



Call for Participants: READ Conference 2025

First Edition

Organized by the **Albanian-American Development Foundation**, in partnership with the **University of Tirana** and faculty from the **University of Richmond**, and in collaboration with partner universities of the READ Project.

Date: October 15, 2025

Location: Tirana, Albania

The Research Expertise from the Academic Diaspora Conference is designed to bring together scholars, researchers, professionals, and innovators from the Albanian academic diaspora, Albanian researchers from Albanian universities and research institutions, and global research communities. This conference aims to foster collaboration, share knowledge, and tackle global challenges through the expertise of the academic diaspora and Albanian researchers from local universities and research institutions.

Organized by the Albanian-American Development Foundation, in partnership with the University of Tirana and faculty from the University of Richmond and in collaboration with partner universities of READ Project. The first edition of the READ Conference will be held in Tirana on October 15th, 2025.

Conference Chair Organization Committees.

- Prof. Dr. Anila Paparisto, Vice Rector, University of Tirana (Albania)
- Dr. Lidia Radi (Ph. D), Chair of the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, University of Richmond (USA)
- Enrik Keco, Project Manager, Albanian American Development Foundation (Albania)

Conference Scientific Committees

- Prof. Dr. Artan Hoxha, Rector, University of Tirana (Albania)
- Dr. Lidia Radi (Ph. D), Chair of the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, University of Richmond (USA)
- Dr. Dritan Agalliu (Ph. D), Associated Professor, Columbia University (USA)
- Dr. Mirjeta Beqiri (Ph. D), Professor, Gonzaga University (USA)
- Prof. Dr. Arben Merkoçi, Cataluña Institute of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (Spain)
- Dr. Arjan Gjonça, Associated Professor, London School of Economy (UK)
- Prof. Dr. Aurela Anastasi, University of Tirana (Albania)
- Prof. Dr. Anila Paparisto, Vice Rector, University of Tirana (Albania)
- Dr. Anthony Russell (Ph. D), Department of English and Creative Writing, Coordinator of Italian Studies, University of Richmond (USA)
- Dr. Aya Tanaka (Ph. D), Stern Business School, New York University (USA)
- Prof. Dr. Nazim Gruda, University of Bonn (Germany)
- Prof. Dr. Dhimiter Bello, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, University of Massachusetts Lowell (USA)
- Prof. Assoc. Dr. Adriana Bejko, University of Calgary (Canada)
- Dr. Elton Skendaj (Ph. D), Georgetown University (USA)

- Prof. Dr. Xheladin Dractini, Rector, University of Medicine of Tirana (Albania)
- Prof. Dr. Fatbardh Sallaku, Rector, Agricultural University of Tirana (Albania)
- Prof. Dr. Elvira Fetahu, Rector, University of Elbasan "Aleksandër Xhuvani" (Albania)
- Prof. Dr. Tonin Gjuraj, Rector, University of Shkodra "Luigj Gurakuqi" (Albania)
- Prof. Dr. Shkëlqim Fortuzi, Rector, University of Durrës "Aleksandër Moisiu" (Albania)
- Prof. Dr. Lorenc Ekonomi, Rector, University of Korça "Fan S. Noli (Albania)
- Prof. Dr. Jaho Cana, Rector, University of Gjirokastra "Eqerem Çabej" (Albania)
- Prof. Dr. Elfrida Shehu, Vice Rector, Polytechnic University of Tirana (Albania)
- Prof. Dr. Erinda Likaj, Vice Rector, Agricultural University of Tirana (Albania)
- Prof. Dr. Aljula Jubaii, Head of Institute for European Studies, University of Tirana (Albania)
- Prof. Assoc. Dr. Majlinda Zahaje, Vice Rector, University of Vlora "Ismail Qemali" (Albania)

Conference Organizing Committees

- Prof. Dr. Anila Papparisto, Vice Rector, University of Tirana (Albania)
- Dr. Lidia Radi (Ph. D), Chair of the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, University of Richmond (USA)
- Dr. Jonida Lamaj, Program Manager, Albanian American Development Foundation (Albania)
- Enrik Keco, Project Manager, Albanian American Development Foundation (Albania)
- Dr. Aida Mosko, University of Korça "Fan S. Noli (Albania)
- Dr. Rudina Osmanaj, Vice Dean, University of Tirana (Albania)
- Dr. Edvin Zhllima, Agricultural University of Tirana (Albania)
- Dr. Endrit Kullaj, Agricultural University of Tirana (Albania)
- Andrea Mazelliu, University of New York Tirana (Albania)
- Holta Bimbli, Senior Project Coordinator, Albanian American Development Foundation (Albania)
- Ilda Spahiu, Project Coordinator Albanian American Development Foundation (Albania)
- Mirela Parangoni, Project Coordinator for CleanScore, University of Tirana (Albania)
- Adela Kacollja, Project Coordinator for CleanScore, University of Tirana (Albania)
- Lumjana Shehu, Communication Consultant, Albanian American Development Foundation (Albania)

Publication

All submissions will be peer reviewed by 2-3 reviewers. The registered and presented papers will be published into READ Conference Book of Proceedings (ISBN).

Important dates:

Abstract Submitting – June 30th, 2025

Research Paper Submitting – September 15th, 2025

Review process – August 16th – 30th September, 2025

Conference – 15th October, 2025

Submission and Contacts

Abstracts and final papers should be submitted in this email address:

conference@readdiaspora.al

Conference Pillars:

The READ Conference will focus on six critical areas of development that shape the future of Albanian development. We invite contributions that address innovative solutions, interdisciplinary research, and global perspectives on the following key pillars:

1. Education: Rethinking and transforming education systems to foster innovation, inclusion, and accessibility in the 21st century.
2. Innovation & Technology: Exploring the role of emerging technologies in solving societal challenges and advancing economic development.
3. Agriculture & Rural Development: Addressing sustainable agricultural practices, rural development, and the role of agriculture in a rapidly changing world.
4. Sustainable Development: Solutions for fostering economic growth, preserving cultural heritage, and promoting sustainable tourism.
5. STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) & Medicine: Bridging scientific research with technological innovation, creative industries, and interdisciplinary projects.
6. Social Science and Humanities: Investigating the human condition, societal challenges, and the role of cultural, historical, and social contexts in shaping contemporary issues and solutions.

Call for paper:

We invite researchers, scholars, and experts from the academic diaspora, Albanian researchers from Albania, and international research communities to submit abstracts for presentations, workshops, or panels that align with one or more of the conference's six pillars. Contributions may include empirical research, innovative case studies, novel methodologies, theoretical frameworks, critical reviews, policy analyses, experimental approaches, or practice-based insights offering.

Suggested topics include, but are not limited to:

1. Education

- ✚ Educational Technology: Integrating AI, VR/AR, and digital tools in teaching and learning.
- ✚ Lifelong learning and upskilling: Strategies for continuous education in response to evolving labor markets and digital transformation.
- ✚ Student mental health and well-being: Approaches to supporting holistic development and mental health in educational settings.
- ✚ Inclusive Education: Addressing the needs of marginalized and underrepresented groups in education.
- ✚ Global Education Systems: Comparing and improving education systems around the world.
- ✚ Curriculum Innovation: Developing curricula that foster creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving.
- ✚ Teacher Training and Professional Development: New models for empowering educators.
- ✚ Higher Education and Research: Advancing academic collaboration, mobility, and international research partnerships.

2. Innovation & Technology

- ✚ Green technologies: Innovations in sustainable energy, environmental monitoring, and waste management through technology.
- ✚ Digital health and telemedicine: Innovations in healthcare technologies and remote care solutions.
- ✚ Emerging Technologies: Exploring the impact of AI, blockchain, quantum computing, and other breakthrough technologies.
- ✚ Tech for Social Good: How innovation is addressing global challenges (e.g., climate change, health, poverty).
- ✚ Smart Cities and Infrastructure: The role of technology in urbanization, mobility, and sustainable development.
- ✚ Cybersecurity and Privacy: Addressing challenges and opportunities in data protection and digital rights.
- ✚ Digital Transformation: The role of technology in transforming business, education, and governance.
- ✚ Tech Entrepreneurship: Fostering startups and innovation ecosystems to drive economic growth.

3. Agriculture & Rural Development

- ✚ Circular agriculture: Implementing closed-loop systems to reduce waste and enhance sustainability in farming practices
- ✚ Sustainable Agriculture: Practices to ensure food security, soil health, and environmental stewardship.
- ✚ Agri-tech Innovations: The role of technology in transforming agricultural practices.
- ✚ Rural Development Models: Enhancing the quality of life and economic prosperity in rural areas.
- ✚ Climate Change and Agriculture: Understanding and addressing the impacts of climate change on farming.
- ✚ Agro-tourism: Merging agriculture with tourism for sustainable rural development.
- ✚ Food Systems and Security: Examining global food distribution, security, and sustainability.

4. Sustainable Development

- ✚ Circular Economy: Exploring models that reduce waste and recycle resources for sustainable economic growth.
- ✚ Sustainable Tourism: Creating responsible tourism practices that preserve cultural heritage and protect ecosystems.
- ✚ Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation: Solutions for reducing the effects of climate change in local and global contexts.
- ✚ Green Energy: Advancements in renewable energy sources and their role in sustainable development.
- ✚ Social Equity and Sustainability: Addressing inequalities in development processes to ensure inclusivity.
- ✚ Cultural Heritage Preservation: Balancing development with the protection of historical and cultural sites.
- ✚ Water resource management: Solutions for sustainable water usage and management in urban and rural settings.

5. STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics and Medicine)

- ✚ Interdisciplinary STEAM Education: Integrating arts with sciences to create well-rounded, innovative problem solvers.
- ✚ Innovation in Science, Engineering and Medicine: New frontiers in scientific research and technological applications.
- ✚ Creative Industries and Technology: The intersection of art, culture, and technology in shaping the future.

- ✚ STEM, Medicine, and Public Health in Society: Examining the societal impacts of science, technology, and medicine, with a focus on public engagement, health equity, and community well-being.
- ✚ Data Science and AI: The role of data-driven decision-making in scientific research and innovation.
- ✚ Health and Biotechnology: Research in biomedical sciences, public health, and technological advancements in healthcare.
- ✚ Ethical innovation in STEAM: Investigating the ethical implications of emerging technologies, and how innovation can be harnessed responsibly.
- ✚ Women in STEAM: Addressing gender disparities and promoting inclusion of women in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics fields.
- ✚ Health, Biotechnology, and Public Health Innovations
Research and development in biomedical sciences, biotechnology, and public health to address global challenges and improve quality of life.

6. Social Sciences & Humanities

- ✚ Social Justice and Human Rights: Addressing global challenges such as inequality, discrimination, and human rights violations.
- ✚ Migration and Refugee Studies: Examining the social, economic, and political impacts of migration.
- ✚ Cultural Studies and Anthropology: Understanding cultures, traditions, and societies in the context of global challenges.
- ✚ History and Memory: The role of historical narratives in shaping contemporary societies.
- ✚ Psychology and Human Behavior: Exploring mental health, social behavior, and the impacts of societal changes.
- ✚ Political Science and International Relations: Examining global governance, diplomacy, and conflict resolution.

GUIDELINE

Abstracts

- ✚ Abstracts/papers must be submitted in English.
- ✚ The abstract length should be no longer **250 words** and should fit on a single page. It must contain the paper title, the author names, their corresponding affiliation, postal and e-mail addresses. The following format should be followed:

- *Margins:* 2.5 cm (1") (all sides)
- *Title:* 14 pt bold, Times New Roman, centered
- *Author names:* 12 pt, Times New Roman, centered
- *Affiliation:* 10 pt italic, Times New Roman, centered
- *Abstract body:* 12 pt, Times New Roman, justified with single line spacing
- *References:* 10 pt, Times New Roman

✚ Presenting Author Information

- *Name, Title/Position:*
- *Institute:*
- *Address:*
- *Email:*
- *Statement: I agree to allow my accepted abstract to be published on the website/journal decided by the organisers: Yes No*

Author A. Name1 (presenter is underlined), Author B. Name1, Author C. Name2

¹*Institution One Name, Street Address, City, State/Province Zip/Postal Code, Country*

²*Institution Two Name, Street Address, City, State/Province Zip/Postal Code, Country*

- ✚ Each registrant can submit only one research abstract for evaluation.
- ✚ The same abstract cannot be submitted by different delegates.
- ✚ *Double-check spelling and grammar. It is the responsibility of the submitter to ensure their text does not contain any typos or grammatical errors and submitted as a word file (.docx or .doc) by email attachment to.*