



HSS 2021 Annual Meeting: Call for Papers

New Orleans, Louisiana, USA
18-21 November 2021

Deadline for Proposals: 18 April 2021 (23:59 EDT)

The History of Science Society (HSS) will hold its 2021 conference in New Orleans, USA. This will be a joint meeting with the [Society for the History of Technology \(SHOT\)](#). HSS encourages submissions on all topics.

We are fully engaged in our planning for this year's meeting, and we are hopeful for an on-site meeting that can convene in New Orleans safely. At the same time, we are carefully monitoring the pandemic situation, and we are planning for contingencies that may restrict our ability to meet on-site in the fall.

Our contract with the hotel (originally signed for 2020) imposes constraints on us that have to be respected to avoid severe financial penalties. Specifically, we must do our best to hold an in-person meeting this fall that, in principle, can only be flipped to an all-virtual meeting if the authorities in New Orleans declare the Covid situation in the city to be a health hazard in June this year, whereupon the hotel will release us from our contractual obligations to be present on-site. Even so, we realize that some people will not want to or be able to attend the meeting in person for any number of reasons, but ideally would be willing to participate from a remote location on-line.

The Society is taking these challenges as an opportunity to experiment with a new format that may likely become a general feature of future meetings. We plan to offer live streaming and virtual participation for plenary events and a select number of sessions so that our in-person meeting will allow for remote attendance. We expect to provide this service in only very few conference rooms because the cost is significant, and because we want to ensure that personal attendance offers a genuine added value over remote participation. But we believe that this experiment will help make our meeting a

success this year and bolster the Society's long-term commitment to rendering our conferences more accessible for participants around the globe and to addressing issues of climate change and sustainability.

For these reasons, the Society is planning a meeting with the following structure:

Everyone who submits a proposal should plan to attend the meeting in-person if they can, but is given the option to participate remotely. A select number of conference rooms will be equipped to allow for live-streaming and virtual participation in the events held in them. Any registered participant can access these events, be it on site or remotely. The program co-chairs will do their best to distribute accepted sessions between these venues and other, in-person only conference rooms at the hotel to ensure that in-person and remote participation both offer equally attractive intellectual experiences.

While every effort will be made to accommodate the needs of those whose papers are accepted but are unable to attend the meeting in person, the limited number of remote slots available would restrict the number of remote participants who can be accommodated. People whose papers are accepted but cannot attend in person can, however, pre-record their papers and arrange to have them shown at their session at the in-person meeting.

All paper sessions and panels will be scheduled to last 90 minutes on the understanding that the time will be reduced to one hour if the meeting is flipped to an entirely on-line event.

It must be stressed that registration fees are the same for in-person and remote attendance and remain unchanged no matter what format the meeting takes. As stated above, providing for a full, or even partial online meeting is extremely costly. Please rest assured that we will keep attendance fees as moderate as possible and will offer discounted registration for graduate students and scholars with a low income. Details about the pricing structure will be made available on the HSS website at <https://hssonline.org/meetings/2021-hss-annual-meeting/> soon.

Our submission platform is currently in the works and will be up and running around late March. The link will be made available on the HSS website at <https://hssonline.org/meetings/2021-hss-annual-meeting/>. Deadline for submission will be on April 18, 2021.

We look forward to your submissions! The following guidelines will explain your options in detail. We kindly ask you to read them very carefully. Special guidelines apply for papers, sessions, and roundtables that were accepted for the 2020 meeting that could not take place as planned (see below).

Guidelines

- You may only submit one proposal.
- You may only appear once on the program as a presenter (i.e., as a speaker or commentator). However, you may appear as a presenter *and* organizer or chair.
- Anyone who appears on the program must register for the meeting. Failure to pay this fee will result in removal from the program.
- All abstracts must be 2,000 characters or fewer (about 250 words).
- We encourage submission of proposals for sessions, roundtables, individual papers, and flashtalks for in-person presentation. However, it will be possible for presenters unable to come to New Orleans to submit pre-recorded papers on condition that at least one member of the associated panel hopes to be present in New Orleans to show it in the in-person session. Session organizers are responsible for securing pre-recorded talks and making sure that these talks are the proper length and meet technical requirements.
- All presenters accepted to the meeting consent to having their sessions moved virtually in the event that NOLA 2021 cannot take place as an in-person meeting and is converted to a fully digital event. Should this be the case, all sessions will be limited to 60 minutes, and presentations must be shortened to a maximum of 10 minutes.
- The Committee on Meetings and Programs (CoMP) has established a set of best practices and guidelines for proposals. Program chairs will look to these best practices and guidelines when accepting abstracts for the meeting. Prior participation at the 2019 (Utrecht) meeting will be taken into consideration.
- Organizers who wish to have more than 4 presentations (including a commentary) in their session can propose a double panel. Please be aware that we can only accept a very limited number of double sessions this year.

Diversity

Driven by our mission “to foster interest in the history of science,” the HSS collects demographic information to understand the composition of its submitting authors,

members, and meeting attendees; to identify under-served and under-represented communities; to formulate strategies to increase representation across communities; and to communicate aggregate, anonymized demographic data to its members and the public.

We are cautious of the exploitation made possible by demographic data collection. Therefore, we are committed to collecting information in a manner that is voluntary, promotes self-description, and is purposeful. The information will be used by the program co-chairs to guide their construction of the program with the goal of achieving balance in demographic characteristics and maximizing representativeness among the society's communities.

The structure of this questionnaire is still in a pilot phase. We welcome your feedback via [email](#).

–Committee on Diversity and Inclusion

Respectful Behavior Policy

All participants at the HSS Annual Meeting are expected to act in accordance with the Respectful Behavior Policy, which can be [read here](#).

Collaboration

To encourage and aid the creation of panels with strong thematic coherence that draw upon historians of science across institutions and ranks, the HSS has created a [collaboration form](#) to submit proposals in need of panelists and [a spreadsheet](#) to review submitted proposals. Anyone with a panel, paper, or roundtable idea seeking like-minded presenters should post and consult the postings on [the spreadsheet](#) to round out a prospective session. Submitting your paper as part of a session increases the chances for it to be accepted.

Grants

To defray travel costs, the HSS will make available several grant opportunities.

- We hope to be able to offer National Science Foundation travel grants to graduate students, independent scholars, and recent PhDs (degree in the

- past 5 years) who are participating in the meeting. Only US citizens or those studying at US institutions are eligible for NSF grants
- HSS will offer a limited number of travel grants for students, independent scholars, and recent PhDs who are participating in the meeting, but who are ineligible for NSF grants
 - Dependent care grants (up to \$250) will be offered for those who need such assistance. These grants are available to defray the costs of care either at home or at the meeting site

For information on these grants, please contact us via [email](#).

Guidelines for Re-Submission from 2020

We are sorry that the 2020 HSS Annual Meeting did not take place in person as was planned. If your paper or session or roundtable was accepted for the 2020 meeting (back in June 2020) and was not part of the 2020 Virtual Forum you have several options for re-submission. Please follow our re-submission guidelines which are available [here](#).

Submission Types for New Proposals

Contributed Paper

A standalone presentation no longer than 20 minutes. Accepted contributed papers will be assigned to a session with other contributed papers.

HSS/SHOT Joint Organized Sessions/Roundtables

Limited to organized sessions and roundtables. Session proposals addressing themes and issues with interest to both societies are particularly welcome and will be included in both HSS and SHOT programs as joint sessions. When submitting a proposal for a joint session, please make explicit in your session abstract why/how your session brings together approaches/themes/speakers of interest to both HSS and SHOT. Additionally, select the option for joint session inclusion on the abstract form. **Finally, joint session and joint roundtable proposals must be submitted to the HSS and [SHOT](#).**

Organized Session

A panel about a common theme, consisting of an organizer, chair, and presenters. In addition to an organizer and chair, possible configurations include 3 speakers and 1 commentator/panel discussion or 4 speakers. The session organizer submits all abstracts, but each presenter will have to provide their personal profile information individually. As a session organizer, please make sure that all of your presenters oblige; your submission will only be accepted by the system once all this information is complete.

Special Call: Roundtables

To facilitate dialogue at its annual meeting, the History of Science Society requests proposals for roundtables. Roundtable participants may not present in another session. The typical roundtable will feature 5 presenters, including a commentator, who will each speak for 5 minutes or less, leaving ample time for exchanges with the audience. (Roundtables may include from 4 to 6 total speakers.)

Special Call: Flashtalks

As part of a special Presidential Session, the HSS invites graduate student proposals for flashtalks. The president of HSS will evaluate abstracts and moderate the session. These flashtalks will be presentations of 5 minutes or less with a slide, followed by discussion. Proposals require only a title and a short abstract (2-3 sentences). Flashtalk speakers are not permitted to present on the program in any other fashion.

HSS Independent Scholar Award

Thanks to a generous gift by HSS Member Virginia Trimble, the Society will offer for the first time an award of \$500 for the best abstract submitted by an independent scholar. Those scholars who are part of an organized session or who submit a contributed paper, and whose institutions do not consider these scholars to be working historians are eligible. If you meet this criteria and would like to be considered, please inform your organizer or select this option on the submission form.