
Conference GOOD CONNECTIONS VI

WELLBEING AND EQUALITY IN A DIVIDED SOCIETY

University of Madeira, Colégio dos Jesuítas, 9000-082, Funchal, Portugal

17th-19th November 2025

We live in an increasingly divided society, where well-being is distributed unevenly and often unjustly. This conference invites us to reflect on how to build more equitable relationships, overcome structural inequalities, and protect those who are most vulnerable. Drawing on both theoretical perspectives and empirical research, we will explore how justice, policies, and education can contribute to more inclusive societies, equality and well-being - not only as separate themes, but also through their profound interconnections - seeking pathways toward a fairer and more inclusive society.

We invite psychologists, educators, sociologists, economists, and other researchers working on these issues to participate. Conference participants will have the opportunity to publish their articles in a special issue of *Rocznik Lubuski Journal*, an interdisciplinary scientific journal.

Abstracts (approx. 150 words) may be submitted **until October 15th, 2025**, indicating the thematic session to which they pertain, to the following email address: M.Kwiatkowski@is.uz.zgora.pl

The conference fee is 150 EUR and includes the cost of drinks and sweets during the conference sessions. Payment must be made by bank transfer **no later than November 10th, 2025**, in favour of **IBAN PT50 0033 0000 00008562288 05** (Name: Universidade Madeira; SWIFT/BIC: BCOMPTPL), and proof of payment must be sent to mpocinho@staff.uma.pt.

I Session – Health and Justice: Equality as a Condition for Well-Being

This session will explore the impact of inequalities on access to physical and mental health and justice, highlighting how equality-focused policies can ensure dignity and quality of life. It will be explored how health and justice is considered a fundamental human right and a central determinant of collective well-being.

II Session - Transformative Education, Play and Art as tools for Wellbeing and Equality in a Divided Society

This session will reflect on the transformative potential of education, play, creative activities and art in promoting well-being, equal opportunities and breaking cycles of exclusion and inequality. It will discuss how inclusive and critical education, participatory art, community-based projects, and playful learning environments can bridge social divides, strengthen social cohesion, and empower marginalized groups.

III Session - Migration, Tourism, Spaces of Belonging, and Economic Equity for Well-Being

This session explores the intersections of migration, tourism, and spaces of belonging, focusing on social and economic equity. It will examine the challenges migrants face, the contributions they bring to host communities, and the role of inclusive, sustainable tourism in fostering dialogue, community development, and empowerment. Discussions will also consider public policies, social protection, and innovative governance that promote dignity, social cohesion, and collective well-being, aiming to make cities and territories true spaces of belonging for residents and visitors alike.

IV Session - Technology, Equality, and Well-Being: Bridging the Digital Divide

This session aims to discuss how technological advancements can both promote and hinder well-being in a socially divided world. It will focus on the digital divide, unequal access to information, and the ethical implications of AI.

V Session - Political Currents and Social Well-Being

This session will reflect on how the growing influence of political movements worldwide affects social cohesion, trust in institutions, and perceptions of equality. Aims to explore the consequences of polarization, populism, and political exclusion on collective well-being, highlighting the ethical and societal challenges of ensuring equality in politically fragmented societies.

VI- Theories, Transdisciplinarity and Ethical Dilemmas of a More Equitable Society

This session will discuss how theoretical frameworks such as systems thinking, complexity theory, feminist theory, and critical theory, and transdisciplinarity, can inform strategies and policies to promote well-being and equal opportunities in social contexts and services. Discussion should explore how these frameworks may help to understand social structures, reveal hidden inequalities, and design interventions that address root causes rather than symptoms. Additionally, ethical dilemmas regarding merit, redistribution, and social justice will be considered, highlighting how different conceptions shape possibilities for well-being in a divided society.

Organizing Committee

- Margarida Pocinho, University of Madeira; CUIP- University of Madeira
- Dora Pereira, University of Madeira; CUIP- University of Madeira
- Ester Câmara, University of Madeira; CUIP- University of Madeira
- Carolina Coelho, University of Coimbra; CUIP- University of Madeira
- Mariusz Kwiatkowski, University of Zielona Góra
- Dorota Bazuń, University of Zielona Góra

Scientific Committee

- Mariusz Kwiatkowski, University of Zielona Góra
- Dorota Bazuń, University of Zielona Góra
- Saúl de Jesus, University of Algarve; CUIP - University of Algarve
- Teresa Medeiros, University of Azores; CUIP- University of Azores
- Rute Brites, Autonomous University of Lisbon; CUIP- Autonomous University of Lisbon
- Margarida Pocinho, University of Madeira; CUIP- University of Madeira
- Dora Pereira, University of Madeira; CUIP- University of Madeira
- Ester Câmara, University of Madeira; CUIP- University of Madeira