PDC: Peace, Dialogue, Coexistence. Designing for living together.

Call for Doctoral Colloquium

In a world marked by disconnections, fragmentations, and conflicts, more than ever, the urgency of participatory design is to become an agent of peace, dialogue and coexistence.

How can participatory design facilitate living together?

The PDC 2026 Doctoral Colloquium offers current Ph.D. students working in the field of Participatory Design a dedicated space for discussion and networking during the conference. (*Note: applicants must be enrolled as Ph.D. students at the time of submission*).

This colloquium is an opportunity for emerging researchers to share what matters most in their research journeys, engage in meaningful dialogue, and collaboratively explore ways to address key challenges. Participants will present their work, exchange experiences, and receive constructive feedback and support from both peers and experienced scholars.

We welcome submissions on any topic relevant to participatory design theory, practice, or methodology. We particularly encourage contributions that engage with the conference themes, including (but not limited to):

- **Global systems and local experiences:** Critically examine how globalization shapes peacebuilding, resistance, and cooperation at the local level. How can participatory design support conflict resolution by valuing local knowledge and cultural practices?

- **AI, democracy, and participation:** Explore how participatory processes can be framed across different levels of governance—from neighborhoods to global institutions—to ensure inclusive engagement in the digital and green transitions.

- **Inclusion and equity:** Discuss participatory approaches that centre marginalized voices, fostering diversity, resilience, and social justice.
- **Participatory policymaking:** Investigate how design research can inform inclusive policy frameworks, support sustainable transitions,

PEACE
DIALOGUE
COEXISTENCE

and enable systemic interventions through collaborative decision-making.

- **Civic participation and climate crisis:** Reflect on the role of design in deliberative democracy and civic engagement in response to the social, technical, and political challenges of the climate emergency.

- **More-than-human perspectives on AI:** Rethink artificial intelligence through the lens of interdependence—human, machine, and ecological—and explore new modes of collaboration and survival.

- **Multispecies participation:** Critically engage with the ethics and implications of participation, consent, and cohabitation in a more-than-human world.

Important dates:

- **Submission of proposals:**
  ~~Midnight, October 07h, 2025 (CET)~~
  Midnight, October 16, 2025 (CET)

- **Notification of acceptance:**
  December 04-05th, 2025

- **Conference:** June 16th-19th 2026

Technical guidelines:

Submissions must be made via the Conftool system, using the ACM templates detailed below.

Proposals will be evaluated based on their quality and relevance to participatory design. We aim to ensure diversity in disciplinary backgrounds, research stages, and cultural perspectives.

Each submission should include:

- An overview of the Ph.D. project, including research motivations, questions, methods, progress to date, and future plans.

- The main challenge(s) you are currently facing in your Ph.D. journey.

- Intended contributions to participatory design and to this conference theme (Peace, Dialogue, Coexistence. Designing for Living Together).

Submissions should be written **in English, should not be anonymized, and should be 3000 words or at least 17000 characters (excluding references).** All contributions must use the ACM recommended templates.

- **For Microsoft Word users**:
  Please follow *the ACM instructions for preparing your submission with Word.* In the section titled **"The ACM Article Template: Using Microsoft Word"**, you will find the link to download the *Word submission template.*

- **For LaTeX users**:
  Please refer to the *ACM instructions for preparing your submission with LaTeX*. In the section titled **"The ACM Article Template: Using LaTeX"**, you will find the link to download the *LaTeX template files*.

Accepted submissions will be published in the ACM Digital Library as part of the PDC 2026 proceedings.

Participation and Preparation

Authors of accepted submissions will be asked to complete some pre-conference activities, such as reading fellow participants' submissions and preparing a short introduction to their research (e.g., a brief video or poster). Further instructions will be provided upon acceptance.