

The Scientific Conference: Past, Present, and Future

Monday 18 October 2021

09:00 – 10:00	Arrival, registration
10:00 – 10:15	Welcome by Lorentz Center
10:15 – 10:30	Opening by organizers: Welcome and explanation of objectives and way of working workshop

Part I – devoted to discussing conference histories with interested non-historians

Day chair: Cyrus Mody

The point of the dialogues and following discussions is to identify our different fascinations with the conference phenomenon. Participants come to this workshop from widely different backgrounds, so we are likely to have different interests and perspectives with overlaps and separations. Let's map out that terrain.

In each dialogue, two conference historians briefly present their work which they have precirculated to their discussant. The discussants have been asked to articulate what they find interesting about the papers, how the papers connected to their own work (perhaps presenting that briefly), and what new questions the papers opened up in their view. In these sessions, this is more important than giving feedback on how to improve the papers.

dialogue 1

10:30 – 10:45	Laura Forster
10:45 – 11:00	Sven Widmalm
11:00 – 11:20	discussant: Emily Henderson
11:20 – 12:00	open floor

12:00 – 13:00 walk talk

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch @Snellius restaurant

dialogue 2

14:00 – 14:15	Georgiana Kotsou
14:15 – 14:30	Waqar Zaidi
14:30 – 14:50	discussant: Jorrit Smit
14:50 – 15:30	open floor

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee/tea break

16:00 – 17:00 General discussion: what do we learn from conference history? (led by day chair)

17:00 Wine and cheese

Tuesday 19 October 2021

Day chair: Kenneth Bertrams

In today's version of the dialogues, we will have the open floor discussions at the end in the form of a [fish bowl](#) meeting. The three dialogue participants start out in the middle seats, but yield their place to whoever else has something to contribute to the discussion.

The point of the general discussions at the end is to collect the harvest from the preceding two days. The first question revolves around what (others think) historians can contribute to the understanding of conferences and their issues. The second question is geared toward sketching possible research questions for the future.

dialogue 3

09:00 – 09:15 Jenny Beckman
09:15 – 09:30 Thomas Mougey
09:30 – 09:50 discussant: Alexandra Supper
09:50 – 10:30 open floor fish bowl

10:30—11:00 Coffee/tea break

dialogue 4

11:00 – 11:15 Jessica Reinisch
11:15 – 11:30 Geert Somsen
11:30 – 11:50 discussant: Henriette Jensenius
11:50 – 12:30 open floor fish bowl

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch @Snellius restaurant

dialogue 5

14:00 – 14:15 Charlotte Bigg
14:15 – 14:30 Mariana Deball
14:30 – 14:50 discussant: Mareike Smolka
14:50 – 15:30 open floor fish bowl

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee/tea break

16:00 – 16:45 General discussion 1: what do we learn from conference history? (led by day chair)
16:45 – 17:30 General discussion 2: what are promising research agendas? (led by day chair)

18:00 – 21:00 Workshop dinner

Wednesday 20 October 2021

- 09:00 – 10:30 drafting plans for future work (following yesterday's General discussion 2) – in subgroups
- 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee/tea break
- 11:00 – 12:30 harvesting feedback for specific papers and collection as a whole (following yesterday's General discussion 1) – in subgroups
- 12:30 – 14:00 Lunch @Snellius restaurant
- 14:00 – 14:30 goodbye to some participants, welcome to others

Part II – devoted to workshopping contributions to a special issue

The discussions in the workshops are not primarily meant to improve individual papers but to seek cross-fertilization and coherence. We should exchange ideas about what we find exciting in each other's papers, what we recognize in our own work, and what ties could be strengthened or elaborated. We can use the Lorentz Center's whiteboards and other equipment to jot down our ideas before discussing them.

In the editors' meetings following each paper discussion session, the four special issue editors translate this and more into Individual feedback for each author.

special issue workshop 1

- 14:30 – 16:00 discussion papers 1-3
- 16:00 – 16:30 Coffee/tea break
- 16:30 – 17:30 editors' meeting

Thursday 21 October 2021

knowledge exchange meeting

09:30 – 11:00 op-eds – in subgroups

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee/tea break

11:30 – 12:30 walking tours / website

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch @Snellius restaurant

special issue workshop 2

14:00 – 16:00 discussion papers 4-6

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee/tea break

16:00 – 16:30 discussion paper 7

16:30 – 17:30 editors' meeting

Friday 22 October 2021

special issue workshop 3

09:00 – 10:30 discussion papers 8-10

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee/tea break

11:00 – 12:00 editors' meeting

taking stock and wrapping up

12:00 – 13:00 looking back/looking ahead: grander vistas

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch @Snellius restaurant

14:00 – 15:00 to-do lists for all of us

15:00 goodbyes