21 July 2020

Dear GSA colleagues,

*A version of this email went out to seminar conveners, panel conveners and panel presenters, roundtable conveners, and individual paper presenters. Our apologies if you did not receive this email; it might have been sent to spam, or you might have decided to opt out of receiving GSA emails when you became a member, or there was a glitch. We want to reach as many people as possible who have been accepted to the conference, so please feel free to share with colleagues.*

Thank you so much for your patience as we finish up details on how our virtual conference will proceed. In this message, you’ll learn in broad strokes what we have planned. You can find [the FAQs here](https://www.thegsa.org/blog/update-gsa-virtual-conference-21-july-2020) that we will update regularly. You will find a link to a questionnaire at the bottom of this page that *some of you* will need to fill out about your presentation plans; please read through these instructions first to see whether the questionnaire applies to you. This questionnaire is our primary means of scheduling the conference, so your response is vital.

*You may receive this email more than once if you have a second role elsewhere in the program). We apologize for the repetition; it’s the result of how the email system works for submissions.*

Please note that some of these details are subject to change. Please check the website, or email GSA’s Operations Director (Dr. Benita Blessing, operations@thegsa.org), if you have questions or run into any issues. Please include the ID number you received in the confirmation email in the Spring and name of your paper/panel/roundtable/seminar.

General schedule:

The conference will be longer in terms of days, but shorter in terms of sessions. We currently plan on kick-off events on Tuesday 29 September, with the regular conference running from Wednesday 30 September – Sunday 4 October from 11am-4pm Eastern Time. For scheduling reasons, all sessions will be 90 minutes.

Presenters:

As indicated in our last update, presenters will have the option of presenting virtually this year or postponing until next year’s conference. We recognize that some of our members cannot present this year for any number of reasons, while others need feedback and the opportunity to present this year, and that some sessions may have a mix of those needs.

For those groups who need to fill out a questionnaire at the end of this email, we will need the session’s questionnaire by Friday 31 July at 5pm Eastern Time. *If you have already emailed us with your preferences, you will still get an email and need to respond. We want to make sure our information is as accurate as possible*.

You can find more details about the conference itself under the FAQs, but here is how we are proceeding:

* Seminars:

We have already contacted *seminar conveners* about their preferences for presenting this year or postponing until next year. If you are a seminar member, please contact your seminar convener for more information. (Please note that for organizational and security reasons that we unfortunately cannot allow auditors this year.) *You do not need to fill out the questionnaire, since we already have that information.*

* Panels, pre-formed:

We are asking the *main contact person listed for pre-formed Panels*(that is, the person who submitted the actual application last winter) to coordinate their panel members’ preferences for presenting this year or postponing until next year. We do not yet have details on how pre-recorded sessions will work, but your panel can tentatively decide on whether it will be a pre-recorded session (with opportunities for feedback and dialogue throughout the conference) or live this year. If you are not the main contact person, please get in touch with your Panel’s main contact for more information. There is some flexibility for pre-formed Panels if one member would like to follow a different path than the others in that session. *Your contact person will fill out the questionnaire for all of you.*

* Individual papers:

All presenters who submitted in the Individual Paper category will be receiving a separate email this week with names and contact information for members of the “Individual Paper Panel” you are scheduled on. At that point, we will ask what each of your presentation plans are.

We do not yet have details on how pre-recorded sessions will work, but if you decide to present this year, you can tentatively decide whether you prefer a pre-recorded session (with opportunities for feedback and dialogue throughout the conference) or live. There is flexibility if one IP presenter would like to follow a different path than the others in that session. *No one on the IPP needs to fill out this questionnaire; you will be contacted separately by email shortly.*

* Roundtables:

We will ask *the main contact person* listed for Roundtables’ preferences for presenting this year or postponing until next year. We do not yet have details on pre-recorded sessions’ formats, but your Roundtable can tentatively decide on whether it will be a pre-recorded session (with opportunities for feedback and dialogue throughout the conference) or live this year.

Accommodations:

Please email us should you need disability accommodations for this virtual conference.

As always, we will try to accommodate presenters’ scheduling needs, such as religious observance or caretaking responsibilities. Do note that most of us will be teaching during this time, and it will not be possible to work around everyone’s professional schedules. Thank you for understanding!

Questionnaire Link

If you are responsible for submitting your session’s questionnaire, you can find that [here](https://forms.gle/vLTA5hNGgvjKygex7). Please remember to submit it by 31 July.

If you have any problems accessing the questionnaire, please contact Operations Director Dr. Benita Blessing (operations@thegsa.org).

David E. Barclay, Executive Director

Margaret Menninger, Incoming Executive Director

Joanne Miyang Cho, Program Director