The Society for U.S. Intellectual History invites proposals for its 2019 annual conference. This year’s event will be held November 7-10, 2019, on The New School’s campus in New York City’s historic Greenwich Village neighborhood.

Our theme for the 2019 conference is “Intellectual Traditions of Protest, Power, and Patriotism.” We interpret this theme broadly to include topics that engage the history of science, culture, politics, race, gender, government, society, education, literature, and a wide range of other fields covering all time periods and various events in U.S. history. In addition, the year of 2019 presents opportunities to consider several specific and ongoing anniversaries: 100 years since the signing of the Peace of Versailles and since the founding of The New School, home to thinkers such as John Dewey, Hannah Arendt, Gerda Lerner, and the University in Exile; 50 years since Richard Nixon called for the “silent majority” to rally in support of the GOP, since Tinker v. Des Moines guaranteed schoolchildren First Amendment rights, and since Students for a Democratic Society seized a Harvard administration building; and 150 years since the founding of the National Women’s Suffrage Association in New York State. Given our conference site, we encourage proposals that make connections to New York and New School history.

We are thrilled to announce our two keynote speakers: Martha Jones and Claire Bond Potter.


Claire Bond Potter is Professor of History at the New School and the Executive Editor of Public Seminar, a digital magazine of politics and culture, and her research spans United States political history after 1970, the history of gender and sexuality, mass culture, media and internet Studies. Potter is currently writing a book called Click Bait Nation: the Origins of American iPolitics, under contract to Basic Books, and is the author or editor of several more: War on Crime: Bandits, G-Men and the Politics of Mass Culture (Rutgers University Press, 1998), and with Renee Romano, Historians on Hamilton: How a Blockbuster Musical is Restaging America’s Past (Rutgers University Press, 2018) and Doing Recent History: On Privacy, Copyright, Video Games, Institutional Review Boards, Activist Scholarship, and History That Talks Back (University of Georgia Press, 2012). Professor Potter writes about history for a broad public: she is the creator of the Tenured Radical blog, and contributes frequently to outlets such as Dissent, The Village Voice, Inside Higher Education, Jacobin, and the Washington Post.
There will be plenary panels and sessions throughout the conference, including S-USIH’s first-ever “Podcast Stage,” featuring a live recording of podcasts, and a plenary discussion about publishing intellectual history. We are also pleased to announce that the African-American Intellectual History Society (AAIHS) will have a robust presence at the 2019 conference, sponsoring five panels. We are also glad to continue our longstanding partnership with the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy (SAAP), which will be sponsoring one panel.

The Conference Committee looks forward to your submissions on the timely, evergreen theme of “Intellectual Traditions of Protest, Power, and Patriotism.” Apart from the theme, we welcome submissions that address any aspect, period, or problem from the history of American thought, including panels focused on teaching intellectual history.

We invite traditional panels (4-6 w/presenters, chair, commentator), roundtables (4-6 discussants and chair), guided discussions (3-4 moderators who lead breakout discussion groups), and other creative formats that are clearly and compellingly spelled out in the proposal. Details on each are below. If you are new to academe or to the S-USIH conference, we would love to help connect you with possible chairs or commentators. Please feel free to contact program committee member Sara Georgini at 2019sushi@gmail.com with such questions, as well as if you are available to chair a panel or serve as a commenter.

**Types of Submissions**

**Traditional Panels: 4-6 people**

A traditional panel will include a chairperson and either three or four presenters. The panel chairperson may also serve as a commentator, or the panel may include a separate commentator.

*Traditional Panel submissions must include the following materials: a title for the panel; a designated chair; names, email addresses, and institutional affiliations (if any) of all panel participants; a 300-word abstract for each paper; a separate 500 word abstract for the entire panel; a one-page CV for each participant.*

**Roundtables: 4-6 people**

A roundtable will include four or five discussants. One of the discussants may serve as the roundtable chair/moderator, or the roundtable may include a separate chair/moderator.

*Roundtable submissions must include the following materials: a title for the roundtable; names, email addresses, and institutional affiliations (if any) of all roundtable participants; a 300-word description of each discussant’s expected contribution to or intervention in the discussion; a separate 500 word abstract for the entire roundtable; a one-page CV for each participant.*
Guided Discussions: 4 People

Guided Discussion sessions ask the audience to consider four interrelated scholarly or pedagogical questions. Presenters each speak for 5-10 minutes, laying out one of the four questions. Audience members then split into four groups, each led by one of the presenters to discuss the question s/he asked. Presenters then report their table’s discussion to the room and a room-wide discussion is held.

*Guided Discussion submissions must include the following materials: a title for the session; names, email addresses, and institutional affiliations (if any) of all discussion leaders; a proposed discussion question and a 300-word abstract from each discussion leader; a 500 word abstract for the entire session; a one-page CV for each participant.*

Single Paper Proposal:

Reflecting our long-standing tradition, S-USIH will return to accepting individual paper submissions this year. Assistance with panel formation will be available at the blog. Interested scholars should avail themselves of that forum to discuss topics, form panels, and air issues relating to proposals. All individual paper submissions should include (1) a hierarchical list of themes, topics, events, and other relevant keywords (related to intellectual history, as much as possible); and (2) the paper's anticipated chronology. These tools will aid the subset of the selection committee tasked with matching papers to create sessions. Please note that the program committee reserves the right to make changes in the configuration of panels and that priority will be given to proposals for complete panels that include a commentator.

Submission Guidelines

1. The committee is especially eager to ensure a diverse representation of scholars at the conference. We welcome submissions from graduate students, professional historians, academics working in adjacent fields, scholarly professionals working outside the academy, independent scholars, and high school teachers. We strongly encourage panels that reflect the diversity of our field in terms of gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and/or institutional prestige of panelists.
2. Individuals may appear on the program no more than twice. Those appearing twice must do so in two distinct capacities (paper presenter, panel commentator, roundtable discussant, etc.) Participants may, for example, deliver a paper and be a panel commentator, but may not present two papers.
3. Panels that require a projector or other audio-visual hookup must notify the committee at the time of submission. You must also explain why A/V is critical to your panel’s success.
4. The committee will assume that submission to the conference is an indication that participants will be attending the majority of the conference. We will be unable to accommodate any scheduling requests.
5. All persons appearing on the program will be required to register for the conference and to become members of S-USIH.
6. All documents should be submitted to the email address 2019susih@gmail.com as a single PDF document.

The deadline for submissions is April 15, 2019, and notifications will be sent to session organizers by June 15, 2019.