

The Anthropology of Vietnam: Global Perspectives // Nhân học Việt Nam: tiếp cận toàn cầu

June 16-19, 2026 // Ngày 16-19, Tháng 6, 2026

Dalat University // Trường Đại Học Đà Lạt

Conference Description

We are pleased to invite paper proposals for an academic conference entitled **The Anthropology of Vietnam: Global Perspectives // Nhân học Việt Nam: tiếp cận toàn cầu**, to be held at Dalat University (DLU) between June 16-19, 2026. The conference will bring together anthropologists from Vietnam and around the world to assess the growth and internationalization of the Anthropology of Vietnam over the past two decades. 2026 marks the twenty-five year anniversary of the founding of Anthropology (Nhân Học) as a formal academic institution in the Vietnam National University system. The timing also aligns with a period of growth in the Anthropology of Vietnam across Asia, Australia, Europe, and North America. Building from these achievements within Vietnam and abroad, the conference will showcase the wide range of work being carried out by anthropologists with research interests in Vietnam. We also hope to foster careful discussion about how increased opportunities for international collaboration might best intersect with ongoing work in anthropology to decolonize the discipline.

The choice of conference location is purposeful. Located in Dalat, a city at the gateway to Vietnam's Central Highlands, DLU is a minority-serving regional university supporting a new generation of scholars interested in the social sciences. The location helps make anthropology accessible in a region where anthropological research has long been carried out but access to anthropological training has been limited. Additional conference activities will foreground our commitment to fostering international collaborations that are guided by the agendas of Vietnamese students and scholars from a wide range of ethnic and regional backgrounds. Organizers are also planning to include opportunities for scholarly mentorship and sustained working of conference papers that will encourage presenters to work towards publishing their papers as peer-reviewed articles or as part of some peer-reviewed volumes that may result from the conference. Funding will be available to fully support participants attending from institutions within Vietnam, and some limited funds will be available to supplement scholars from other international institutions with demonstrated financial need.

Conference Themes

The specific empirical or theoretical focus of individual research papers and conference panels will be determined by the submissions received to the call for papers. The organizing committee also hopes, however, that papers will also address some of the ways in which an anthropology of Vietnam for the 21st Century might successfully navigate the dynamic tensions and possibilities that emerge when the trends of internationalization and decolonization intersect with each other.

We encourage presenters to consider ways that their own research engages with some of the following questions:

1. How can anthropologists of Vietnam balance the need to study Vietnam in its uniqueness with studying Vietnam as part of global issues and processes?
2. How can anthropologists in Vietnam promote the importance of the field within Vietnamese institutions and academia while also increasing the stature of Vietnamese anthropologists with global anthropology as a whole?
3. How might international collaboration continue to be fostered while also destabilizing Euro-American academic hegemonies in the worlds of publishing and scholarly theory-building?
4. What possibilities are there for Vietnamese anthropology to be more proactive in conversations about decolonizing anthropology, given the historic role that Vietnam itself has played in decolonization more broadly?

Language of the Conference

Vietnamese and English with simultaneous interpretation.

Structure of the Conference

The conference itself will consist of 2.5 days of formal academic presentations and keynote lectures (June 16-18), and one full day of smaller breakout study trips in Lam Dong province, designed to give attendees opportunities to learn about the region and engage in smaller, face-to-face experiences together (June 19).

Day 1 (Tuesday, June 16, 2026): 14:00 – 17:00: Formal introduction to workshop, followed by dinner reception

Day 2 (Wednesday, June 17): 9:00 – 15:30: 12 presenters (3 panels, each with 4 presenters)
16:00-17:30 Keynote #1

Day 3 (Thursday, June 18): 9:00 – 15:30: 12 presenters (3 panels, each with 4 presenters)
16:00-17:30 Keynote #2

Day 4 (Friday, June 19): Smaller study trips in Lam Dong (TBA)

Submission Deadlines and Instructions

Interested scholars are invited to participate in the conference in one of several roles:

Formal Presenter

Scholars wishing to present their work during the conference are invited to submit an abstract of a proposed paper to the organizing committee before the **December**

1st 2025 deadline. Submissions can be made using this [Conference Abstract submission Form](#) . See more detailed application instructions below.

Presenters will be expected to prepare and circulate drafts of an original research paper (ca. 6,000 words) to the organizing committee one month before the conference. The paper will be shared with fellow panel members and discussants assigned to the paper by the conference organizers. The goal will be to ensure that all the individual papers selected meet high standards of research excellence while also focusing on how Vietnamese anthropologists can promote their own visions of what decolonial methods should entail. Although all subfields of anthropology will be invited to participate, we anticipate that the bulk of presenters will focus on social, cultural, linguistic and medical anthropology, with possibly a smaller number of presenters focusing on anthropological archaeology and biological anthropology.

Discussant

The organizing committee will assign discussants to all papers and panels in the conference. Discussants will be encouraged to engage with members of their assigned panel well in advance of the conference in order to foster robust intellectual exchange and support the development of publishable papers from the workshop.

Observer

All anthropologists interested in the anthropology of Vietnam are welcome to attend the conference. There will be no cost to attend, but for planning purposes the organizers request that attendees send a formal email indicating their intention to attend at least one month before the conference. The email should provide a Full Name, Professional Affiliation, email contact information, and a sentence about research interests to the committee to the conference email address: vian2026@hcmussh.edu.vn.

Key Dates and Deadlines

December 1, 2025	Deadline for Submission of Abstracts for Papers or Panel. (Accepted papers will be notified in early January)
January 10, 2026	Acceptance emails sent to selected paper presenters
April 1, 2026	Deadline to indicate intention to attend as an observer
May 15, 2026	Deadline for presenters to submit first draft of paper to discussant and fellow panel members
June 16-19, 2026	Conference in Dalat

Full Instructions for Submission of paper-proposal

All applicants wishing to present papers at the conference are requested to send the following materials, using this [Conference Abstract submission Form](#)

by December 1, 2025. The form will ask for the following information:

1. A paper title.
2. A 250-word abstract.
3. An academic CV, including applicant's name, institutional affiliation, and best email contact. Please send this as a separate file with the following filename:
AnthroVietnam2026_CV.doc
4. All materials can be submitted in Vietnamese or English.

The conference committee will convene a panel of anthropologists based in Vietnam and abroad to review the proposals. In order to promote an unbiased selection process, the paper titles and abstracts will be reviewed and ranked anonymously before looking at the applicant's CV. Selected participants will be notified in early January, 2026.

A note on funding and the possibility of financial support

The conference is organized and financially supported by the University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam National University and hosted by Dalat University, with additional support from the University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University, in Hanoi. Organizational and financial support is also provided by the Wenner Gren Foundation, the Council on Southeast Asia Studies at Yale University, the Department of Anthropology at the University of Copenhagen, and Bielefeld University's Social Anthropology Working Group.

There will be no conference fees associated with the conference, but participants not affiliated with institutions in Vietnam will be responsible for covering the cost of travel to the conference, lodging in Dalat, and a small transportation supplement for the local trips on the final day of the conference. The organizing committee is making every effort to keep these costs to a minimum.

Conference organizers encourage all participants to seek external funding support for costs associated with attending the conference, but we are also committed to working with individual applicants who lack access to research funds to help them identify and apply for sources of funding to support their participation. We are currently awaiting the results of several applications for external funds and will share details of any funding opportunities that might become available.