



Dear SSHA Colleagues,

As you know, our 46th annual Social Science History Association conference, “Politics, Society, and the Economy: the Past and Today” is scheduled for November 19-22 in Washington, DC. And despite the COVID-19 pandemic, acceptances for nearly 800 exciting papers were recently sent out around the world.

We are writing with an update on our conference planning—specifically to let you know we are currently planning for two possible organizational models. The first—which represents our desired outcome—is to hold a normal, if somewhat smaller, conference in person in November 2020. We realize this is an optimistic goal, however, and are thankful that our host hotel, the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, will work with us to accommodate a conference that is smaller than normal and waive any penalties that might have accrued in a more normal year (the hotel industry—like all of us, is dealing with an unprecedented situation). With this option, we may, or may not, be able to support virtual participation for some participants; that is to be determined.

Our second option—cancelling the 2020 conference entirely and rescheduling with the same hotel for a future date (2021 or beyond) is also a possibility. Fortunately, if this were to happen, we would pay a reduced cancellation fee, and a portion of our reduced fee would roll forward to a rescheduled date.

Importantly, the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill has agreed to keep **both options open to us until July 15**, giving us seven more weeks of experience with COVID-19 before we need to make a decision on the 2020 conference. On that date, in consultation with the SSHA Executive Committee and the 2020 Program Committee Co-Chairs, we will announce whether we are proceeding with an in-person 2020 meeting, cancelling entirely, or choosing something in between (partly in-person and partly virtual). Meanwhile, we recommend you continue to make plans to attend SSHA 2020, but refrain from making flight reservations until after our decision is announced on July 15.

We appreciate your patience and support of SSHA. Meanwhile, one thing you could do now that would help the Association is renew your annual membership!

<https://ssha.org/membership/>

Sincerely,

Phil Hoffman

SSHA President 2019-2020