



Affective Computing: Bridging Computer and Affective Sciences

Preconference at the 2026 [Society for Affective Science \(SAS\) Annual Meeting](https://society-for-affective-science.org/2026-sas-annual-conference/)

Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026

Location: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

Affective computing is the interdisciplinary study and development of systems that can recognize, interpret, simulate, or respond to human emotions. By combining methods from artificial intelligence, psychology, neuroscience, and the social sciences, affective computing seeks to better understand and model the complex interplay between emotion and behavior. In an era increasingly shaped by human–AI interaction, affective computing provides powerful tools to advance affective science, while affective science offers crucial theoretical grounding for ethical and human-centered technological innovation.

Building on our prior preconferences at SAS (2017) and ISRE (2019, 2022, 2024), this event will bring together researchers working at the intersection of affective science and computer science. We will have keynote presentations by Kristen Lindquist (OSU) and Carlos Busso (CMU). We also invite submissions that showcase cutting-edge work using computational methods—such as machine learning, signal processing, natural language processing, computer vision, or multimodal modeling—to study affective phenomena in humans.

We especially encourage contributions that:

- Focus on human affect, emotion, or interpersonal communication
- Integrate computational and theoretical perspectives
- Bridge disciplinary boundaries between affective science, computer science, and related fields

Abstract submissions are welcome for both **oral presentations** and **poster sessions**. All accepted work will contribute to an engaging, cross-disciplinary dialogue on the future of affective computing and its role in understanding emotion in context.

Submission Opens: December 1, 2025

Submission Deadline: January 9, 2026

Submission Link: <https://society-for-affective-science.org/2026-sas-annual-conference/>

For questions, please contact the organizers:

Jeffrey Girard, Ph.D. (University of Kansas, jmgirard@ku.edu)

Jonathan Gratch, Ph.D. (University of Southern California, gratch@ict.usc.edu)

Schedule

08:00 - 08:20 Welcome and Opening

08:20 - 09:20 Keynote: Kristen Lindquist (OSU)

09:20 - 10:00 Flash Talk Session

10:00 - 10:20 Break

10:20 - 11:20 Keynote: Carlos Busso (CMU)

11:20 - 12:00 Poster Session