

ISST

International Society for the Study of Time

The Society

The International Society for the Study of Time is profoundly interdisciplinary and comprises a professional organization of scientists, humanists, and artists. Established in 1966, we are interested in exploring the multiple dimensions and perspectives of time across the disciplines—the role time plays in the physical, organic, intellectual, and social worlds.

Time is a fundamental feature of the physical universe and it is intimately connected with any life process. The passage of time has been of concern to all great religions and philosophies, and has found an infinite variety of expressions in the arts. No other single aspect of reality relates more directly to basic human needs and desires.

Many (but by no means all) discussions within ISST revolve around fundamental questions such as:

- Can the structure of spacetime in physics be reconciled with the human experience of the passage of time?

- Can we integrate different temporal scales and complexities in a coherent theory of time?
- How do memory and narrative organize human experience and expectations in politics and culture?
- How do we reconcile the speed of contemporary societies with the human need for stability?
- Can conceptions of a deep past and a vast future help us to foster the spirit of ethical responsibility?

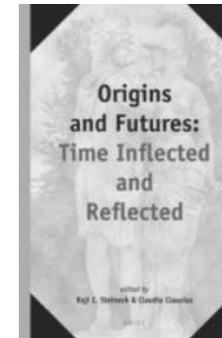
Conferences

Every three years, the ISST sponsors a themed conference for the exchange of ideas among its members. Themes encompass topics such as *Time's Urgency* (University of Edinburgh, UK), *Time and Memory* (Cambridge University, UK), *Time, Order and Chaos* (St. Adèle Canada), *Origins and Futures* (Monteverde, Costa Rica), *Time: Limits and Constraints* (Asilomar, USA), *Time and Uncertainty* (Castello di Gargonza, Italy). The diversity of approaches presented provides rich and fertile ground for discussion, debate, and insight. Although multidisciplinary, panels of speakers are clustered into thematic groupings, and plenty of time is left for questions and an exchange of views.

The Society encourages convivial discussion by selecting intimate and inspiring locations for the conferences. Conferees typically attend all lectures, and enjoy their coffee breaks and meals together. The conversations that unfold outside the scheduled conference program are often surprising, fulsome, and fruitful. An optional and organized day-long excursion is traditionally offered mid-conference.

ISST also co-sponsors interim conferences in collaboration with other academic organizations. Recent events have included: *Time's Excesses & Eccentricities* (University of Caen, France); *Time and Emergence* (École normale supérieure, Paris, France); and *Time and Change in China and the West* (Beijing Normal University).

Publications

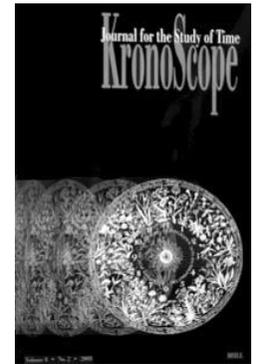


Study of Time Conference Volumes

Selected papers from the triennial conferences are published in the volume *The Study of Time* series. (Brill Academic Publishers)

KronoScope

The official Society organ is the journal *KronoScope*. The two annual issues comprise interdisciplinary and peer-reviewed articles, conference reports, and book reviews. *KronoScope* is a benefit of Society Membership. (Brill Academic Publishers)



Time's News: An annual magazine featuring ISST member contributions: essays, book reviews, news articles, Q&A interviews, conference reports, poems, meditations, short stories and artwork.

Time in Variance

June 23-29, 2019

Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles,
California USA.

The International Society for the Study of Time (ISST) invites you to attend their 2019 conference at Loyola Marymount University on the theme of Time in Variance.

The ISST, renowned for its interdisciplinary scope, invites scientists, scholars, artists, and practitioners to explore the singular/multiple nature of time and temporalities within and across disciplines. Our format of plenary presentations delivered over four days creates a sustained interdisciplinary discussion among participants. We also take a day off mid-conference and provide participants a choice of time-related excursions in Los Angeles.

The Loyola Marymount campus overlooks the Pacific Ocean, and it is just a few miles from Los Angeles International Airport. The campus is home to ISST Founder J. T. Fraser's Personal Papers and the Collection of The International Society for the Study of Time Records. The campus also features various slow time installations, including the Garden of Slow Time, a classical labyrinth on a bluff that offers panoramic views of the city.

"Time in Variance," in evoking temporalities at odds with one another, speaks to an ever more poignant human awareness that our reality unfolds on several timescales simultaneously, from instantaneous demands on attention in a mediated environment to local and global ecological catastrophe and change, to long-term planetary and cosmological processes. The Anthropocene marks a disjunctive juncture between geologic timescales and the "Great Acceleration" in humanity's planetary imprint since 1950. Not surprisingly, tensions among heterogeneous temporalities characterize contemporary scholarship, art, and experience across a range of disciplinary and cultural contexts. But this in itself may not be a new condition: at any time in history, human beings have found themselves implicated in processes belonging

not only to different scales, but also building different shapes of time – some oscillating, others circular, yet others linear. "Time in Variance" also evokes its mirror opposite, "time invariance," creating a dialectic between temporal inconsistencies and constants, and a search for stable time measures, markers, or laws in an unstable world.

Presentations will explore a range of conceptual and experiential complexities comprising variations in and between timescales or time-rates, time regimes, or temporal orientations within given frames or contexts, by focusing on the following topics:

- Cosmic variance
- Time lost and (re)found
- Time variance in society and history, eg. "peasant time" vs. "factory time"
- Varying disciplinary conceptions of time (chemistry vs. physics vs. biology vs. history)
- Time variance in business models, e.g., "just in time" manufacturing
- Variations in timescales in the Anthropocene and/or Big History
- Variance in time perception, e.g., due to aging, disease, psychedelics, cultural differences
- Time-related acceleration/deceleration, e.g., Moore's Law, entropy, slowing time
- Time compression, time dilation
- Variations in narrative temporalities
- Artistic representations of time in variance and/or of time's invariance
- Time variance in ecological webs
- Divergent manifestations of temporal aspect across languages
- Nested Hierarchies of Time
- Interconnections, convergences or disruptive relations between timing mechanisms, e.g., circadian rhythms, lunar phases, solar cycles, neural timing, radioactive decay
- Varying measures of time, variance
- The Eternal and the temporal
- Genetic, epigenetic, and phenotypic variability, evolutionary pathways

Presentations will be generally held in a thematic panel with the addition of other formats such as

debates, performances, overview of creative works, art exhibition, and workshops.

Contact Information

membership@studyoftime.org

ISST Website

www.studyoftime.org

ISST Facebook & Twitter

F: @InternationalSocietyfortheStudyofTime

T: @StudyofTime

The Journal, Kronscape

<http://www.brill.com/kronscape>

The Study of Time Volumes

<http://www.brill.com/publications/study-time>