

## DHS 2025: Converging Paths (Ankara, 4-6 Sep 25)

Ankara, Turkey, Sep 4-06, 2025

Deadline: Apr 28, 2025

[dhs2025.ankarabilim.edu.tr/index](https://dhs2025.ankarabilim.edu.tr/index)

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! New Deadline: The deadline for submission of this CfP has been extended to 28.04.2025 !

Design History Society Annual Conference 2025 - Converging Paths: Design in the Creative Economy.

The call for papers for the 2025 DHS annual conference is now open! Organised with Ankara Bilim University, the conference embraces historic, contemporary, and interdisciplinary perspectives on the subject of 'Converging Paths: Design in the Creative Economy'.

The conference will provide a comprehensive exploration into the intricate dynamics between design, the creative industry and users or consumers of design, shedding light on diverse actors and institutions that have contributed to its evolution.

We welcome proposals for individual papers (20 minutes) as well as for panels of three thematically related papers. Panel submissions must include abstracts for all three papers, along with a concise description of the panel's theme. We also welcome submissions in innovative formats, such as video essays, that break away from conventional academic presentations.

Potential topics for submission, while not limited to, may include:

- The Historical Evolution of Design Markets
- The transition from craft guilds to contemporary design markets.
- The rise and impact of design fairs and biennales on market visibility.
- The role of patronage systems in shaping early design economies.
- The evolution of gallery systems and their influence on design commodification.
- The emergence of design museums as cultural and economic intermediaries.
- Case studies of iconic design dealers and agents throughout history.

The Impact of Criticism and Curation

Criticism as a driver of trends: from modernism to postmodernism.

The influence of curatorial practices on the valuation of design.

Critics and curators as gatekeepers: power dynamics in the design industry.

The relationship between critical acclaim and commercial success.

Digital curation and its impact on design visibility (e.g., Instagram curators).

Creative and Design Entrepreneurship

Designer-entrepreneurs: balancing creativity with commercial strategy.  
The role of design incubators and accelerators in fostering entrepreneurship.  
Case studies of successful design startups and their trajectories.  
Crowdfunding as a tool for design entrepreneurship.  
The institutional support for entrepreneurial design in developing countries.

#### Legal Frameworks, Employment, and Labour

The evolution of copyright and intellectual property laws in design.  
Employment models: freelance vs. agency work in design.  
Labour practices in the global design economy: ethics and exploitation.  
The role of collective bargaining and unions in design professions.  
Regional disparities in legal protections for designers.

#### Globalization and the Design Business

Cultural appropriation vs. inspiration in global design markets.  
The role of international trade fairs in promoting design across borders.  
Transnational collaborations and their impact on design innovation.  
The adaptation of design to local economies in a globalized world.  
The role of emerging economies in reshaping global design practices.

#### The Digital Era

NFTs and their influence on the valuation of design artifacts.  
Virtual galleries and the redefinition of physical design spaces.  
Social media and the democratization of design promotion.  
The rise of AI in the design process and its implications for markets.  
E-commerce platforms as new intermediaries in the design business.

#### Collaborative Networks and Creative Communities

Co-working spaces and their influence on design collaboration.  
Online creative communities and their impact on design trends.  
Collaborative design practices in tackling global challenges (e.g., climate change).  
Crowdsourcing in design: benefits and challenges.  
Case studies of influential design collectives and networks.

#### The Politics of the Creative Economy

Government subsidies and their role in nurturing the design economy.  
Trade policies and their influence on international design markets.  
The impact of sustainability policies on design practices and products.  
Mobility restrictions and their effect on international design collaboration.  
Political ideologies shaping the narrative of the creative economy.

#### Creativity and the Creative Economy in Design Education

The commodification of creativity in design curricula.  
The role of industry partnerships in shaping design education.  
Internships: exploitation or essential training for young designers?  
The myth of the “star designer” in educational discourse.  
The influence of rankings and accreditation systems on design education models.

The deadline for abstracts is 28th April 2025. Please visit the conference website for further details on how to submit: <https://dhs2025.ankarabilim.edu.tr/index>

For more information:  
<https://www.designhistorysociety.org/conferences/view/converging-paths-design-in-the-creative-economy>

Reference:

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