

19TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
LODZ EAST ASIA MEETING
**“REWRITING GEOPOLITICAL
NARRATIVES AND POWER POLITICS IN
THE ASIAN AND GLOBAL CONTEXT”**
25-26 JUNE 2026 UNIVERSITY OF LODZ

 **CALL FOR PAPERS**

The Lodz East Asia Meeting (LEAM) is an international scientific conference that brings together a wide range of exceptional specialists - scholars, researchers, theoreticians, and practitioners of politics, economy, and culture of Asian countries. Since 2012, we have hosted **over 500 researchers from almost 40 countries**, enabling them to engage in intense scientific discussions and build a worthwhile epistemic community.

The 19th Lodz East Asia Meeting focuses on **contemporary geopolitical dynamics** that are being reshaped by sustained challenges to established power hierarchies, dominant narratives and prevailing normative frameworks. These transformations are particularly visible in Asia, which has become a central arena for political, economic, and strategic reconfigurations with global consequences.

The conference invites critical and interdisciplinary contributions that reassess geopolitical narratives and power relations **in both Asian and global contexts**. We welcome papers that examine shifting power configurations, emerging regional orders, strategic competition, processes of globalization and deglobalization, security arrangements, technological change, as well as the political significance of culture, ideology, and political economy.

LEAM seeks to **provide a platform for rethinking global power relations through Asia-centred perspectives** that remain attentive to broader transregional and global linkages, contributing to more pluralistic and analytically grounded approaches in geopolitical scholarship.



This year, we are pleased to welcome **Dr Katja Freistein**, Senior Researcher and Academic Coordinator at the Academy of International Affairs (Bonn), as our keynote speaker. She will deliver a keynote address entitled **“Shrimps, Pandas, and Hedgehogs: Narrating Geopolitics in the Indo-Pacific Region.”** Dr Freistein’s research focuses on global inequalities, geopolitical narratives and discourse, as well as gender, the far right, and political dynamics in Japan and Southeast Asia. She has published in leading journals, including *Cooperation and Conflict*, *International Political Sociology*, *International Studies Review*, and *Third World Quarterly*, and is co-editor of *Imagining Pathways for Global Cooperation* (Edward Elgar, 2022).



We also invited **Dr Tatiana Carayannis** from the Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton) to deliver the second keynote speech, titled **“From Rule-Takers to Rule-Makers: The Fault Lines of Global AI Competition”**. Professor Carayannis is the co-author of *The “Third” United Nations: How a Knowledge Ecology Helps the UN Think* (Oxford, 2021), and a leading scholar specialising in international organisations, particularly focused on China’s engagement with the UN and with the Global South, and the globalisation of war networks, including the use of new technologies.

The keynote speakers’ presentations will serve as the starting point for discussions during special and individual sessions.



Manufaktura - the restored old factory in Lodz

Special sessions

- *Recalibrating Germany's Asia Policy. Between Values, Markets, and Security*
- *Information Warfare and Strategic Narratives in South Asia*
- *China's relational behaviour at the United Nations.*
- *War in Ukraine in the Regional and Asian Context*



As usual at LEAM, we plan **Meet the authors sessions**. If you recently wrote a book related to the conference topic and want to present it at LEAM, don't hesitate to get in touch with us at: leam@uni.lodz.pl

Individual panels - we invite you to apply to the selected panel:

- Statecraft and diplomacy in Asia: Exploring Asia's geopolitical dynamics, bilateral relations, and regional alliances.
- Non-state actors and global governance: The roles and impacts of NGOs, corporations, and civil society in shaping policies and addressing transnational issues.
- Security and conflict resolution: Discussing security challenges, territorial disputes, cybersecurity, and conflict resolution strategies in Asia.
- Economic interdependence and trade relations: Focusing on Asian trade networks, investment flows, and regional economic interdependencies.
- Cultural diplomacy and soft power: Examining the use of culture, media, and arts in enhancing international influence and relations.
- Emerging technologies and future trends: Assessing the impact of new technologies on international relations and future trends.
- Human rights and social justice: Addressing the link between human rights, social justice, and policy in Asia, focusing on inclusivity and equality.



We encourage researchers to submit papers for individual sessions, yet we also accept organized panels (moderator + invited panellists).



Information

Abstract submission (max. 300 words): 29 March 2026

Notification of accepted abstracts: 20 April 2026

Final program: 10 June 2026

Registration fee:

Early bird (until May 1, 2026): €130 / 540 PLN (Graduate students: €50 / 335 PLN)

Standard (until May 20, 2026): €150 / 630 PLN (Graduate students: €90 / 380 PLN)

ORGANISATIONAL DETAILS:

Venue: Training and Conference Center, University of Lodz, Poland

Online participation is also possible.

The organisers will provide lunches and refreshments during the conference. Conference participants are to **make their own travel and accommodation arrangements**. Participants have the option to reserve accommodation at the University of Lodz hotel for a rate of PLN 140 per night (approximately EUR 33, breakfast included). Accommodation fee will be conveniently consolidated with the overall conference fee. The number of rooms is limited.

SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT

