, classic transhumanism, and Euro-Transhumanism.
- Euro-Transhumanism: integrating the past to reshape and enable the realization of the posthuman paradigm shift.
- Human enhancement, dignity, autonomy, and freedom in original, classic, and Euro-Transhumanism.
- Euro-Transhumanist ethics on digital data, digital authoritarianism, and liberalism.
- Predictive analytics in healthcare: ethical concerns around surveillance, privacy, and transparency.
- Virtue ethics and human enhancement technologies.
- Reimagining aging: ethical reflections on life-span technologies and radical longevity.
- Rethinking disability and enhancement in critical posthumanism and transhumanism(s).
- Brain-computer interfaces and neuroenhancements.
- Ethical reconsideration of mind uploading and cryonics.
- Ethical implications of gene therapies and synthetic biology.
- Critical posthumanist approaches to the commodification of life in technologically-driven capitalist societies.
- Critical posthumanism, neo-colonialism, and global-tech inequalities.
- Ethical considerations of sexuality, reproduction, and gene editing in the age of emerging biotechnologies.
- Ethical considerations of xenotransplantation: animal rights and the redefinition of the human body.
- Artificial meat, future food, and ecological justice.
- Technoprogressive politics and the utopian dimensions of longtermism.
- Precautionary ethics in relation to both accelerationism and decelerationism.

ORGANIZERS

Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania, the Department of Philosophy of the Faculty of History and Philosophy, the Posthuman Studies Research Group (PSRG) of the Center for Applied Philosophy (CAPH) of the Department of Philosophy, Posthuman Studies Association (PSA), and Lect. Dr. Aura Elena Schussler.

ABSTRACT PROPOSALS

We invite participants to submit abstracts of approximately 250–300 words, along with up to 5 keywords, the name(s) and affiliation(s) of the presenter(s), and contact information. Please also include a short bio (100 words) for each author. Submissions should be in English and sent in a Microsoft Word document (.doc or .docx) to: Aura Schussler aura.schussler@ubbcluj.ro.

DATES AND DEADLINES

Submission deadline: February 10, 2026

Notification of acceptance: March 10, 2026

Date of conference: June 12–13, 2026

CONFERENCE FEES

Early bird: €130 (until April 10, 2026)

Regular registration: €150 (April 10 – May 10, 2026)

PUBLICATION

The best papers from the conference will be published in an essay collection within the *Posthuman Studies* book series (edited by Lect. Dr. Aura Schussler), under the Trivent Transhumanism imprint. Each paper should be between 5,000 and 7,000 words, and all submissions will undergo a peer-review process.

For any questions regarding the conference or submissions, please contact Aura Schussler at aura.schussler@ubbcluj.ro.

If you find yourself interested in these topics, please take a moment to explore the following collections:

- Schussler, A. E. (Ed). (2025). *Nietzsche, Critical Posthumanism and Transhumanism*. (Posthumans Studies, Vol. 1). Trivent Publishing. <https://trivent-publishing.eu/home/211-397-nietzsche-critical-posthumanism-and-transhumanism.html#/27-cover-paperback>
- Schussler, A. E. & Balistreri, M. (Eds.). (2024). *Metahumanism, Euro-Transhumanism and Sorgner's Philosophy—Technology, Ethics, Art*. Trivent Publishing. <https://trivent-publishing.eu/home/170-318-metahumanism-sorgner.html#/27-cover-paperback>
- Sorgner, S. L. (2022). *We Have Always Been Cyborgs: Digital Data, Gene Technologies, and an Ethics of Transhumanism*. Bristol University Press. <https://bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/we-have-always-been-cyborgs>
- Sorgner, S. L. (2022). *Philosophy of Posthuman Art*. Schwabe Verlag. <https://schwabe.ch/stefan-lorenz-sorgner-philosophy-of-posthuman-art-978-3-7965-4568-9>

CONFERENCE ORGANIZER

Lect. Dr. Aura Elena Schussler (Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania)

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Prof. Dr. Manuel Andreas Knoll, (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (LMU), Germany)

Dr. David Roden, member of the Posthuman Studies Research Group (PSRG)

Prof. Dr. Evi Sampanikou (University of the Aegean, Mytilene, Greece)

Lect. Dr. Aura Elena Schussler (Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania)

Prof. Dr. Yunus Tuncel, (New School University, New York, NY, USA)

CONTACT INFORMATION

For submissions or questions, please contact conference organizer Aura Schussler at aura.schussler@ubbcluj.ro.