

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

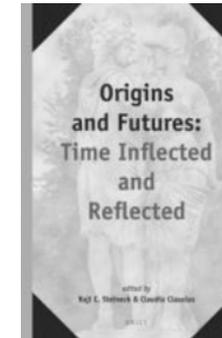
Every three years, the ISST sponsors a themed conference for the exchange of ideas among its members. Themes encompass topics such as *Time's Urgency* (University of Edinburgh, UK), *Time and Memory* (Cambridge University, UK), *Time, Order and Chaos* (St. Adèle Canada), *Origins and Futures* (Monteverde, 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

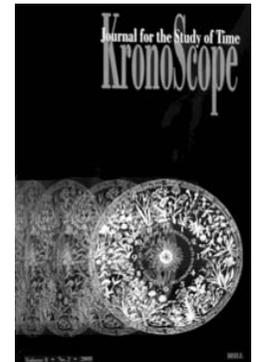
Study of Time Conference Volumes



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

A newsletter is circulated to members annually.

Contact Information

Membership@StudyOfTime.org

Society Website

<http://www.studyoftime.org>

The Journal, KronoScope

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

The Study of Time Volumes

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

Call for Papers

Time's Urgency

26 June to 2 July 2016, University of Edinburgh, UK.

Proposals (300 words) due by June 30th, 2015

The ISST welcomes contributions from all scholarly, creative, or professional perspectives. Our format of plenary presentations delivered over several days creates a sustained, interdisciplinary discussion among participants.

The Edinburgh conference will mark the 50th anniversary of the ISST and of the publication of the seminal volume *The Voices of Time*, in which ISST Founder J. T. Fraser assembled perspectives on time by experts across the disciplines. Time has arguably become an even more pressing subject over the ensuing five decades across and within many fields. This event thus presents an especially apt occasion to present disciplinary perspectives on time and debate potential relations among them.

Time's urgency is felt and understood on several scales and from many perspectives. On the individual and social levels, the increased speed of communication has created a "global now" and expanded the horizon of the electronic present. It has also increased the pace of work and economic exchange, the management of global conflicts, and the volatility of markets and political systems. All this has encouraged a shrinking of temporal horizons with respect to the past and the future, and a pervasive feeling of temporal stress among societies and individuals.

Human history, by contrast, is increasingly understood and imagined in relation to vast terrestrial and cosmic timescales. Geologists, ecologists, historians and critical theorists debate issues around the Anthropocene, a proposed geological age defined by humanity's becoming a force of planetary change. The Anthropocene marks a break with progressivist views of classical modernity, as a cascade of irreversible alterations in climate and biodiversity seems to call for ever more rapid human response and repair. Climate change, political and economic upheaval, and dystopian futures are explored in film, literature, art and

philosophy. Corporations, states and scientists strive to envision and realize technotopias that would increase control (by whom, for what purpose?) over human biology, society and the environment. All these divergent perspectives involve the issue of time's urgency.

The ISST seeks to engage in a robust inter-disciplinary exploration of *Time's Urgency* and invites participation from scholars in the humanities, social and natural sciences, as well as artists working in any media. Proposals on any subject relevant to the conference theme are welcome; possible topics include:

Possible topics

- The Urgency of Time in the Anthropocene and/or Big History
- Temporal issues in big data
- Temporal urgency understood on physical/cosmological scales
- Psychological Time and Crises – e.g., PTSD
- Urgency, Economic Models, and Stressors
- Urgency and Ritual
- Time's Urgency, Ecology and Ethics
- Temporal compression and social practices
- Artistic expressions of the urgency of time
- Philosophies of time's urgency
- Speculative fiction and the future eg; 'Cli-fi' (climate fiction)
- "Just in Time" Business Models
- Urgency and J.T. Fraser's Hierarchical Theory of Time

Guidelines and Timeline for Proposals

Proposals will be for 20 – 30 minute presentations in diverse formats: scholarly paper, debate, performance, overview of creative work, installation, workshop. Proposals for interdisciplinary panels are especially welcome (each paper for a panel must be approved by the selection committee). In this latter case, three speakers might present divergent points of view around a topic, and be responded to by a moderator. All work will be presented in English, and should strike a balance between expertise in an area of specialization and accessibility to a general intellectual audience.

Proposals, approximately 300 words in length, are submitted electronically. The author's name(s) should not appear in the proposal, as the ISST does blind reviewing in selecting papers for its conferences. **The deadline for submission is June 30th, 2015**, with acceptances communicated by November 1, 2015. The Society also seeks session chairs, whose names will be included on the printed conference program.

To submit proposals

Go to the ISST website:

<http://www.studyoftime.org/forms/confsubmit.aspx>