

Call for papers
Undergraduate Research Conference, 2026 (9th edition)
Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities
O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat, Haryana

Hope in the Age of Uncertainty

We are delighted to announce that the ninth Undergraduate Research Conference of the Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities (JSLH) will be held on the 10th and 11th of April 2026 at O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat. This marks the continued success of our conferences from 2017 to 2025.

The present condition of the world has “uncertainty” written all over it. Although uncertainty and its manifold effects on human civilization are not new, its ramifications are more pronounced than ever before. From brutal political regimes being overturned by youth coalitions, to genocides and conflicts making geopolitics more fractured, to “freak” climate events shaping global events, uncertainty has become a much-abused word both in journalistic and popular parlance. Rapid changes precipitated by the unrelenting onslaught of artificial intelligence have contributed to this uncertainty as well. However, to despair and be immobilized by the sheer overwhelming nature of this current juncture is to overlook how uncertainty has historically stood as a mediator of profound changes in politics, philosophy and art. Hope is the other side of the coin as it radically invites us to interrogate, investigate and act on change. Therefore, as liberal arts practitioners and scholars, we need to pause and reflect on what the current predicament of uncertainty signals, how we can reconstitute the world and infuse it with new possibilities. Taking uncertainty as our inflection point, we look forward to asking questions that the humanities, social sciences, visual and creative arts have always been at the forefront of – how do we make sense of the world when the accepted wisdom of knowledge and knowing, of justice and ethics, of reality and its other, itself seems outdated and uncertain? How can art intervene humanely in a period of uncertainty? What does it mean to be hopeful in a period of uncertainty?

The JSLH Undergraduate Research Conference, 2026 invites papers, artworks, performances and poster presentations that broadly respond to this theme. We are interested in research that examines the specific conditions of this uncertainty as it relates to socio-economic, political, and artistic factors. Simultaneously, we are interested in uncovering how hope can be radically nurtured and shared among a group of motivated individuals. We invite empirical as well as theoretical work on these areas. We are open to young scholars, artists and practitioners taking a broad view of “uncertainty” and reflecting on its ontological, epistemological as well as practical possibilities.

Conference contributions can be drawn from several disciplines that include, but are not restricted to, economics, business studies, literature, sciences, history, sociology, anthropology, psychology, human geography, political science, philosophy, visual studies, performance studies, and film studies. Abstracts may address the themes outlined below, with the flexibility to explore related topics within these domains.

Geopolitical flux in the world

Climate change and possibilities of a different world

Making and addressing uncertainty through art

Philosophies of the uncertain

Youth voices amidst uncertainty

Uncertainty and social identities

Trade and de-globalization

Mental health amidst uncertainty

Representations of uncertainty and hope in film, TV, and popular culture

Policymaking for an uncertain future

The conference aims to seek, engage, and encourage new research in this multi-disciplinary area of inquiry. The papers presented must be, primarily, the work of the undergraduate student(s). Faculty members who deserve recognition can also be mentioned. Research projects must have been conducted under the supervision of a faculty member or professional in the field. We encourage a humanistic and critical approach to uncertainty; we are not tied to any rigid definitions of uncertainty or hope as we understand this to be a complex phenomenon. The conference organizers hope that this will spur undergraduate thinkers to draw on their existing research projects and thesis areas and develop a scholarly community that engages with these issues beyond the conference. Through this flagship initiative, JSLH aims to create a network of undergraduate scholars, faculty mentors, and experts from various fields. Students from around the country are invited to present their research before faculty, staff, and other conference participants. Themes related to liberal arts, humanities, earth and environmental sciences, and different forms of expressive arts are welcome.

Format: In-person

Presentations will mainly take one of three forms: oral, poster and exhibits (mentioned below)

Oral: 15 minutes; using MS PowerPoint (or any visual media)

Poster: 60 x 36 standee

Expressive Arts: Visual exhibits or performance-based exposition.

Those who wish to present their research in an artistic format must submit a short representative section of their portfolio in image/audio/video/text form with clear research findings and methodology (not more than 150 words).

Each abstract must clearly mention whether the presentation will be made in-person or online. Interested students are required to submit an abstract (not more than 250 words) by filling out and submitting the online form:

Abstracts will be notified by 25th February 2025.

Conference participation will need to be confirmed to the organizers by 4th March, 2025. For any queries, please write to: resconf.jslh@jgu.edu.in

Conference Registration/Travel Allowances

There is no registration fee for the conference. O.P. Jindal Global University will not be able to provide housing but arrange local transport for students within Delhi NCR to bring them to campus from the nearest metro stations and back.

Abstract submission form: [Abstract Submission Form Undergraduate Research Conference, 2026 – Fill out form](#)

The Venue of the Conference will be O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat, Haryana.

Dates of the Conference 10-11 April 2026

Abstract Submission Deadline 30th January 2026

Abstract Acceptance Notification 25th February 2026

Participation Confirmation 4th March 2026

Conference convenors:

Dr. Anurag Mazumdar

Dr. Abhijit Banerjee

Gopa Trivedi