

2026 IAANI Forum

January 2-5, 2026

Safety Harbor Resort & Spa

Safety Harbor, Florida, USA

Program

IAANI

International Association of
Autoethnography and Narrative Inquiry
www.iaani.org

2026 IAANI Forum

January 2-5, 2026

Safety Harbor, Florida, USA

Welcome to the 2026 IAANI Forum! This event will bring together scholars, storytellers, artists, and activists who use autoethnography to explore lived experiences and the connections among self, others, and society. The event will feature innovative contributions that center marginalized voices, promote justice, and encourage critical dialogue across disciplines and communities.

There will be several types of sessions at the forum: a keynote address by Dr. Rita Charon, a spotlight performance by Kitrina Douglas, yoga with Himanee Gupta, and meditation with Sheryle Baker; discussion panels, paper sessions, and research roundtables that will offer a friendly opportunity to discuss new projects and projects-in-progress; and an opening reception on Friday evening, a morning reception on Saturday, and karaoke on Saturday evening.

We want to thank generous IAANI donors for making the forum possible: Art Bochner, Carolyn Ellis, Patricia Geist-Martin, John Pruit, Sandra Faulkner, Christopher Poulos, and Routledge.

Friday, January 2, 2026

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| 4:00-7:00pm Friday, January 2, 2026 | 1 | Baranoff |
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Opening Reception

Spotlight Performance

Can I Speak with My father?

Kitrina Douglas, University of West London

What would you say to your father if you had an opportunity to talk beyond the limits of death, beyond the grave, beyond the mortal body, beyond the stumbling blocks of fractured or damaged relationships? If you were able to approach untellable truths, how might the conversation unfold?

While some of us never get to know our father, others may feel their relationship was open and transparent, but still, questions remain.

In this performance autoethnography, I approach these questions through my own experiences and relationship with my father. Here, against a landscape of toxic masculinity, poverty, migration, and competition, is it possible to find playfulness, joy and wonder? I invite you to join me on this journey, to pivotal and life shaping moments that continue to inspire new ways to learn, teach, and carry out research.

Saturday, January 3, 2026

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| 8:00-8:50am Saturday, January 3, 2026 | 2 | Athena |
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Yoga
Himanee Gupta, Empire State University

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| 9:00-9:50am Saturday, January 3, 2026 | 3 | Baranoff Lobby |
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Morning Reception

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| 10:00-10:50am Saturday, January 3, 2026 | 4 | Baranoff |
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Keynote Address

**Our Stories Tell What We Know Not:
Powers of Narratives of Health**
Rita Charon, Columbia University

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| 11:00am-11:50am Saturday, January 3, 2026 | 5 | Baranoff |
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Open Forum on Narrative Medicine
Rita Charon, Columbia University

Facilitators
Arthur P. Bochner, University of South Florida
Eric Eisenberg, University of South Florida

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| 12:00-1:15pm Saturday, January 3, 2026 |
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Lunch
(on your own)

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| 1:30-2:45pm Saturday, January 3, 2026 | 6 | Athena |
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**Writing the Self with Machines:
Grappling with the Future of Autoethnography in an AI-Saturated World**

Tasha R. Dunn, The University of Toledo
W. Benjamin Myers, The University of Toledo
Andrew F. Herrmann, Independent Scholar
Jimmie Manning, University of Nevada, Reno
Csaba Osvath, University of South Florida

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| 1:30-2:45pm Saturday, January 3, 2026 | 7 | East Room |
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**Autoethnographic Assessment Stories:
Narrating Productive Discomforts**

Margaret Berg, University of Northern Colorado
Aaron Hoy, Minnesota State University, Mankato
Elizabeth Lozano, Loyola University Chicago
Adam McClain, North Carolina A&T State University
Kirby Wycoff, Thomas Jefferson University

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| 2:45-3:15pm Saturday, January 3, 2026 | 8 | Baranoff Lobby |
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Afternoon Break + Book Raffle 1

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| 3:15-4:30pm Saturday, January 3, 2026 | 9 | Athena |
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**Living the Autoethnographic Life:
What Does it Mean in the Current Climate?**

Kenneth Gergen, Swarthmore University and The Taos Institute
Mark Freeman, College of the Holy Cross
Maya Lavie-Ajayi, Ben-Gurion University
Arthur P. Bochner, University of South Florida

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| 3:15-4:30pm Saturday, January 3, 2026 | 10 | East Room |
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**Cold Treatment:
Calling Out Poor Care for Transgender Patients**

Lay-nah Blue Morris-Howe, Adams State University
Tina Mansfield, University of the Cumberland
Rachel Ratliff, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
Ty Tedmon-Jones, University of Wyoming

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| 4:45-6:00pm Saturday, January 3, 2026 | 11 | Athena |
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What Now/What Next Autoethnographers?

Christopher N. Poulos, University of North Carolina Greensboro
Elissa Foster, DePaul University
Carolyn Ellis, University of South Florida
Robin M. Boylorn, University of Alabama

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| 4:45-6:00pm Saturday, January 3, 2026 | 12 | East Room |
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**Threading Trust:
Stitching Self and Story in Autoethnographic Inquiry**

M. F. Alvarez, University of New Hampshire
Cody M. Clemens, Ohio University
Christina L. Ivey, Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Laura Russell, Denison University

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| 7:30-11:00pm Saturday, January 3, 2026 | 13 | Baranoff |
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Karaoke

Sunday, January 4, 2026

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| 8:15-8:45am Sunday, January 4, 2026 | 14 | Athena |
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Meditation: Awakening the Body and Mind
Sheryle Baker, Former Executive Director of The Life Center of the Suncoast

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| 9:00-10:15am Sunday, January 4, 2026 | 15 | Athena |
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Social Awareness, Resistance, and Justice
Chair: David Purnell, Western Washington University

Hope is a Warrior Mentality, David Purnell, Western Washington University
Friendship as Resistance, Maya Lavie-Ajayi, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, and Neveen Ali-Saleh Darawshy, Bar-Ilan University
Academic Freedom and Knowledge Under Attack: Stories from the Trenches of a Florida University, Mary Poole, University of South Florida
The Accidental Heurist: From Autoethnography to an Engaged Buddhist Pedagogy, José M. Tirado, University of Iceland

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| 9:00-10:15am Sunday, January 4, 2026 | 16 | East Room |
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Reflections on Method
Chair: Andrew F. Herrmann, Independent Scholar

“Stalking Walter Ong”: An Autoethnography of Archival Research, Andrew F. Herrmann, Independent Scholar
Desire, Reflection, and Digital Subjectivity: A ChatGPT Addict Exits the Mirror Phase, Juliet Davis, The University of Tampa
Accumulative Representation – Multiple Representations of a Single Study – Performance Ethnography, Autoethnography, and Creative Nonfiction, Shulamit Kitzis, Al-Quasemi Academic College, University of Haifa
Integrated Expressive Arts Interventions for Healing and Peacemaking: A Collaborative Autoethnography, Uddipana Goswami, Kennesaw State University, Sha Huang, Kennesaw State University, and Charity Butcher, Kennesaw State University
Understanding Experience: An Arts-Based Research and Autoethnography Literature Review, Anthony Dickson, Michigan State University

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| 10:30-11:45am Sunday, January 4, 2026 | 17 | Baranoff |
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Research Roundtable 1

My Life as a Teacher: Identity, Well-being, Challenges, and Rewards

Facilitator: Madison A. Pollino, University of South Florida

What Am I Worth?, Luke Anderson, Tennessee Tech University

A Comparative Ethnographic Narrative of Transcultural Teacher Development and Teacher Acculturation, Edward R. Howe, Thompson Rivers University

Ecology of Joy: Integrating Bioecological, Neurobiological, and Narrative Systems in an Autoethnography of Teacher Identity and Wellbeing, Miranda Simmons, Independent Scholar

Power in/of Paradigm and Research Enculturation in Higher Education: A Critical Autoethnographic Inquiry, Angela Vemic, University of Toronto

Research Roundtable 2

Women in Sport, Public Places, Leisure, and Work

Facilitator: Tasha R. Dunn, The University of Toledo

Using a Feminist Autoethnographic Framework to Understand the Lived Experiences of Pole Dancers who use Digital Media for Leisure/work, Charlotte Curle, Lancaster University

Strange Encounters, Sticky Feelings: The Hypervisible Asian Woman in Public Space, Youngbin Kim, Arizona State University

From Title IX to Today: Autoethnographic Reflections on Women's Sport, Resilience, and the First-generation Scholar-Parent Experience, Sally Ross, Grand Valley State University

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| 10:30-11:45am Sunday, January 4, 2026 | 18 | East Room |
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Research Roundtable 3

Caring for Family

Facilitators: Jillian Tullis, University of San Diego
Catherine M. Gillotti, Purdue University Northwest

Caring for My Father with Dementia and His Memories: Reflecting on Two Japanese Books, Chihiro Suzuki, Independent Scholar

A Different Childhood, Tammy Bachrach, Azusa Pacific University

Two Six-Piece Nuggets, No Sauce, Alicia Smith-Tran, Oberlin College

Research Roundtable 4
Processing Illness and Disability in Intimate Relationships
Facilitator: Pat Sikes, University of Sheffield

“My coma”: Collaboration with Intimate Others in Autoethnography to Recontextualize the Experience of Coma Unconsciousness Outside of the Hospital, Becky Higgins, University of Sheffield
Processing My Husband’s Stroke Through Visual Art and Music: An Autoethnography, Lorena Surducan, University of Kansas

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| 10:30-11:45am Sunday, January 4, 2026 | 19 | Athena |
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Research Roundtable 5
Place, Politics, and Technology
Facilitator: W. Benjamin Myers, The University of Toledo

“How Do We Know What Land Wants?” Building Autoethnographic Relationships with Nature on the Farm, Himanee Gupta, SUNY Empire State University
Hamilton and Me: The Anxious Patriotism of an Accidental Immigrant, Elissa Foster, Depaul University
Andy-Intelligence: Wrestling with AI, Authorship, and the Ethics of Not-Yet-Finished Stories, Andy Sturt, Green River College

Research Roundtable 6
Carrying and Caring for Our Memories
Facilitator: Jimmie Manning, University of Nevada, Reno

9/11@25 Witness Reflections, Carol Wilder, Hanoi University, and Eric W. Rothenbuhler, Webster University
Navigating Invisible Homelessness: A Living Autoethnography of Trauma, Major Depression, and the Fragile Reconstruction of Dwelling in Early Academic Life Abroad, Clara Sabbagh, University of Haifa
The Paradise We Couldn't Keep: Memory, Heartbreak, and the Return to Maui, Craig M. McGill, Kansas State University

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| 12:00-1:15pm Sunday, January 4, 2026 |
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Lunch
(on your own)

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| 1:30-2:45pm Sunday, January 4, 2026 | 20 | Athena |
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Grief, Loss, and Healing

Chair: Himanee Gupta, Empire State University

Rage, Grief, and Ambivalence Toward My Mother’s Death: An Inheritance of Refusal,

JoAnna Boudreaux, University of Memphis

The Memory Thief: Aging, the Feminine, and Relationship in Surreal Poetry and

Programmatic Piano Composition, Sandra L. Faulkner, Bowling Green State University

Probably the Hardest Thing I’ve Ever Done: Reflections on Clearing out and Selling My

Home/46 Bahram Road, Pat Sikes, University of Sheffield

Walking to Work on 9/11, Carol Wilder, Hanoi University

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| 1:30-2:45pm Sunday, January 4, 2026 | 21 | East Room |
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Identity, Change, and Resistance

Chair: Andy Sturt, Green River College

Coming Out as Asian: Multiplying Identity and Intersectionality, Christopher Cayari, Purdue University

Negotiating the Fluidity of Identity within the Permanency of Narrative, Peyton Sibert, Independent Scholar

Paying a Steep Price: Unravelling the Unseen Impact of Undertaking a Doctoral Study, Regan Berry, Da Vinci Institute

Reimagining Labor for Unionized Work: Where I Stand, Erin Woodford, Thompson Rivers University

Behind Bars: Using Poetry to Exorcise Demons within the Prison Industrial Complex, Amy Arellano, Boise State University

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| 3:00-4:15pm Sunday, January 4, 2026 | 22 | Athena |
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Carolyn Ellis: Celebrating 30 Years of *Final Negotiations*

Mike Alvarez, University of New Hampshire

Lisa Spinazola, Western Governors University

Lisa M. Tillmann, Rollins College

Jillian Tullis, University of San Diego

Respondent

Carolyn Ellis, University of South Florida

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| 3:00-4:15pm Sunday, January 4, 2026 | 23 | East Room |
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Creating Communities of Vulnerability and Care Through Narrative Analysis

Shelly Melchior, University of West Alabama
 Lisa Heard, University of West Alabama
 Hazel Foster, University of West Alabama

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| 4:15-4:45pm Sunday, January 4, 2026 | 24 | Baranoff Lobby |
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Afternoon Break + Book Raffle 2

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| 4:45-6:00pm Sunday, January 4, 2026 | 23 | Athena |
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Notes on Florida and on Other Contested Academic Performances and Spaces

Participants

Keith Berry, University of South Florida (Chair)
 Billy Huff, University of Illinois Chicago
 Catherine M. Gillotti, Purdue University Northwest
 Sandra Faulkner, Bowling Green State University
 Craig M. McGill, Kansas State University

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| 4:45-6:00pm Sunday, January 4, 2026 | 24 | East Room |
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Messing with the Archives of Our Lives to Make Autoethnography

Laura L. Ellingson, Santa Clara University
 Patricia Geist-Martin, San Diego State University
 Jennifer Morey Hawkins, St. Cloud State University
 Stephanie M. Pangborn, Hope College

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| 6:15pm Sunday, January 4, 2026 | 25 | Baranoff |
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Closing Reflections

Kenneth Gergen, Swarthmore University and The Taos Institute
 Arthur P. Bochner, University of South Florida
 Tony E. Adams, Bradley University

Welcome to the IAANI Forum at Safety Harbor, Florida!

Tucked along the shores of Old Tampa Bay, Safety Harbor is a charming coastal town that offers natural beauty, rich history, and small-town hospitality. Safety Harbor is a short drive from Tampa and Clearwater, 25 minutes from the Tampa Airport and 15 minutes from the St. Petersburg Airport.

The Safety Harbor Resort and Spa is a historic sanctuary built atop natural mineral springs once revered by the Tocobaga tribe and known for their healing properties. The resort, dating back to 1925, offers luxurious accommodations, rejuvenating spa treatments, and sweeping views of the bay. It's a great place to unwind, recharge, and connect during the Forum. Come early and spend New Year's Eve and New Year's Day at the same symposium hotel rates.

The magic of Safety Harbor extends well beyond the resort. During your stay, take time to explore the town's many local sites:

- **Philippe Park:** Minutes away from the hotel, this waterfront park is home to ancient Native American temple mounds, scenic trails, and majestic oak trees draped in Spanish moss.
- **Safety Harbor Marina and Fishing Pier:** A peaceful spot for a morning stroll or sunset view. You might encounter dolphins or manatees in the bay.
- **Main Street:** The heart of downtown is lined with eclectic boutiques, art galleries, and a variety of restaurants offering everything from fresh seafood to international cuisine.
- **Safety Harbor Museum and Cultural Center:** Learn more about the area's fascinating history and vibrant arts scene with exhibits, workshops, and performances.
- **Safety Harbor Art and Music Center (SHAMc)** – A colorful, whimsical venue that celebrates creativity through live music, art installations, and community events. This is definitely worth a tour even if you don't attend a program there.
- **WhimzeyLand** – Known as the Bowling Ball House. Home to an ever evolving, phantasmagorical cottage with whimsical yard art and 800 bowling balls bordering the flowerbeds and mosaic sidewalks.
- **Baranoff Park** – Home to one of the oldest and largest live oak trees in Pinellas County.
- **Empower Adventures Tampa Bay** – For the adventurous, enjoy ziplining and aerial obstacle courses is a short drive away in nearby Oldsmar, Florida.
- **Historic St. Petersburg, modern Tampa, Ybor City, and Salvador Dali Museum**—less than thirty minutes away. St. Pete has numerous museums plus a pier and waterfront. Tampa has the River Walk, a 2.6-mile pedestrian path along the Hillsborough River in downtown Tampa. The River Walk connects key attractions like the Florida Aquarium, the Tampa Museum of Art, and Sparkman Wharf. North Tampa has the Amusement park zoo and thrill rides at Busch Gardens, which is about forty-five minutes away.
- **Trails**-Many wonderful walking trails in the area.
- **Fun on the Water**- Numerous beaches are between 20-35 minutes from Safety Harbor. You will need a car. Clearwater Beach is only 12 miles away, but the traffic can be terrible. Art and Carolyn like St. Pete Beach (35 minutes away) and Honeymoon Island Beach (25 minutes away). You can find various boat rides in Tampa and St. Pete, including dolphin tours, sunset cruises, and speedboat adventures. Options range from relaxing sightseeing and tiki bar cruises to more active experiences like fishing trips, snorkeling, and fast-paced

speedboat tours. You can also use the Cross Bay Ferry for a unique and convenient way to travel between the two cities.

Savor the Flavors of Safety Harbor

- **The Tides Market:** A local favorite offering fresh seafood, all-natural meats, and coastal-inspired dishes in a laid-back setting with indoor and outdoor seating. Don't miss their \$1 oyster happy hour!
- **Fountain Grille Restaurant:** Located inside the resort, Mediterranean-inspired cuisine.
- **Bar Fly Safety Harbor:** A lively seafood and bar favorite known for blackened shrimp tacos, fresh oysters, and creative cocktails.
- **Southern Fresh:** A cozy Southern-US style eatery serving comfort food like fried chicken and meatloaf.
- **The Nona Slice House:** Terrific pizza! Often crowded and noisy but good seating outside. Walkable. Art and Carolyn also like Paul's Pizza-it is less expensive but you will need access to a car.
- **Marker 39, Giggiewaters, The Kitchen Bar and Bistro, Daydreamers Café & Grill, The Brinehouse, Athens Restaurant, Happy Salmon, Screaming Jalepeno, Water Oak Grill, Bassano Cheesecake, Strachan's Ice Cream, Osteria Pollani, Safety Harbor Mobile Station Deli, Haven House Eatery and Coffee Bar, and Kaia Bowls** are other area options.
- **Elizabeth's Gourmet Bakery**-Carolyn and Art's favorite bakery (though expensive). 5 minutes away by car.

Unwind at Local Bars

- **Bar Fly Safety Harbor:** A go-to for seafood and cocktails, great happy hour.
- **The Pub:** Laid back spot featuring wood-fired pizzas, craft beers and live music nights.
- **Whistle Stop Grill & Bar:** A classic Florida bar with open-air dining and live music.
- **Harbor Bar:** A local favorite with a casual atmosphere and great drink specials.
- **Nolan's Pub:** A cozy Irish-style pub with a great selection of beers.
- **Santorini Lobby Lounge:** Located inside the resort, perfect for a quiet cocktail.
- **Crooked Thumb Brewery:** A spacious beer garden with house-made brews and music.
- **Troubled Waters Brewing:** A microbrewery with a rotating selection of craft beers.
- **Water Oak Grill:** Craft cocktails, craft beer, and wine, next to Safety Harbor Spa.
- **Parts of Paris**
- **Sips Wine Bar:** Upscale wine bar on Main.

**2026 International Symposium on
Autoethnography and Narrative**
6 March-8 March 2026 (online)

IAAANI