

IV Complutense International Conference on East Asian Studies

Passion in Asia: Love, War, and Religion in East Asia

Complutense University of Madrid (Madrid, Spain) 19-23 October 2026

Passion is a powerful and deeply human force. It shapes personal bonds, fuels conflict, and inspires devotion — the three core themes of this conference. Love brings people together, but also divides them. It can cross boundaries, challenge authority, and even draw in the gods. In mythology and ritual, divine figures are moved by the same emotions as mortals. Warriors heading to battle call on both their loved ones and their gods. Priests, monks, and priestesses act as intermediaries between human and divine, often seen as spiritual partners of the gods they serve.

These different paths — romantic, martial, spiritual — all converge around **passion**. In Japan, Spain is sometimes referred to as *Jônetsu no kuni* 情熱の国, “the land of passion”. Madrid, then, is a fitting setting for a conference that explores how love, war, and religion intertwine in East Asia.

The conference will be held at the Faculty of Philology, Complutense University of Madrid, from **19 to 23 October 2026**. Speakers may present in person or online, making the event accessible to colleagues worldwide.

The conference is organised by the **Department of East Asian Studies**, with support from the **Complutense Group for Spanish Sinology (GISEC)**, the **University Institute of Sciences of Religions (IUCCRR)**, the **Humanism Eurasia Research Group (HUME)**, the **Asian Studies Working Group (GTEA)**, and the **Asia Research Group (GIA)**.

To present at the conference, participants must submit a full paper for double-blind peer review. Only papers accepted through this process will be included in the programme and published in the special issue of *Estudios Complutenses de Asia Oriental (ECAO)*, which will serve as the official proceedings. No other types of submission will be considered. Articles must be submitted by **31 October 2025** via the journal platform: <https://revistas.ucm.es/index.php/ECAO/about/submissions>. Please indicate in the “Comments for the editor” section that the article is for the special issue “*Passion in Asia*”. The volume will be published in **October 2026**, to coincide with the conference.

Accepted authors will receive full registration instructions. The **registration fee is €70**, with an **early bird rate of €50** available between **1 July and 15 September 2026**.

We welcome contributions from both established academics and early-career researchers. Taking part in the conference and contributing to the publication offers an opportunity to share research with an international audience and support the growing field of East Asian Studies.

Key Dates:

- **Conference:** 19–23 October 2026
- **Article submission deadline:** ~~31 October 2025~~ **31 March 2026**
- **Notification of acceptance:** 1 July 2026
- **Early bird registration (€50):** 1 July – 15 September 2026
- **Standard registration (€70):** From 15 September 2026

- **Special Issue publication:** October 2026

Submission and participation:

- Papers can be presented in person or online.
- A complete paper must be submitted by the deadline for peer review.
- Use the ECAO platform to upload your proposal:
<https://revistas.ucm.es/index.php/ECAO/about/submissions>
Indicate in the “Comments for the editor” section that the article is for the “*Passion in Asia*” special issue.

Registration:

- **€50 early bird rate:** valid from 1 July to 15 September 2026
- **€70 standard rate:** from 15 September onwards

The registration fee covers:

- Presentation of the paper at the conference
- Certificate confirming your participation as a speaker
- Publication of the accepted article in the special issue of *ECAO*