

Human Science Institute Conference
Call for Presentations
September 14 - 16, 2018
Burlingame, CA
<http://humanscienceinstitute.org>

Securing Our Democracy: The Work Ahead
A Conference & Retreat to Explore Challenges and Possibilities

We the people in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity...”
Preamble, United States Constitution, 1787

We take the theme for our retreat from the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, especially the phrase, “and secure the blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity.” Many people are concerned by both the conduct and policies being enacted and overturned by our leaders at the highest levels. At this time, asking the question, “What does it mean to secure our democracy?” is essential. The second question is, of course, “What can we do?”

This year our gathering will be more in the style of a retreat than a conference because it seems more important than ever to take time for reflection and deepening our understanding of the issues and our role as citizens in a democratic society. This format seems more appropriate for the times considering the seriousness of our challenges. We will reflect as individuals and in small groups about what matters most to us at this historic time in our national story. We will focus on sharing ideas and learning new skills for the ‘work ahead.’ Whether you are an educator, researcher, non-profit administrator, social service worker, social or environmental activist, green business entrepreneur, therapist, etc., now is the time to listen to one another, face our challenges together, and collaborate in service of the common good.

Please join us in this three-day conference and retreat to find support in your journey and gather new tools for meeting today’s challenges to our democratic institutions. We ask that your response to the questions – “What does it mean to secure our democracy?” and “What can we do?” are explored through the following frameworks:

- A descriptions of personal, social, or political relationships where you discovered the depth and breadth of the challenges to bridging differences in beliefs, opinions, values, and other barriers, such as class, race, education, or socio/political alliances.
- An analysis of a social, political, or environmental issue that concerns you, or is the focus of your work, or research with an action plan for addressing the problem, or issue.
- A description of a social or environmental campaign, movement, or project that you are involved in that has brought people with different ideas, perspectives, or from different

communities together for collaborative conversations resulting in collective efforts for the common good.

Whichever area you choose to address, your presentation should illustrate perspectives drawn from the Human Science tradition. That is, your response should be grounded in: an analysis of knowledge claims, an appreciation of diverse ways of knowing, the significance of different cultural contexts in shaping alternate perspectives, and focused on responding to real world problems. Please see our mission statement at <http://humanscienceinstitute.org> for insight into Human Science scholarship and practice. See also *Human Science Perspectives*, vol.1, #1 for a more complete introduction to our approach to scholarship, research, practice, and social change: <https://humanscienceinstitute.org/journal-and-publications/>.

Proposal Submissions

Follow the guidelines below and submit your proposal:

New Due Date for Submission: *June 24, 2018 (DUE DATE EXTENDED TWO WEEKS)*

Note: Proposals received prior to this date will receive prompt attention.

After submission of the proposal, an email confirming receipt will be sent to the submitter within 3 days.

Notification of Acceptance: July 8, 2018 (or before)

Presenter Attendance Confirmation: August 1, 2018

Presenter Conference Registration: August 1, 2018

Note: Early Bird registration ends August 1, 2018

In the schedule for this year's gathering, there will be no scheduled individual presentations. Instead, those who submit proposals will be grouped into topic related panels and a facilitator will guide a discussion between presenters and participants. You should prepare a 3 minute summary of your ideas, research, etc., and bring handouts, and or posters (or run your power point, or video on a laptop during breaks.) We think this format will make real the intention to listen deeply to one another and have collaborative conversations a reality. As we all know, we are often just talking at each other at typical conferences.

Submit a proposal with the title of your presentation, your name, discipline, physical address, contact information, and affiliation on the first page and an abstract (**no more than 250 words**) on the second page to allow for anonymous review. Please limit titles to 15 words and include 3 keywords.

- Please also submit a brief biographical statement, no more than 100 words.
- Review your abstract and bio carefully as the content you submit will be used for publication purposes.
- Submissions that do not follow these guidelines will be returned.

We welcome group panel proposals (that is, from an organization, or project group) following the same guidelines.

Email your proposal as a Word.doc or Docx format document to info@humanscienceinstitute.org and insert "Presentation Proposal" in the subject line.

Presenters are required to register for the Conference by August 1, 2018 to confirm their acceptance and be included in the Conference Program. Accepted presenters who do not register by the deadline will not be included in the Conference Program. The conference schedule will be finalized on September 1th and no changes to the conference program will be made after this date. Register: <http://humanscienceinstitute.org>

Handouts: There is a business center at the Mercy Center, but we suggest bringing handouts with you.

Technology: Standard audio/visual equipment will be provided.

Conference Retreat Registration Fees:

Early Registration by August 1, 2018

Conference Fee with all meals and overnight accommodations: **\$495.00**

Conference Fee with all meals *and no* overnight accommodations: **\$445.00**

Registration after August 2, 2018

Conference Fee with all meals and overnight accommodations: **\$525.00**

Conference Fee with all meals *and no* overnight accommodations: **\$475.00**

Important Note about Retreat Fees, Facilities, and Inclusions:

The Registration fee for those staying overnight at The Mercy Center includes room and board, that is all meals from Friday evening through Sunday lunch. Given San Francisco hotel rates, this is a 'deal.' However, please note this is a former residence for Catholic sisters and the rooms are for singles and the bathrooms are shared. You can see the accommodations here: <http://www.mercy-center.org/Conferences/MealsLodging.html>.

For those who live locally or will be staying elsewhere the Registration fee includes meals, but not lodging. To see the beautiful setting for our gathering take the tour: <http://www.mercy-center.org/Conferences/VideoTour.html>

Journal Submissions

You are invited to submit a paper based on your presentation in HSI's journal Human Science Perspectives. To have a paper considered, please submit it no later than November 1, 2018. Your paper may be a scholarly research paper, an essay, or a report on a program/project. See the Submission Guidelines posted on the Institute website.

To review current issues: <https://humanscienceinstitute.org/journal-and-publications/>