



5th International Celebrity Studies Conference: Celebrity Crises and Conflicts

July 1-3, 2024

University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam

Routledge, *Celebrity Studies Journal*, and the University of Amsterdam are pleased to announce the fifth Celebrity Studies conference. The conference will take place in Amsterdam, July 1st to 3rd.

The 5th *International Celebrity Studies Conference* will be themed 'Celebrity Crises and Conflicts'. This subject will run through our plenaries and form a strand running throughout the conference.

Fame is fickle, as the saying goes, but in current times, celebrity appears to be more in crisis than ever. The #MeToo movement has brought to light disturbing facts about the reality behind the celebrity façade. The conspicuous consumption associated with stardom is attracting increasing criticisms in an era of pandemic lockdown, austerity, and environmental crisis. Developments in artificial intelligence are feeding an existential crisis of celebrity, too: is stardom now becoming a post-human phenomenon? Additionally, geopolitical conflicts, as well as polarizing debates on class, race and gender differences, have put stars under increased political pressures, and have resulted in vicious attacks on – and by – celebrities. Finally, more and more public figures are opening up about their mental health crises, raising awareness about the negative effects of fame – burn-out, depression, anxiety, the impact of hate speech, fat-shaming, or performance pressure.

Together, these developments raise urgent questions about the current and past status of celebrity, such as: what do celebrity crises and conflicts tell us about the social, political, economic, and cultural dimensions of stardom? What can we learn about current, as well as historical, celebrity crises and conflicts? What impacts do they have on the study of celebrity as an academic endeavor?

The conference welcomes submissions from a broad range of disciplines that generate new ways of thinking and understanding celebrity: from film, television, literary, digital media, (art) history and theatre studies through to psychology, sociology, politics, etc.

Keynote speakers will soon be announced on <https://celebritystudiesconference.com/>

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

Contemporary celebrity crises and conflicts / historical celebrity crises and conflicts / stardom and technological developments / virtual stardom / celebrity feuds / stardom and mental health / political conflicts and celebrity / economic conflicts and celebrity / celebrity divorces and break-ups / attacks on celebrities / legal conflicts and stardom / celebrity scandals / celebrity and intersecting oppressions / stardom and sexism / disgraced

celebrities / conflicted celebrity / downsides of stardom / 'cancel culture' and celebrity / celebrity and the 'cultural wars' / celebrity and generationality/inter-generational conflict / celebrity deep fakes / celebrity and gamification / celebrity brand management / celebrity and platformisation / fan conflicts and celebrity / fan wars / fandom and celebrity conflict / celebrity and the pandemic / stars on lockdown / celebrity and industrial relations / celebrity and unions / stardom and synthetic media / celebrity and political crises / celebrity and climate crises / celebrity and war / celebrity and anti-fans / toxic fandom / destabilizing definition of celebrity / excessive media interest / social impact of political celebrities / weaponized celebrity / the conference team is open to other topics and themes, please get in touch if you have questions about potential approaches or topics.

The conference committee invites proposals for :

- Individual 20-minute papers:
 - 350 word abstract + 50-word biography in a single Word document
- Pre-constituted panels comprising 3 x 20 minute papers:
 - 150-word overview + 3 x 350-word abstracts + 3 x 50-word bios + name of lead contact and panel chair in a single Word document
- Masterclasses for Early Career Researchers (ERC) (advanced PhDs or early-stage postdocs): sessions, moderated by members of the conference organization team, will include informal discussion on work provided by the ERC and sharing of ideas in a safe and constructive environment; feedback will be offered from keynote speakers and relevant senior academics:
 - Short outline of work (PhD thesis, chapter, project...) in progress: 150-350 words + 50-word biography in a single Word document.

Please abide by the maximum word limits.

Stipends will be awarded to most promising abstract and best conference presentation by postgraduate students. Please indicate on your abstract if you wish to be considered for these.

A special issue of the best papers from the conference will be published in *Celebrity Studies Journal* in 2026

Deadline for all proposals: December 8th, 2023.

Successful abstracts will be notified by: December 22nd, 2023.

Enquiries/abstracts to: celebritystudies@gmail.com

More information (on conference fees etc.): <https://celebritystudiesconference.com/>

Best wishes,

The Conference Team