

Call for papers



The educational power of storytelling: reflectiveness, identity, citizenship, ecology **Rome – May 19, 2026**

Dipartimento di Scienze Umane - Comunicazione, Formazione e Psicologia
LUMSA University
Piazza delle Vaschette, 101, Rome

CONFERENCE INTRODUCTION

The conference aims to explore the central role of storytelling as a pedagogical and transformative practice capable of influencing teacher training, identity building, civic participation and ecological awareness through processes of reflection and meta-reflection that question individual and collective narratives, highlighting the cultural contexts and meta-narratives that guide contemporary educational mindset.

Narratives, in fact, are not only descriptions of experiences, but reflective and meta-reflective devices that allow us to re-read educational processes, recognise the interpretative frameworks that underpin them, construct shared meanings and guide individual and collective actions. Through four thematic areas, the conference aims to promote an interdisciplinary dialogue that enhances the normative, generative and transformative function of stories and narratives:

1. Narrative and reflexivity in teachers' professional development

Teachers' personal and professional stories become tools to re-exam educational practices, reinforce reflective skills and strengthen their own professional identity. Through storytelling, teachers learn to identify significant events that emerge in everyday classroom life, to question their meaning and to guide future decisions that have a direct impact on students' learning. This process of paying attention, interpreting and making choices is never neutral, and actually involves building a professional vision fuelled by reflective and meta-reflective narrative practices, which are able to provide a clear vision of the various frameworks of meaning that steer educational action.

2. Pedagogical texts as normative and transformative forms

Pedagogical texts, whether classical, contemporary or everyday teaching materials, do not merely convey knowledge, but also convey implicit models, educational visions and normative orientations. Their analysis allows us to identify the cultural and value-based frameworks, the pedagogical meta-narratives that hold them up, and to grasp their generative potential. Through critical and reflective reading, these texts become living resources that orient the change in educational practices and offer interpretative keys for rethinking training and teaching.

3. Narratives, identity and citizenship: educational and inclusive paths

Storytelling plays a crucial role in the construction of personal and collective identity, promoting processes of acknowledgement, inclusion and democratic participation. Through stories, students can explore the plurality of belonging and cultural memory, understanding the values that hold communities together.

Narratives reveal the dynamics through which educational communities produce shared meanings and encourage educational paths oriented towards pluralistic coexistence, social justice and inclusion.



4. Eco-pedagogy and narratives: the construction of the ecological subject

Narratives about and with the environment are powerful educational tools for developing ecological awareness and responsibility towards the planet. They help to shape the “ecological subject” so that it is capable of seeing itself as part of an interconnected system and adopting caring attitudes.

Eco-pedagogical stories allow us to critically question the dominant meta-narratives on the relationship between human kind and nature, challenging anthropocentric paradigms and promoting an ecological imagination based on interconnection, attention and shared responsibility.

The conference therefore aims to be a workshop for critical reflection on the narratives and meta-narratives that permeate contemporary education, offering perspectives for rethinking education, citizenship and sustainability from a narrative and transformative point of view. The intertwining of reflectiveness, identity, citizenship and ecology highlights how stories are not simply tales, but powerful tools for cultural and social transformation. Through theoretical and practical perspectives, the conference aims to encourage an interdisciplinary discussion and the production of shared knowledge to enrich research and influence everyday practices. Participants are invited to contribute with experiences, research and reflections that show how storytelling, in all its forms, can serve as a catalyst for educational change, a laboratory for active citizenship and a horizon of ecological responsibility.

TARGET AUDIENCE

This *Call for Papers* is addressed to PhD students, PhD graduates and research fellows from Italian and international universities who are interested in exploring the transformative power of narratives in educational, social and cultural contexts.

Theoretical, empirical, methodological and experience-based proposals exploring one or more of the following themes are welcome:

- Narrative and reflexivity in the professional development of teachers.
- Pedagogical texts as normative and transformative forms.
- Narratives, identity and citizenship: educational and inclusive paths.
- Eco-pedagogy and narratives: the construction of the ecological subject.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL

Contributions in Italian and English are welcome. The choice of language for your contribution does not determine the language of your presentation at the conference, which will be held in Italian.

Participants are invited to present their research work by choosing between:

- **oral presentation**
- **poster** (size 20×70 cm or 70×100 cm), which will be displayed in a dedicated session.

Proposals, written in **Italian and/or English**, must be submitted **by February 13, 2025** by filling in the following Google form:

<https://bit.ly/narrazioniLumsa>

Here, it will be required to attach an anonymous document with the title and abstract of the presentation, which should be a summary of approximately 1500 words, excluding bibliographical references, in Word format (Times New Romans, font size 12).

A second document, in PDF format, should contain only the title of the proposal, along with the main details of the proposer(s) (first and last name, email address and telephone number, if available, address, affiliation and brief biography).



Please use only the **provided formats** to submit proposals.

Files must be named as follows:

- **Anonymous document (Word):** *SurnameFirstAuthor_Anonymous_CallLumsa*
the Word format is available at the following link:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1y8emy-AgTLxZAQkNlDVTerpFD1qyd1L6/edit?usp=sharing&oid=100661560121178904366&rtpof=true&sd=true>
- **Identification document (PDF):** *SurnameFirstAuthor_Anonymous_CallLumsa*
the Word format is available at the following link:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Rv8nPdp7P4PD9K0Jki5Tri9BU0Op_NfZ/edit?usp=sharing&oid=100661560121178904366&rtpof=true&sd=true

If proposals have multiple authors, use the format *SurnameFirstAuthorEtAl*.

Call closing date: February 13, 2026

Notification of acceptance: by mid-March 2026

Participation in the Conference and Call is free of charge. Participants will be responsible for travel and accommodation expenses.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION

Proposals will be evaluated through a double-blind peer review process.

Each contribution will be examined by two reviewers.

Evaluation will be based on the following criteria:

- relevance of the contribution to the aims and themes of the conference;
- originality, relevance and innovativeness of the approach adopted;
- methodological rigor and clarity of the research design;
- accuracy in the description of the methodology and analytical processes;
- coherence of the theoretical and conceptual framework with respect to the domain of reference;
- homogeneity and strength of the arguments developed;
- clarity in the definition of objectives and assessing their feasibility;
- internal consistency between objectives, methodology, results and conclusions;
- critical and in-depth analysis of the relevant literature;
- use of up-to-date and relevant bibliographical references;
- quality and adequacy of any technical or operational solutions proposed;
- replicability or transferability of the results presented;
- overall organisation of the text, including the integration of images, tables or diagrams;
- clarity of presentation, appropriate use of scientific language and easily comprehensible.

PUBLICATION OF PAPERS

Following the evaluation conducted by the Scientific Committee, accepted papers will be published in the Conference Proceedings.

Organising Committee: Gaia Comune, Ludovica Montalti, Emma Perrone, Giulia Roncato, Giulia Toti.

Scientific Committee: proff. Cosimo Costa, Raniero Regni, Caterina Verbaro.

Contact: narrazioni.lumsa@gmail.com



Please use this email address for all enquiries.

If you need to contact us directly, please send an email stating the reason for your enquiry and a telephone number to be contacted on.

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