

Call for papers: Imperial-History of Education Society (HES) history of interdisciplinary education symposium

Wednesday 17 June 2026, Imperial College

Paper proposals due: Monday 20 April 2026

‘Broad aspects of science, history, literature, music, drama, sociology, philosophy, sculpture, architecture and the fine arts; the study of any special period or of any individual writer or worker, or composer, or artist... will also be considered.’ – *Sir Arthur Acland, 1925.*

The academic year 2025–26 marks the centenary of Imperial College’s Acland Prize in Humanities, named after Sir Arthur Acland (1847–1926), leading educational reformer and member of Imperial’s Governing Council. Imperial is celebrating this centenary with [events and activities](#) to study and amplify interdisciplinarity at Imperial and more broadly.

In collaboration with the History of Education Society, this **day-long symposium at Imperial**, on **Wednesday 17 June 2026**, will bring together researchers and educators interested in the history of education, specifically interdisciplinary higher education in the UK and beyond.

While interdisciplinary education at Imperial has increased in recent years, particularly with the [foundation of I-Explore in 2019](#), more widely, interdisciplinary HE has undergone significant changes. Key interdisciplinary institutions and academic initiatives, including at Keele, Sussex and York, have fallen back into traditional disciplinary boundaries, reflecting convergence in a once diverse tertiary sector. Simultaneously, innovations in higher education are addressing interdisciplinary ‘global challenges’ in new ways. Many countries, such as Scotland with a broad-based pre-Honour curriculum, follow different patterns.

Potential presentation topics could include:

- case studies and success stories (small and/or large; STEM case studies welcome);
- national and international comparisons;
- higher education archives and collections;
- educational policy (institutional, government);
- public and policy engagement.

The event will be free to attend and open to all. Potential outputs may include a special edition of *History of Education*.

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