

Call for Submissions

**29th Annual Conference of the International Foundation of Fashion Technology
Institutes (IFFTI), 2027**

CO-CREATING FUTURES: *SHAPING FASHION THROUGH SHARED IMAGINATION*

Hosted by Pearl Academy, Mumbai, India.

15th to 19th March 2027.

Theme

The theme of the 29th Annual IFFTI conference is **Co-Creating Futures: Shaping Fashion Through Shared Imagination.**

Co-Creating Futures invites fashion and design communities to collaboratively envision and build just, shared futures. It emphasizes collective responsibility and agency, urging participants to work together in ethical, justice-oriented ways. This approach means democratizing the imagination: participatory design opens creative space for many voices and yields more inclusive visions of the future. For example, one recent study invited consumers to become “researchers of their relationship with clothing,” turning wearers and designers into co-creators of meaning. Together, we will explore how shared visions can rebuild, renew and transform the fashion ecosystem, putting human dignity and justice at its core.

Under the theme Co-Creating Futures: Shaping Fashion Through Shared Imagination, the conference explores four interrelated subthemes.

Sub-themes

Subtheme A: Plural Ways of Being Human

This subtheme explores diverse ways of being human in a culturally and ecologically interconnected world. It moves beyond singular narratives to highlight multiplicity, situated knowledge, and coexistence. Drawing on indigenous, decolonial, and post-human perspectives, it examines how fashion and design can embrace diverse identities, bodies, cultures, and species while supporting different ways of living and belonging without erasing difference.

Key words: Pluriverse, Identity, Decoloniality, Indigenous knowledge Inclusivity, More-than-human, Cultural sustainability, Ethics, Coexistence and Symbiotic society.

Subtheme B: Capability, Care, and Creativity

This subtheme explores human capability in an age of automation and AI, emphasizing judgment, care, creativity, learning, and ethical agency over mere efficiency. It highlights fashion education, craft knowledge, and innovative pedagogy that prepare people for uncertainty, while keeping empathy and creative decision-making central to design practice.

Key words: Human Capability, Care Ethics, Creativity, Education, Craft Intelligence, Judgement, Learning Futures, Post-AI Skills, Pedagogy and Skilled Society.

Subtheme C: Regenerative Systems and Economies

This subtheme explores how fashion and design can support regenerative systems that restore ecological, social, and cultural life. It focuses on circularity, material innovation, and life-centred practices that sustain communities and ecosystems, moving beyond harm reduction toward actively regenerating environments and cultures.

Key words: Regeneration, Circular Fashion, Sustainable Materials, Craft Futures, Ecological Systems, Life-centred Economies, Ethics, Resilience, Policy and Sustainable society.

Subtheme D: Co-Agency with Instruments and Technologies

This subtheme explores shared agency between humans, technologies, materials, and systems, viewing tools as active participants in design. It spans AI, wearables, craft, and ecological systems, focusing on how agency is distributed and how design can foster ethical, collaborative, and accountable relationships beyond technological dominance.

Key words: Co-agency, Instruments, Technology, AI, Smart Textiles, Systems Design, Material Intelligence, Ethics, Human-technology relations and Smart society

Conference format

The conference will be held on-site in Mumbai, India.

WE WELCOME SUBMISSIONS IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

Multiple submissions are welcome

1. Text-based papers
2. Text-based developmental papers
3. Creative practice
4. Workshop: we invite colleagues to propose workshops that will be incorporated into the conference program. They will involve participants working together on a subject or skill that is relevant to one of the conference themes. There should be at least two organisers to facilitate the workshop, and one of the organisers must be from an IFFTI institution.

ABSTRACTS

Abstracts are required for all submissions and are to be submitted by **17th July 2026**. To facilitate evaluation, authors are requested to indicate which subtheme(s) their abstract addresses and identify themselves as senior faculty, early career researcher or doctoral researcher. Notifications of the abstract acceptance/rejection will be communicated to all participants on **15th September 2026**. Please be aware that full papers will be due by **27th November 2026**.

ABSTRACT GUIDELINES:

- Title
- Sub-theme(s) entered below the title
- 5 keywords entered below the sub-theme(s)
- Format (e.g. text-based paper, developmental paper, creative practice, and workshop)
- The Abstract should be 300 to 500 words in English not including subtheme(s) and keywords
- 12 pt. Type, Times New Roman
- 2.5cm / 1-inch margins all around
- Abstracts must be submitted in Microsoft Word
- A separate word file containing your 100-word bio per author, affiliation and head shot

In addition, for creative practice-based submissions (film, image, artefacts, performances) your abstract should include these details:

- Submit one or more images that enable a review committee to fully understand your proposal.
- Images should be in an attachment up to 10 MB. If the file is larger please use a link (open access link) to upload it. (Google Drive, Vimeo, YouTube).
- Research work in creative practice encompasses all types of film, image, artefacts and performances. However, the final display format is an mp4 file video file. The video of practice-based submissions, will be displayed on a show reel of work during the conference.

REVIEW PROCESS:

Abstracts and Paper for IFFTI 2027 Conference will be selected through a double-blind peer review process. The IFFTI Research Committee and the conference organizers will appoint reviewers for the process.

Contributors will be invited to submit their final work after acceptance of their Abstract. Text based full and developmental papers will go through further review before acceptance.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOLLOWING SELECTION OF THE ABSTRACT

Full papers should comply with all the following requirements:

- Authors are required to submit full papers by **27th November 2026**.
- Full papers should be submitted as a Microsoft Word file, 12-point Times New Roman font, with page numbers at the bottom of the page, 1-inch (2.5 cm) margins, and A4 size.
- Papers should be 3,000–5,000 words in length in English. They should be written as a continuous narrative in a chapter or article style, not as lists of points or a PowerPoint presentation.
- The Harvard referencing system should be used. Please refer to the template provided.
- Please see the paper template guide for text, style, structure of your text, and use of images.
- Authors are responsible for the accuracy of citations, quotations, diagrams, tables, and maps.
- Papers should be thoroughly checked and proofread before submission.
- Authors will be notified about acceptance of full papers by **29 January 2027**. Any papers that are incorrectly formatted or missing information may be rejected, so please pay close attention to the submission requirements.
- Papers will be published in a fully refereed Conference Proceedings, provided the author (or one of the authors) attends the conference to present their work.

FOR DEVELOPMENTAL PAPERS

The purpose of this category is to enable authors to discuss their work whilst it is in its developmental stage, so comments and feedback obtained at the event can be incorporated in the final stages of research and writing up.

Developmental papers should comply with the following requirements:

Authors are required to submit papers by **27th November 2026**.

Developmental papers should be 1000–2000 words (excluding tables and references). They should be written as continuous narrative in a chapter or article style, not as lists of points or a PowerPoint

presentation and should explain the work to date and proposed future development.

Developmental papers will have 10 minutes allocated for presentation, followed by a 5 minute discussion period. It is recommended that participants/discussants, especially for developmental paper sessions, read papers in advance to get the most out of the session.

Papers should be submitted as a Microsoft Word file, 12 point, Times New Roman font, with page numbers at bottom of page, and 1-inch (2.5cm) margins, A4 size.

Please do not make a submission of less than 1000 words as it will be automatically rejected; below this word count there is insufficient material on which to base a decision. A substantive amount of the paper or concept should therefore be in place.

Authors will be notified about acceptance of full papers by **29 January 2027**. Any papers that are incorrectly formatted or missing information may be rejected, so please pay close attention to the submission requirements.

Developmental paper submissions will be included in the conference proceedings following further review and provided the author has been in attendance to present.

FOR CREATIVE PRACTICE-BASED SUBMISSIONS

Researchers are required to submit Final Work by **8th December 2026**.

Final Work should be submitted with a brief textual description (200–500 words) as a Microsoft Word file.

Visual submissions over 10MB should be submitted with a link (e.g., Google Drive, Vimeo, YouTube) due to limitations of uploading file size.

Research work in creative practice encompasses all types of film, image, artefacts, and performances. However, the final display format is an MP4 video file. Videos of practice-based submissions will be displayed on a show reel of work during the conference.

The length of the finalised video to be included in the show reel should be 3 minutes or less.

WORKSHOPS

We invite colleagues to propose interactive workshops that align with one of the conference subthemes. 1 or 2 hour workshop sessions are available. There should be at least two facilitators for the workshop and one must be affiliated with an IFFTI Institution.

- Facilitators are required to submit full proposal by **27th November 2026**.
- Workshop proposals should be 1000-2000 words and include the facilitators names, the conference sub-theme, the workshop topic, the objectives of the workshop. Please submit your proposal as a Microsoft word file.
- Specific format Requirements: Facilitators will be allocated a session 1 hour or 2 hour to hold their workshop. In addition to the topic of the workshop and a statement about why this is likely to be of interest, submissions should specify who all lead the session, the mechanism by which this will happen, spatial/room set up and any other requirements.
- Workshops that are accepted after reviewing process and run at the conference will be included in the conference proceedings, provide a reportable outcome is submitted using the template provided
- Interactive workshops could include a discussion, hands-on practice-based exploration, a provocation etc.

COPYRIGHT

All papers presented at the Conference will be published. At the time of submission of full papers, authors are required to undertake a copyright agreement with IFFTI and the host institution. The text of this agreement will be available at the 2027 IFFTI Conference website:

<https://www.pearlacademy.com/events/iffiti-2027>

DEADLINE FOR AUTHORS TO REGISTER TO ATTEND

At least one author from each accepted submission must register to attend the IFFTI 2027 Conference by **15 February 2027**. Accepted papers without at least one registered author will be withdrawn and will not be included in the conference proceedings. After this point withdrawn submissions will not be reinstated.

IFFTI INITIATIVES AWARDS

IFFTI will make awards of \$US2000 for the best submissions in three categories, senior faculty, early career researcher, and doctoral student. A review panel will assess a short list nominated by reviewers on the basis of the originality, significance and rigour of the research.

Doctoral research students awards

- Research students registered on a doctoral programme (leading to a PhD or Professional Doctorate or equivalent) up to the point of notification of their achievement
- The author or at least one of the authors in a multi-authored submission must present their work at the conference
- The lead author must come from an IFFTI institution
- The lead author's Institution has paid its fees to IFFTI (current and past years)
- The lead author has not received an award within the past two years
- Up to 2 awards may be made of US\$2000 each and registration to the 2027 IFFTI conference paid by IFFTI

Early Career researchers' awards

- Academics who achieved a doctoral qualification or were contracted to a higher education institution in a teaching/research role, within the previous five years of the date of the initial call for conference submissions *
- The author or at least one of the authors in a multi-authored submission must present their work at the conference
- The lead author must come from an IFFTI institution
- The lead author's Institution has paid its fees to IFFTI (current and past years)
- The lead author has not received an award within the past two years
- Up to 5 awards may be made of US\$2000 each and registration to the 2027 IFFTI conference paid by IFFTI

Senior Faculty awards

- Academics at a higher education institution who have been contracted in a teaching/research role for more than five years or took their doctoral qualification for more than five years since the date of the initial call for conference submissions *
- Have an established research profile within a higher education institution
- The author or at least one of the authors in a multi-authored submission must present their work at the conference
- The lead author must come from an IFFTI institution
- The lead author's Institution has paid its fees to IFFTI (current and past years)
- The lead author has not received an award within the past two years
- Up to 2 awards may be made of US\$2000 each and registration to the 2027 IFFTI conference paid by IFFTI

IFFTI Chair Presentation awards

- IFFTI Chair Presentation award (for an outstanding oral presentation, judged by peers at the conference)
- Up to 2 awards may be made of US\$1000 each and registration to the 2027 IFFTI conference paid by IFFTI
- The lead author must come from an IFFTI institution
- The lead author's Institution has paid its fees to IFFTI (current and past years)

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- At time of submission of the full paper, the author of the paper will confirm that the paper has not been presented or published elsewhere
- The researcher must supply evidence they meet the criteria for the award, for example a supporting statement from Head of Institution/ Department/ Other Appropriate Authority

* The measurement of five years will commence from when an academic entered into a teaching/research role if they did not have a doctoral qualification or the date they achieved a doctoral qualification. If an academic joined an institution on a teaching/research contract and subsequently achieved a doctoral qualification, the five years would be measured from the date they started their teaching/research contract. The five years can be extended for time taken out for illness, maternity/paternity leave etc.

KEY DATES

• Abstract Submission Deadline	17 th July 2026
• Abstract Acceptance Notification	15 th September 2026
• Full Paper Submission Deadline	27 th November 2026
• Creative Practice-based Submission Deadline	8 th December 2026
• Full papers and Creative Practice based Acceptance notification	29 th January 2027
• Author Registration Deadline	15 th February 2027
• IFFTI INITIATIVES AWARDS winners notified	29 th January 2027
• Revised full Paper Submission Deadline	5 th February 2027
• Programme Published	1 st March 2027
• Conference	15 – 19 March 2027

Contact email: iffiti2027@pearlacademy.com

IMPORTANT

** This email is ONLY for the CONTACT, NOT for the submission of papers**

** We ONLY ACCEPT papers via our WEBSITE ()**

** We DO NOT have any responsibility of papers submitted on the email**

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Developmental Paper



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