



UK Systems Society
International Conference
2026

University of Portsmouth Business School, UK
17th September 2026

Soft Systems Thinking and Practice in the 21st C- Soft Systems Methodologies for Intervention and Change

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Conference Committee invites abstracts that address the conference theme. Abstracts must include the names and affiliations of all authors, along with their contact email addresses, and must be no more than 300 words. Black print in 12-point font, and only essential diagrams on a separate sheet. The abstract must include a declaration that it is the authors' own work and that it has not been published or presented elsewhere. For practitioners and consultants, we are happy to accept up to two A4 pages, including a diagram and a summary. In such cases, we are happy to discuss with the authors what they are trying to accommodate, provided we can publish it in the conference programme.

The submission deadline is Friday, July 31st, 2026, to submissions@ukss.org.uk

This conference provides a platform for practitioners and theorists to discuss and debate the nature of inquiry systems and *soft* systems. We encourage the choice of topic showcases and demonstrations that use 'Soft Systems' ideas in an area of concern. Examples include:

- Soft systems thinking and the ubiquity of AI, and inquiring systems
- Cross-disciplinary research and the contribution of Soft Systems
- A Systems perspective of policy making, and Sustainable Information Systems in Business
- Digitisation and Knowledge Transfer, and Power and Accountability from a Systems perspective
- Food Systems and their impact on Healthy diets
- The NHS and Asby's law of requisite variety, and sustainable research, what can Systems offer?
- Holistic approaches to waste management and health
- Digitisation and its effect upon society, a systems perspective.

This year's UKSS International Conference is FREE to paid-up Members of the Society.

More Conference details to follow via <https://www.systemsforum.org/>

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