



Universidad de Valladolid

vaFORUMce



Grupo de Investigación
en Economía de la Cultura

Valladolid Forum on Cultural Economics

23rd March 2026

University of Valladolid, Spain

Main features: what, how, and where

VaFORUMce aims to be an open forum for discussion on analytical challenges and hot topics in the field of cultural economics research, with the participation of leading experts and scholars. The forum is open to the public and is especially aimed at PhD and master's degree students in related fields of study, managers of cultural institutions, companies and projects, arts-creators and scholars interested in this area of research. VaFORUMce intends to continue in the future and is this year being held in conjunction with the meeting of academics attending the investiture ceremony of Professor Ilde Rizzo –one of the most renowned scholars in this discipline– as Doctor Honoris Causa by the University of Valladolid. The discussion tables are based on key topics and related questions that will be launched for debate among experts and chaired by young researchers in the field.

VaFORUMce offers free admission to the discussion sessions, but places are limited for the **social programme** ([register here](#)). A certificate of attendance will be issued for followers of most of the sessions.

LANGUAGES: English preferably, although people may also speak in Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese.

DATE: Monday 23rd March 2026

VENUE: Faculty of Commerce. Pl. Campus Universitario, 1 (Valladolid)

vaFORUMce: schedule and scientific programme

8:30–9:00 Registration

9:00–9:30 Opening

9:30–10:15 Discussion Session 1.1.

Subject: What can we expect from cultural economics as a scientific discipline in the future?

- Questions:
1. Theoretical rigour or analytical sophistication? Applicability and usefulness of scientific output in the field
 2. Battlefield expansion: from the certain to the immense. Does everything count as culture?



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3. Is cultural economics a dilettante hobby of western scholars and curious minds? The cultural economist's commitment

Participants: Luis César Herrero Prieto. University of Valladolid
Juan Prieto Rodríguez. University of Oviedo
Ilde Rizzo. University of Catania

Chair: Marco Palomeque. Complutense University of Madrid

10:15–11:00 Discussion Session 1.2.

Subject: I beg your pardon! Culture is not beauty but identity!

Questions: 1. The economic impact of identity: the sense of places versus displaced cultural idiosyncrasy in times of migrations
2. Identity and diversity: are they antithetical or cumulative terms?
3. Global or local: the role of culture in shaping territorial identities

Participants: Andrea Baldin. University of Venice Ca' Foscara
Lluís Bonet. University of Barcelona
Mario García Molina. Universidad Nacional de Colombia

Chair: Romain Lerouge. Politécnico di Milano

11:00–11:30 Coffee break

11:30–12:15 Discussion Session 2.1.

Subject: Who shapes culture? The never-ending debate in cultural policy

Questions: 1. Promoting, ideology, corruption. Where is the boundary to determine cultural policy and management?
2. Governance and community involvement. A challenge or a fake?
3. If the cultural sector resists objective measurement, how can policy be held accountable?

Participants: Marina Cavallieri. University of Catania
Liliana Chicaíza-Becerra. Universidad Nacional de Colombia
Emma Galli. University Roma La Sapienza

Chair: Fátima Espinosa Casero. University of Valladolid

12:15–13:00 Discussion Session 2.2.

Subject: Redefining culture in the Digital Age.

Questions: 1. From heritage to hashtags: has digitalization redefined the cultural sector?
2. Revived disparities in cultural demand and supply. The digital divide
3. Embedding AI in the cultural sector: moral panic or a smooth transition?

Participants: Enrico Bertacchini. University of Torino
Silvia Cerisola. Politenico di Milano
María José Pérez Villadóniga. University of Oviedo

Chair: Joao Pereira da Silva. Polytechnic Institute of Porto



13:00-14:30 *Social Programme: Visit to Palacio de Santa Cruz and the Historical Library*

Pl. Colegio de Sta. Cruz, 8 (Valladolid) [activity restricted]

14:30-16:00 **Lunch break (Faculty of Commerce)**

16:00-16:45 **Discussion Session 3.1.**

Subject: Culture should be sustainable. Right, in what sense?

Questions:

1. The inevitable risk of tourism. Are we facing the eighth plague?
2. Funding culture. Do we have that much money and for that much?
3. Are we always the same? The social, gender, and inclusive dimensions of culture

Participants: Chiara dalle Nogare. University of Brescia
María José del Barrio Tellado. University of Valladolid
Helena Santos. University of Porto

Chair: Fernanda Gutiérrez Navratil. University of Oviedo

16:45-17:30 **Discussion Session 3.2.**

Subject: Culture as a global public good: The chance for international cooperation

Questions:

1. Culture soothes the soul. Culture as a tool to solve conflicts (any kind?)
2. Cultural diplomacy. The Medici or Mar-a-Lago model?
3. The global north and south perspectives of cultural economics. Do we speak the same language?

Participants: Francisco Javier Gómez González. University of Valladolid
Jonathan Gómez Zapata. Universidad Nacional de Colombia
María Luisa Palma Martos. University of Seville

Chair: Mafalda Gómez Vega. University of Valladolid

17:30-18:00 **Closing remarks and farewell coffee (Faculty of Commerce)**



Tuesday 24th March - Investiture of Ilde Rizzo as Doctor Honoris Causa

Main venue: UVA Auditorium. Faculty of Law. Pl. de la Universidad s/n (Valladolid)

[Time schedule to be confirmed]

11:15 Pre-event get together for scholars in robes (Room: Salón de Grados.)

12.00 Investiture Ceremony **[open to the public]** (Room: Uva Auditorium. Faculty of Law)



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