

10th Anniversary Conference of the Social Science Korean Studies Network in Europe (SoKEN)



Shadows of Suspicion: Distrust, Polarisation, and Democratic Challenges in Contemporary Korea

Dates: 24–25 August 2027

Location: University of Turku, Finland

Special Note: Celebrating a Decade of European Social Science Korean Studies

The Centre for East Asian Studies (CEAS) at the University of Turku is pleased to announce that it will host the 10th Annual Conference of the European Network for Social Sciences in Korean Studies (SoKEN) on August 24–25, 2027.

This year's conference marks a major milestone, celebrating a decade of collaborative research, scholarly dialogue, and institutional growth in European social science perspectives on contemporary Korea. Since its inception, SoKEN has served as a vital interdisciplinary platform for critical inquiry into the social, political, and cultural dynamics shaping the Korean Peninsula.

Conference Theme

As we reflect on ten years of vibrant academic community-building, the 10th-anniversary conference offers an opportunity to commemorate our shared progress and a forum for confronting some of the most pressing socio-political phenomena of our time. Under the central theme "Shadows of Suspicion in Contemporary Korea: Politics, Media, and Everyday Discourse," SoKEN 2027 invites scholars from around

Call for Papers

the globe to critically examine how conspiracy narratives, digital media ecosystems, and institutional mistrust intersect with the fabric of everyday life in contemporary Korea.

Scope and Topics

While the primary thematic focus of this milestone 10th-anniversary conference is on how conspiracy theories, disinformation, and narrative mistrust manifest across South Korean politics, digital media ecosystems, and everyday socio-cultural interactions, submissions are not limited to this central theme. We also welcome submissions of research papers that compare cases between Europe and South Korea, as well as between South Korea and other East Asian countries.

We strongly encourage and welcome panel and paper proposals on any social science topic related to contemporary Korean society, including sociology, political science, anthropology, communication, media studies, economics, and international relations.

Eligibility

The conference warmly welcomes submissions from young scholars, PhD students, and established academics. It does not provide visa support. Participants are responsible for arranging their own travel documents.

Funding Support

Participants whose papers are accepted will be offered up to two nights' accommodation in Turku. In addition, modest travel funding may be available, subject to budget availability.

Panel Guidelines

- **Panel Priority:** Panel organisation receives priority consideration for acceptance.
- **Panel Composition:** Each panel is strictly limited to a **maximum of 4 members** (presenters).

Submission Guidelines

1. Important Deadlines

- a. Abstract submission: 31 January 2026, 17:00 (Helsinki time)
- b. Notification of acceptance: Early March 2027
- c. Full submission: 1st June 2027

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2. Requirements

- a. Abstract length: 250-300 words
- b. Short bio: Up to 100 words
- c. Full paper length: Max. 8,000 words

3. Submission links

- Individual paper submission: <https://forms.gle/F1TMrvdt6b9HVXrm9>
- Panel paper submission: <https://forms.gle/3rhWhKumKt821Q7n7>

*For the panel submission, the organiser is responsible for uploading all the panel members' abstracts.

** All accepted presenters may be requested by the organisers to chair or serve as a discussant for another panel during the conference.

Publication Opportunity: 10th Anniversary Edited Book

To mark SoKEN's 10th anniversary, an edited book featuring selected conference articles is planned for publication after the event.

Contact

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Previous meetings

<https://blogit.utu.fi/soken>

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