

The 18th Conference of the Global Communication Association



*Global Communication Futures: Navigating Technology, Peace,
and Resilience in a Connected World*

Hosted by



**The Center for Information, Democracy, and Citizenship (CIDC)
and**

The Filitsa Sofianou-Mullen Writing Center

<https://aubg.edu>

June 01 – 05, 2026

Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria



The 18th Annual Global Communication Association Conference

www.globalcomassociation.com

CALL FOR PAPERS

Global Communication Futures: Navigating Technology, Peace, and Resilience in a Connected World

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Hosted by the world-class American University in Bulgaria, and its [Center for Information, Democracy, and Citizenship \(CIDC\)](#) and [The Filitsa Sofianou-Mullen Writing Center](#), the [Global Communication Association \(GCA\)](#) invites you to submit your abstracts and panel proposals for the 18th annual convention to be held in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria.

The 2026 conference, “**Global Communication Futures: Navigating Technology, Peace, and Resilience in a Connected World**,” invites proposals that critically examine how evolving technologies and media systems are reshaping global communication. As artificial intelligence, digital platforms, and transnational networks transform interaction and knowledge exchange, participants are encouraged to explore issues of equity, access, and representation, as well as the ethical and regulatory challenges of technologically mediated communication.

The **Global Communication Association (GCA)** invites scholars, researchers, and practitioners to submit original research papers, panel proposals, and case studies for presentation at the upcoming conference. We welcome contributions that explore critical, innovative, and interdisciplinary perspectives on global communication, democracy, technology, culture, and resilience in a rapidly changing world.

In addition, participants will also have included access to the European Writing Centers Association (EWCA) Conference which coincides with the GCA Conference.

We particularly encourage papers that address the following **conference tracks** and themes:

Track 1: Media, Democracy, and the Crisis of Public Discourse

- Political communication and democratic regression
- Populism, nationalism, and media narratives
- Platform power, disinformation, and election integrity

- Surveillance, censorship, and freedom of expression
- Hate speech, extremism, and online radicalization
- The erosion and rebuilding of trust in journalism
- Futures of media industries and alternative media economies
- Public interest media and new funding models
- Transparency, accountability, and media regulation
- The future of public broadcasting and independent media

Track 2: Advances in Computer Science and Information Systems for Global Communication and Resilience

- Artificial intelligence tools & applications in media
- Algorithmic governance, transparency, and bias
- Platformization and post-social media dynamics
- AI-Driven decision support systems for peacebuilding and conflict resolution
- Ethical AI frameworks for global media and information systems
- Big data analytics for crisis prediction and humanitarian response
- Machine learning models for disinformation and fake news detection
- Data science approaches to social media influence
- Predictive analytics for global sustainability and SDGs monitoring
- Automation, digital labor, and the gig economy in media
- Generative AI and deep fakes
- Surveillance, capitalism, and privacy
- Virtual/augmented reality and immersive communication

Track 3: Communication in Crisis: Climate, Conflict, and Humanitarian Challenges

- Media representations of climate change and sustainability
- Migration, forced displacement, and refugee narratives
- Media and war: from terror to peacebuilding
- Crisis communication during pandemics and disasters
- Human rights, dignity, and advocacy in times of conflict
- Communication and resilience in fragile democracies

Track 4: Media, Culture, and Identities

- Intercultural communication in an age of migration and polarization

- Alternative and indigenous media practices
- Media worlds of trauma, memory, and resistance
- Popular culture, fandom, and participatory cultures
- Media archaeology and revisiting the past

ABSTRACT AND PAPER SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

- Abstracts: A 400-word abstract of the paper or panel proposal must be submitted.
- Format: Please submit two separate attachments in Word format:
 1. Abstract (with title, keywords, and references if applicable).
 2. Author information (name, institutional affiliation, email, and short bio).
- **Submission: Abstracts should be submitted electronically via the following link <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=gcaewca2026>**
- Full Paper Requirements
 1. Full papers should not exceed 6,000–8,000 words including references.
 2. All submissions must follow APA 7th edition (or other specified) citation and formatting guidelines.
 3. Use Times New Roman, 12 pt., double-spaced text, with standard margins.
 4. Figures and tables must be numbered, captioned, and referenced in the text.
 5. File format: Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) only.

The full paper submission link will be sent by email to authors after their abstracts are accepted.

The 400-word abstract of the paper or panel proposal may also be submitted to Mr. Steven London FRSA slondon@aubg.edu by **January 15, 2026**, if you encounter any difficulties with the EasyChair submission.

- The abstract should include the author(s)' name, affiliation, areas of research, methodology and significance, followed by keywords.
- Poster presentations on topics related to the conference theme are also encouraged.
- Abstracts will be peer-reviewed by two or more reviewers. The authors of the abstracts will be notified of the acceptance of their abstracts by **February 15, 2026**.
- If accepted, the authors who wish to publish their paper in the conference proceedings, the full-length paper (not to exceed 25 pages excluding references and tables) must be submitted by **April 01, 2026**. All papers should adhere to The American Psychological Association (APA) [style manual](#).

Payment for Conference Fees Can Be Made Here: [Global Communication Futures: Navigating Technology, Peace, and Resilience in a Connected World - AUBG](#)

Payment options will be available after acceptance of abstract.

PUBLICATION:

Selected papers will be considered for publication in affiliated academic outlets. Authors of high-quality submissions may also be invited to contribute to edited volumes or special issues aligned with the conference theme.

CONFERENCE LOCATION:

The conference will take place on the beautiful campus of the [American University in Bulgaria](#).

There are numerous accommodation options for every budget, including hotels, hostels, and Airbnbs, and even staying in the campus residence halls. Below you can find several accommodation options, some of which are close to the university. The prices, which include VAT, are available on their websites. Please consider checking the latest information on the prices and note that the prices may increase or decrease depending on the currency rate and the facilities' recent price revisions.

Participants may reside at the AUBG residence halls or reserve their hotel rooms in Blagoevgrad. Room availability is based on a first-come, first-served concept; therefore, participants are encouraged to register for the conference as soon as possible. The residence halls offer individual rooms with a shared bathroom, without air conditioning. A limited number of hotel rooms and residence hall rooms will be available at a conference rate.

HOTELS AND ACCOMMODATION NEAR THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN BULGARIA:

This list is non-exclusive. Please contact one of the following hotels and book your rooms at your earliest convenience:

[Hotel Kardinal](#)

[Alpha Family Hotel](#)

[Sophie Studio](#)

[Riverside Apartment](#)

Also,

A limited number of individual Residence Hall Rooms with shared bathrooms, without air conditioning, will be available in the heart of AUBG's Main Campus and close to conference venues.

BLAGOEVGRAD:

Blagoevgrad is a vibrant university city in southwestern Bulgaria, situated along the banks of the Struma River and surrounded by the Rila and Pirin Mountains. Located about 100 km south of Sofia and near the border with North Macedonia and Greece, Blagoevgrad is easily accessible by car, bus, or train. Travel time is typically 1.5–2.5 hours from the capital of Sofia, depending on your chosen method of transportation. More information could be found here <https://visitbulgaria.com/blagoevgrad/>.

GETTING TO BULGARIA

Most international participants will arrive in Bulgaria via Vasil Levski Sofia Airport (SOF), the country's largest and busiest international gateway. It is served by many major European airlines as well as low-cost carriers, offering direct connections from numerous European capitals and key transit hubs.

Vasil Levski Sofia Airport (SOF) <https://sofia-airport.eu/en/>

Public transport: Metro Line 4 to Serdika station connects the airport with the city center <https://www.metropolitan.bg/en/>

More options for your travel plans are available here - <https://www.rome2rio.com/map/Sofia-Airport-SOF/Central-Bus-Station-Sofia>

GETTING TO BLAGOEVGRAD

Travel Directions: Sofia → Blagoevgrad

By Car

Route: Take the A3 "Struma" motorway from Sofia toward Kulata/Blagoevgrad.

Estimated Time: ~1.5 hours (depending on traffic).

Directions:

1. Exit Sofia via the Ring Road and join the A3 motorway.
2. Continue south following signs for Pernik and Blagoevgrad.
3. Take the exit for Blagoevgrad (North or South, depending on your hotel or conference venue location).

Notes:

- Ensure you have a valid vignette (road tax sticker) for motorway travel in Bulgaria.
- Fuel stations and rest stops are available along the route.

By Bus

From Sofia Central Bus Station (Centralna Avtogara) <https://www.centralnaavtogara.bg/index.php>. The website offers updated information on directions, departures, schedule and bus tickets

Buses to Blagoevgrad run roughly every 30–60 minutes during the day (in workdays, in weekends and holidays number of departures could be reused).

Travel Time: ~2 hours.

Ticket Price: Around 10–15 BGN (cash or card accepted).

How to get there from Vasil Levski Sofia Airport:

From Vasil Levski Sofia Airport, take the Metro line.

1. Arrive at Sofia Central Bus Station at least 20–30 minutes before bus departure.

2. Purchase a ticket at the counter or [online](#) in advance. (Obilet website in English, as an option).
3. Board the bus indicated on your ticket; the driver or station staff can assist with directions to the correct platform.

Arrival: Buses arrive at Blagoevgrad Bus Station, a short taxi ride or walk from the central area will take you to AUBG Skaptopara Campus.

By Train

From Sofia Central Railway Station

Frequency: Direct trains run several times daily.

Travel Time: ~2.5 hours.

Ticket Price: Around 7–12 BGN (approximately 3.50 EUR to 6.00 EUR).

Instructions:

4. 1. Buy your ticket at the station ticket office or online through the Bulgarian State Railways (BDZ) website.
5. 2. Check the departure board for platform information.
6. 3. Board the train to Blagoevgrad; enjoy the scenic route through the mountains.

Arrival: The train station in Blagoevgrad is close to the town center.

General Travel Tips

- Language: Most transport staff speak basic English, but having your destination written in Bulgarian (**Благоевград**) is helpful.
- Currency: Bulgarian Lev (BGN); card payments are common, but do carry some cash. **Note: Bulgaria is expected to transition to the euro in early 2026. Please keep that in mind.**
- Weather: Check the forecast before travel.
- Emergency Number: 112 for any emergency assistance in Bulgaria.

You can also enter Bulgaria by Land:

Bulgaria is well-connected by bus and train to neighboring countries, including Greece, North Macedonia, Serbia, Romania, and Turkey. International bus services to Sofia operate from many Balkan and Central European cities.

ENTRY VISA TO BULGARIA:

For information about visa requirements, please visit the following website:

[Visa for Bulgaria :: MFA](#)

IMPORTANT DATES:

Early Registration (with Residence Hall Accommodation)	Early Registration (without Residence Hall Accommodation)
600 EUR	350 EUR
Regular Registration (with Residence Hall Accommodation)	Regular Registration (without Residence Hall Accommodation)
625 EUR	375 EUR
Late Registration (with Residence Hall Accommodation)	Late Registration (without Residence Hall Accommodation)
650 EUR	400 EUR

ABSTRACT AND PAPER SUBMISSIONS:

Abstract Submission Deadline	January 15, 2026
Acceptance Notification	February 15, 2026
Last Date for Early Bird Registration	March 01, 2026
Last Date for Registration	April 01, 2026
Full Length Paper Submission	April 01, 2026
Conference Opening Reception	June 01, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
Conference Panels	June 02 – 03, 2026
Conference Closing Reception	June 03, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
Optional Tours (excursions to Rila Monastery and Villa Monte Vino)	June 04, 2026 (Rila Monastery) June 05, 2026 (Villa Monte Vino)

QUESTIONS: Please direct any conference-related questions to the conference chair, to Mr. Steven London, the American University in Bulgaria, at slondon@aubg.edu.

For questions about the Global Communication Association contact Dr. Yahya R. Kamalipour yrkamal@gmail.com.

[Global Communication Association](#)

At the Global Communication Association, we foster a collaborative and intimate environment for researchers, academicians, communication professionals, and graduate students. We invite you to submit abstracts and panel proposals to our annual eclectic conferences, intended to explore and discuss contemporary issues and innovative ideas that shape our global discourse.