

## **TiSSA 2026 Warsaw, Poland**

### **CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

**22<sup>nd</sup> annual Phd-Pre Conference and Plenum Conference**  
**August 28 – September 2, 2026**

#### **PhD-Pre Conference**

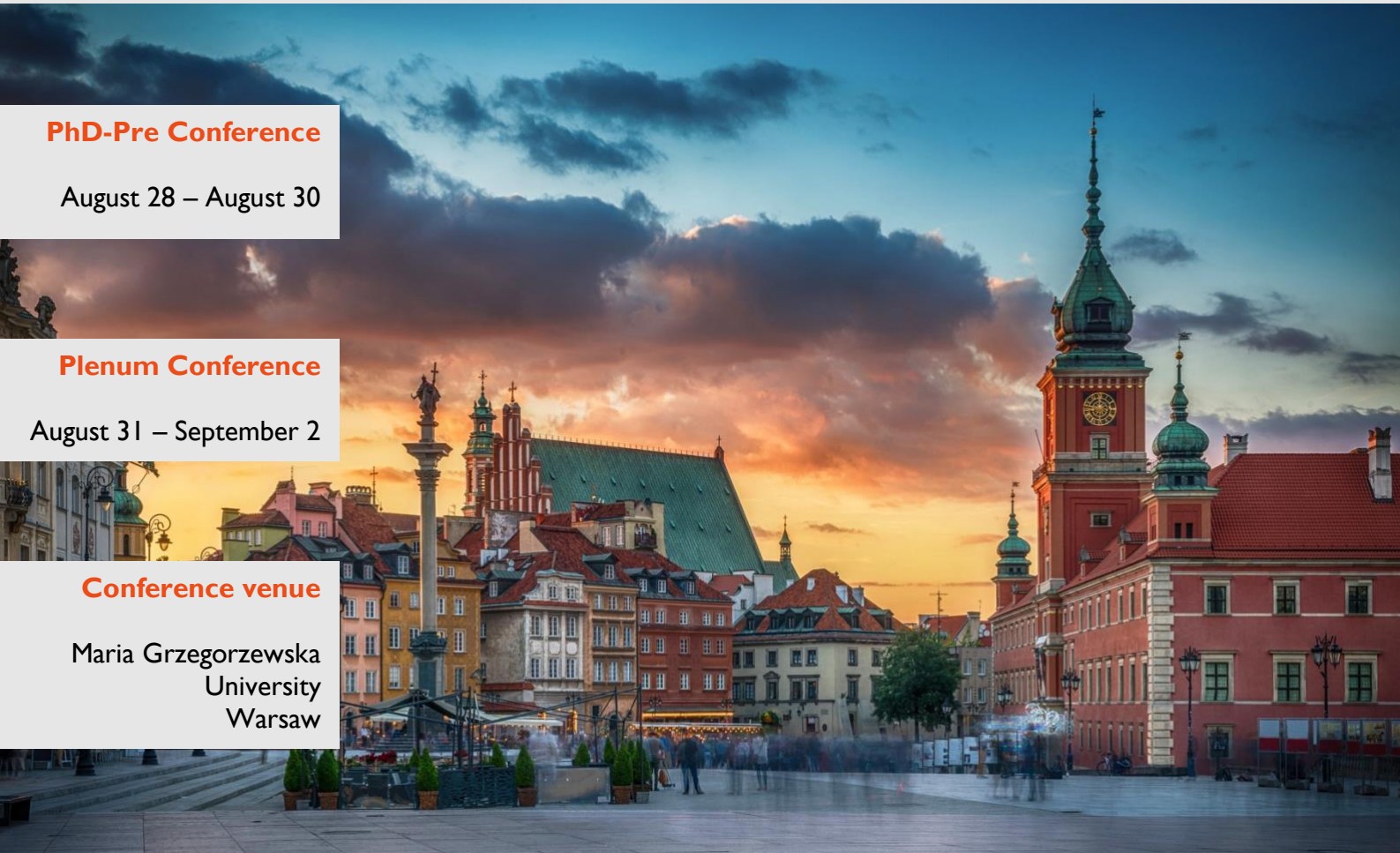
August 28 – August 30

#### **Plenum Conference**

August 31 – September 2

#### **Conference venue**

Maria Grzegorzewska  
University  
Warsaw



## Information

The International Social Work and Society Academy (TiSSA) is excited to announce the 22<sup>nd</sup> TiSSA conference, which will take place in Warsaw, Poland. The PhD-Pre conference will be held from Friday 28.08.2026 until Sunday 30.08.2026 in conjunction with the Plenum conference from Monday 31.08.2026 until Wednesday 02.09.2026. During the conference, we discuss current developments and challenges in social work research and practice. All information can be found [on our website!](#)

## Conference theme

### **Social work and social pedagogy: research, impact and social change.**

In contemporary social work and social pedagogical research, we are increasingly required to demonstrate impact: to show – often through evidence-based numerical indicators – that our studies generate measurable outcomes. Yet the deeper mission of social work and social pedagogical researchers is to critically analyse the structures that reproduce inequality, to bring forward voices that remain silenced in dominant accounts, and to develop theoretical and empirical insights that sustain forms of solidarity capable of challenging the status quo.

As researchers, this role as ‘agents of change’ risks becoming constrained when impact is defined primarily in managerial or technocratic terms. What is needed is space for a more activist, critical, and imaginative research practice. Research should not only describe social realities; it should also question and unsettle them. It should open new political and conceptual possibilities instead of merely confirming institutional expectations.

This conference invites us to reclaim our role as public intellectuals: as scholars who contribute to public debate, interrogate dominant narratives, and co-produce quantitative and qualitative knowledge in dialogue with communities and with each other. In doing so, we strengthen the transformative potential of social work and social pedagogical research; aligning impact with justice, and linking social change to collective empowerment rather than to compliance.

We welcome contributions that address the role of researchers as possible change agents and to address methodological, ethical and theoretical challenges in conceptualisation, realizing, showing and legitimizing social impact.

## Submit your abstract

All academics (including PhD students) and non-academics are invited to send an abstract of maximum 3000 characters (approx. 500 words) for individual presentations and 6000 characters (approx. 1000 words) for symposia via our website [www.tissa.net](http://www.tissa.net). Please note that PhD students can apply to present at both the PhD-Pre Conference and Plenum Conference if they wish – the participation fee for PhD students covers all six days.

The **extended deadline** to submit abstracts is **February 20, 2026**.

## Contact

[www.tissa.net](http://www.tissa.net)

Chair of TiSSA  
Prof. dr. Rudi Roose  
[rudi.roose@ugent.be](mailto:rudi.roose@ugent.be)

Secretary of TiSSA  
Dries Cautreels  
[dries.cautreels@ugent.be](mailto:dries.cautreels@ugent.be)