

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF
RELIGION, NATURE, AND CULTURE



FOUNDATIONS *and* FLUIDITY



20th Anniversary Conference



VENICE, ITALY
Ca' Foscari University
10 - 14 OCTOBER 2026



Conference Welcome Packet



in collaboration with
CA' FOSCARI UNIVERSITY AND WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY



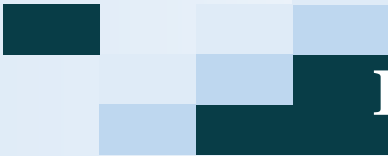
International Society for
the Study of Religion,
Nature, and Culture



Ca' Foscari
University
of Venice



WAKE FOREST
UNIVERSITY



ISSRNC President's Welcome

Dear Colleagues,

Twenty years have now passed since our first gathering in Gainesville, Florida. While much has changed in that time, the fundamental questions we have been asking remain urgent and pertinent. The dramatic drawdown in biodiversity continues. Climate patterns fluctuate in unforeseen ways. Social inequality grows unabated. Corporations increasingly function as supra-governmental policy makers. As scholars, we persist in asking questions about the linkages between these interconnected ecological crises and the ways they intersect with cultural expressions of religion and their analysis.

These crises demand precisely the kind of interdisciplinary, collaborative scholarly work that this community embodies. If you have read the Counterpoint blog created by former ISSRNC President Kocku von Stuckrad and current President-Elect Whitney Bauman, you can find reflections from each of our Society's Presidents and you will find connection woven through nearly every entry. We find connection in this scholarly community, in interdisciplinary work, and in the places we gather. These conferences have been the beating heart of our Society.

Yet we need not depend solely on in-person gatherings to sustain these vital connections. We can reinvigorate our Working Groups where collaborators might organize conference panels, pursue collaborative research, explore particular geographies and literatures, and maintain networks of collegial support. We can forge new partnerships through co-sponsorships with organizations that share our scholarly interests. We invite members to propose ideas for such collaborations—to imagine new horizons alongside our twentieth-anniversary celebration.

To accomplish these goals, we depend on you. We need more people to get involved, to explore new scholarly terrain, and to imagine collaborative opportunities. It is in that spirit of connection and collaboration that we gather in Venice.

None of this would be possible without the Board of Directors and Conference Committee, who have generously devoted their time to making this gathering a reality. We are also grateful to our co-sponsors at Ca' Foscari University and Wake Forest University, whose resources have helped to make this event possible.

I look forward to seeing you in Venice, and to the conversations and collaborations that await us.

Warmly,

Lucas F. Johnston
ISSRNC President

Conference Venues

The Conference events will take place at several different venue locations, with the majority of events hosted at [Ca' Foscari University](#).

Saturday, 10 October

Events | 3:00 pm—Conference Check In
4:00 pm—ISSRNC Conference Welcome Remarks
4:30 pm—Opening Keynote Address
6:30 pm—Welcome Reception

Venue | ** All Events will be held at Aula Magna Silvio Trentin | [Directions](#)

Sunday, 11 October

Events | 8:00 am—Conference Check In
8:30 am—12:00 pm—Plenary Sessions 1 + 2
1:30—2:15 pm—JSRNC and ISSRNC Working Group Interest Meetings
2:30—6:00 pm—Plenary Sessions 3+4

Venue | ** All Events will be held at Auditorium Santa Margherita | [Directions](#)

Monday, 12 October

Events | 8:30 am—Lazaretto Nuovo Field Trip
[Boat departs from [Zattere Incurabili](#) at 9:00am sharp.]
4:30—6:00 pm—Keynote Lecture and Documentary Film Screening
6:30—8:00 pm—Conference Banquet and Awards Ceremony

Venue | All evening events will take place on [San Servolo Island](#)
3:30 pm—ISSRNC Chartered Boat for San Servolo Island
**Boat departs from [Zattere Incurabili](#) at 3:45pm sharp.
8:30 pm—ISSRNC Chartered Boat back to [Zattere Incurabili](#)

**Please note that if you plan to attend the keynote but did not register in advance for the conference banquet, you will need to arrange your own transportation for the return trip. See here for the [Vaporetto Schedule](#) from San Servolo to San Zaccaria.

Tuesday and Wednesday, 13 + 14 October

Events | Concurrent Paper and Panel Sessions (All day)

Venue | 3 Rooms | Sala Morelli (Ground Floor)
Sala Geymonat (1st Floor)
Sala Milone (3rd Floor)
Building | Malcanton Marcorà, Dorsoduro [There will be signage]
Address | 3484/D, Calle Contarini 30123 Venezia | [Directions](#)

Arriving in Venice

Arriving by Plane

Venice Marco Polo (VCE) or Treviso (TSF) —→ Ca' Foscari University

There are several options for traveling from the airports to Ca' Foscari University.

Taxi + Vaporetto (Water Bus)

The best way to San Polo Island/Ca' Foscari from either airport is to travel via taxi to [Piazzale Roma](#) and then on to your destination via Vaporetto. From Piazzale Roma, take a vaporetto from [P.le Roma](#) to either the [S. Toma B](#) or [Ca' Rezzonico](#) vaporetto stop. From there, you will walk approximately 5–7 minutes to the venue location.

Taxi + Walking

Travel from either airport via taxi to [Piazzale Roma](#) and then continue on to your destination on foot. From Piazzale Roma, the walk to Aula Magna Silvio Trentin takes approximately 11 minutes. [\[Directions\]](#)

Bus + Vaporetto (Water Bus) or Walking

Another more affordable option is to take the bus from either airport to [Piazzale Roma](#) and then continue on to your destination either on foot or via Vaporetto.

From VCE to Ca' Foscari University [~20 minute bus ride, €8–€12]

Take the [ACTV](#) Line 5 aero bus or an ATVO airport shuttle from the terminal to [Piazzale Roma](#). From there, catch the vaporetto from [P.le Roma](#) or walk 15 minutes across the Constitution Bridge and through San Polo to your destination.

From TSF to Ca' Foscari University [~40-70 minute bus ride, €12]

To get from TSF to the San Polo/Ca' Foscari area, take Route 351 ATVO express shuttle bus from the terminal to [Piazzale Roma](#). This bus ride is longer, and will take between 40 and 70 minutes, depending on traffic. From there, catch the vaporetto from [P.le Roma](#) or walk 15 minutes across the Constitution Bridge and through San Polo to your destination.

Bus tickets can be purchased at automatic ticketing machines in the airport, or online at: www.veneziaunica.it. You can also purchase tickets via the app at: <https://avm.avmspa.it/en/content/avm-venezia-official-app>

Direct Vaporetto from Venice Marco Polo Airport (VCE)

You can also take a vaporetto directly from VCE to San Polo Island. The trip takes approximately 1 hour.

From the arrivals terminal at VCE, turn left and walk approximately 7 minutes via the covered walkway outside to the vaporetto docks. Take the [Orange Line](#) of the Alilaguna to [Ca' Rezzonico](#) and then walk approximately 5–7 minutes to the venue location. You can purchase tickets on site, at the dock, or you can find timetables and purchase tickets online in advance at: <https://www.alilaguna.it/en/>.

Arriving in Venice

Arriving by Train

If you are traveling by train to Venice, you will arrive at [Venice Saint Lucia Station](#). To make your way from the train station to the conference venue at Ca' Foscari University there are 2 options.

Venice Saint Lucia Station —→ Ca' Foscari University

Via Vaporetto (Water Bus) [~20 minutes]

Walk toward the exit of the station and down the stairs toward the Grand Canal. When you step onto Ferrovia dock, find the station for public vaporetto to San Polo Island/Ca' Foscari University. You will want to take **Line 1** to either the [S. Toma B](#) or [Ca' Rezzonico](#) vaporetto stop. From there, you will walk approximately 5–7 minutes to the venue location.

Walking [~15–20 minutes]

If you prefer to walk, exit the station and head left toward Ponte degli Scalzi, where you can cross the Grand Canal. From there, walk southwest toward Campo San Tomà. Continue in that direction toward the Rio di Ca' Foscari canal and toward Ca Foscari University, Aula Manga Silvio Trentin for conference check in. [[Directions](#)]

Getting Around in Venice

The best way to explore Venice is on foot. Remember that there are no cars or public transit available on the islands themselves, so make sure to bring comfortable walking shoes.

If you plan to travel between the islands, the best way to get around is via the public Vaporetto (water bus) system. Vaporetto tickets and multi-day passes can be purchased from the kiosk terminals located by most docks. We also recommend that you download the official [AVM Venezia mobile app](#) and create an account. You can use the app to purchase vaporetto passes and to check timetables.

The following passes are available:

7,50 € – 60 min of travel time

20,00 € – 24 hr travel card

30,00 € – 48 hr travel card

40,00 € – 72 hr travel card

60,00 € – 7 days travel card

*****Please note that the Vaporetto Pass does not include direct transit to/from the Airport. You will need to book an Alilaguna Water Boat pass for direct boat travel to/from the airport.*

Guest Resources—Health Care

Pharmacies

[Parafarmacia Al Ponte Dei Pagni](#)

Address: Sestiere Dorsoduro, 3066, 30123 Venezia VE, Italy [[Directions](#)]

Phone: + 39 041 241 2423

Hours: Closed Sunday; Monday to Saturday 9am—7pm

[Farmacia Dr. Max](#)

Address: Dorsoduro, 1053/C, 30123 Venezia VE, Italy [[Directions](#)]

Phone: + 39 041 522 0840

Hours: Closed Sunday; Saturday 9am—7pm, Monday to Friday 8:15am—7:30pm

[Pharmacy Saint Lucia](#) [Located near Venice Saint Lucia Train Station]

Address: Sestiere Cannaregio, 122e, 30121 Venezia VE, Italy [[Directions](#)]

Phone: +39 041 716 332

Hours: Sunday 9am-1 :30pm; Monday to Saturday 8am—8pm

Hospitals

[Ospedale Ss. Giovanni e Paolo](#) [Located in San Marco Island]

Address: Campo dei Santi Giovanni e Paolo, 6777, 30122 Venezia VE, Italy [[Directions](#)]

Phone: +39 041 529 4111

Hours: Open 24 hours, 7 days a week

****In case of medical emergency, please call: 112**

Guest Resources—Food

***Note: Apart from the pre-arranged welcome reception and the conference banquet, ISSRNC will not provide food/beverage during the conference. All meals and associated costs are the responsibility of individual participants. We have provided the following list of restaurants for participants' convenience. All eateries are within easy walking distance from Ca' Foscari. Hours of operation are subject to change. We recommend that you check the hours of operation online before visiting. **Click the links below for directions.**

Coffee + Breakfast

[Veniceat](#) – Ca' Foscari Campus Cafeteria

Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30am–7:00pm; Closed Saturday and Sunday

Located in the courtyard of Ca' Foscari University and open to everyone.

[The Caffe Rosso](#)

Hours: Sunday 10:00am–10:00pm; Monday - Saturday 7:00am–Midnight

Historic café with coffee, cocktails, and sandwiches

[Lunula Caffetteria Brunch](#)

Hours: 7:30 am – 6:00 pm daily

[Majer—Santa Margherita Bakery, Pastry, + Coffee Bar](#)

Hours: Monday – Saturday 7:00 am–9:00 pm; Sunday 8:00 am–9:00 pm

Traditional Sweet Shop + Coffee Bar

[Bar Pasticceria La Bauta](#)

Hours: Mon.– Fri. 8:00am–9:00pm; Sat. 10:00am–9:00pm; Closed Sunday

Espresso Bar + Pastries

[La Rusticheria Siciliana Venezia Dorsoduro](#)

Hours: Sunday 8:30am–3:00pm, Monday - Saturday 7:30am–8:30pm

Fast Food/ Street Food

[Bar All'Angeolo Ca'Foscari](#)

Hours: 7:00 am – 11:00 pm daily

Breakfast (toast/croissant/omelets/sandwiches)+ Coffee

[Niki Bar](#)

Hours: Monday – Friday 5:00am–3:00pm; Saturday – Sunday 7:00am–3:00pm

Restaurant serving homestyle breakfast + lunch

[Fluffy Brunch](#)

Hours: 7:30am–7:00pm daily

Brunch/specialty coffee drinks/GF options

Guest Resources—Food

Lunch

[Panini e Vini da Babbo](#) [Café]

Hours: Monday - Friday 7:00am—10:30pm

[The Caffè Rosso](#) [Café]

Hours: Sunday 10:00am– 10:00pm, Monday - Saturday 7:00am—Midnight

[Pizza al Volo](#) [Venetian Style Pizza]

Hours: 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM daily

[El Sbarlefo San Pantalon](#) [Tapas Bar]

Hours: Monday to Sunday 12:00—11:30pm

[Bakarò](#) [Venetian Cuisine]

Hours: 10:00am- 2:00am daily

[Frary's](#) [Mediterranean/Middle Eastern Cuisine with Vegan/GF options]

Hours: 11:30am—3:00pm + 6:00pm—11:00pm daily

[Trattoria pizzeria Antico Capon](#) [Venetian Cuisine]

Hours: 11:00am—11:30pm daily

[Trattoria Ca' Foscari al Canton](#) [Venetian Cuisine with Vegetarian Options]

Hours: Monday to Sunday 11:00 am – 11:00 pm

In San Polo, ~10—15 minute walk from Ca' Foscari

[Hostaria Sant'Aponal](#) [Venetian Cuisine]

Hours: 11am—10:30pm daily

[Bistrò 1473](#) [Venetian Cuisine]

Hours: 9:30am—10:30pm daily

[Il Capriccio](#) [Venetian Cuisine]

Hours: 7:00am—11:00pm daily

[Ristorante San Silvestro](#) [Venetian Cuisine]

12:00pm—11:00pm daily

Guest Resources—Food

Dinner

[L'Bacaro de' Bischeri](#) [Sandwiches]

Hours: Monday–Thursday 10:00am–7:00pm; Friday–Saturday 10:00am–8:00pm; Sunday 12:00pm–7:00pm

[La Tecia Vegana](#) [Vegan and Gluten Free Cuisine]

Hours: Tues–Fri 6:00–10:30pm; Sat. 12:00–2:30pm and 6:00–10:30pm;
Closed Sunday and Monday

[La Zucca](#) [Venetian Cuisine with Vegan and GF options]

Hours: Monday–Saturday 12:30pm–2:30pm and 7:00–10:30pm

[Bacaro Vintido](#) [Venetian Cuisine]

Hours: Tuesday–Sunday 12:00–3:00pm and 6:00–10:00pm; Closed Monday

[Africa Experience](#) [Senegalese/Ethiopian/Moroccan Cuisine]

Hours: 12:00–3:00pm and 6:00pm–midnight daily

[Osteria Cicchetteria “Aea Canevassa”](#) [Venetian Cuisine/Seafood]

Hours: Friday–Saturday 11:00am–11:00pm; Sunday–Thursday 11:00am–10:30pm

[Koenji](#) [Japanese Cuisine with Vegetarian Options]

Hours: Tuesday–Sunday 5:30–11:00 pm ; Closed Monday

[Osteria La Lanterna](#) [Venetian Cuisine]

Hours: 12:00–10:30pm daily

[Osteria Fanal del Codega](#) [Venetian Cuisine]

Hours: Friday–Wednesday 12:00–2:00pm and 6:00–9:00pm; Closed on Thursday

[Orange](#) [Bar and Grill]

Hours: 9:00am–2:00am daily

[Hostaria Osottoosopra](#) [Venetian Cuisine] **Check Prices

Hours: 12:00–11:00pm daily

[Ristorante Wistèria](#) [Venetian Cuisine] **Check Prices, reservation recommended

Hours: Friday–Sunday 12:00–1:30pm and 7:00–9:00pm; Monday–Tuesday 7:00–9:00pm; Closed Wednesday + Thursday.

Guest Resources

Supermarkets

[Nonna Bruna](#)—Italian Grocery Store

Hours: Monday and Thursday—Saturday 9:30am—7:30pm; Tuesday and Wednesday 9:30am—2:00pm and 3:00pm—7:30pm; Sunday 10:00am—6:00pm

[Conad City - Dorsoduro](#)—2 Locations on San Polo, Full Service Grocery Store

Hours: Monday—Saturday 7:30am—8:30pm; Sunday 9:00am—7:00pm

[Rialto Market](#)—Historic Outdoor Street Market

Hours: 7:30am—3:00pm daily

Specialty Shops + Craft Cocktail Bars

[Drogheria Màscari](#) [Historic Specialty Food Store; Spices and Wine]

Hours: 8:00am—1:00pm, Monday—Saturday; 4:00—7:30pm, Monday—Tuesday and Thursday—Saturday; Closed Sunday

[Aliani Casa Del Parmigiano](#) [Wine and Cheese]

Hours: 8:00am—1:30pm, Monday—Wednesday; 8:00am—7:30pm Thursday—Saturday; Closed Sunday

[Salumeria - Roby & Giusy](#) [Butcher Shop and Deli]

[Danilo Venezia Wine](#) [Local Wine Shop]

Hours: 9:00am—1:00pm and 4:00—7:00pm, Monday—Tuesday and Thursday—Saturday; Closed Wednesday and Sunday

[Pasticceria Toletta](#) [Bakery and Patisserie]

Hours: 7:30am—7:30pm Monday—Friday; 8:00am—7:30pm Saturday and Sunday

[Il Mercante](#) [Craft Cocktail Bar]

Hours: 6:00pm—1:00am daily

[Experimental Cocktail Club](#) [Craft Cocktail Bar]

Hours: 6:30pm—1:00am Thursday—Monday

[Cantina Do Mori](#) [Venice's Oldest Bacaro; Wine Bar]

Hours: 8:00am—7:30pm Monday—Friday; 8:00am—3:00pm Saturday; Closed Sunday

Local Attractions

Local Tours + Must See Attractions

Gondal Rides through the Venice Canals

Look for official signs around the city. City-mandated price sheets are posted at licensed docks like those near St. Mark's Square or the Rialto Bridge. Flat rate for entire gondola (up to 5 passengers). 9:00am—7:00pm daily; €80-90 for 30 minutes

Murano and Burano Islands Tour

Visit Murano and Burano Islands, where you will see painted houses and historical artesian glass and lace workshops. Trips are generally 5+ hours and begin at ~€55.

Palazzo Ducale [Doge's Palace]

Ornate Gothic palace buildings hosting exhibitions w/duke's rooms, prison & armory tours and the former residence of the Doge — the highest and oldest magistrate of the Venetian Republic. Self Guided Audio Tour.

Hours: 9:00am—7:00pm daily; Tickets: Adult €50/Student €25

Saint Mark's Basilica

Iconic cathedral with a cavernous, gilded interior. Myriad mosaics and museum.

Hours: 9:30am—5:15pm Monday—Saturday; Sunday 2:00—5:15pm

Tickets: Adult €56 / Student \$12

La Biennale di Venezia

International contemporary art exhibition in Venice that takes place every two years. Find tickets for art, theater, cinema, dance, music, and more online.

Basilica Santa Maria della Salute

Spectacular domed baroque church with unique octagonal design and sacristy housing 12 works by Titian. Tickets required.

Santa Maria della Visitazione—Church of the Pietà

Where composer Antonio Vivaldi wrote much of his work, including Four Seasons. Free/Open to the Public.

Basilica de Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari

Imposing Gothic-style church completed in 1330s housing 2 works by Titian along with his tomb. Hours: 9:00am—5:30pm Monday—Saturday; Sunday 1:00—5:30pm

Tickets: Adult €8 / Students €3

Local Attractions—Museums

Museums

****Note:** If you enjoy museums, we recommend purchasing the [Palazzo Ducale Venice Museum Pass](#), which allows you to visit 11 museums across the city for ~€50. Several of the museums listed below are included in this package.

Leonardo da Vinci: La Mostra a Venezia

Hours: 10:00am—7:00pm daily

Tickets: Adult €9; Children and 65+ €6

Ca'Rezzonico Museum

Hours: 10:00am—6:00pm daily; Closed on Tuesdays

Tickets: Adult €15; Children and 65+ €7,50

****Included in the Palazzo Ducale Venice Museum Pass**

Gallerie dell'Accademia

Museum of 13th to 18th century Venetian artwork, w/paintings by Titian, Canaletto, Bellini, and Tiepolo

Hours: 9:00am—7:00pm; Tuesday—Sunday; Closed on Monday

Tickets: Adult €18

Peggy Guggenheim Collection

18th Century waterside palace with 20th century art collection and interior sculpture garden

Hours: 10:00am—6:00pm Wednesday—Monday; Closed on Tuesday

Tickets: Adult €17; Children €14

Scuola Grande di San Rocco

Ornate, 16th century art museum featuring works by Renaissance artist Tintoretto

Hours: 9:30am—5:30pm daily

Tickets: See website for all ticket and pricing options

Correr Museum

Hours: 10:00am—6:00pm daily

****Included in the Palazzo Ducale Venice Museum Pass**

Ca' Pesaro International Gallery of Modern Art

****Included in the Palazzo Ducale Venice Museum Pass**

Palazzo Grassi

Classical 17th century palace with contemporary art and a collection from Francis Pinault.

Hours: 10am—6:00pm Wednesday—Monday; Closed Tuesday Tickets: Adult €20; 65+ €15

Points of Interest

Self Guided Walking Tour—Points of Interest

Free Walking Tours of Venice

Independent licensed guides who offer free, sustainable, self-guided and group walking tours. Book dates online and meet up with people to explore Venice. Tours are offered through multiple sites. See, for instance, [Guru Walk](#) and [FREETOURL](#).

Bridge of Sighs

See the infamous bridged named for the sighs heard from prisoner's crossing en route from Palazzo Ducale to prison.

Ponte di Rialto [Rialto Bridge]

See the 16th century bridge over the Grand Canal to Rialto Market

Magazzini del Sale [Salt Warehouses]

Built in the 15th century, the salt warehouses have helped to shape Venice's economy. Renovated in the 18th century and saved from destruction in the 1970s, the salt warehouses are now a cultural hub that are regularly used as event venues, including during the bi-annual Biennale.

Campo San Barnaba

Public square well known for its historic church, famous floating vegetable market, and appearances in Hollywood cinema.

Campo Santa Margherita

Historic landmark that was central in 19th and 20th century political activism for the Italian Socialist Party. Today, it is host to several cafes and shops.

Scala Cortarini del Bovolo

Restored 15th century palace with a spiral staircase which was used as the film set for Orson Wells' Othello.

Liberia Acqua Alta Bookstore

Eclectic bookstore with vintage tiles, modern displays, and resident cats.

Giardini Papadopoli

Quiet garden / green space along the canal.

Giardini della Biennale, Calle Giazzo

The traditional gardens of the Biennale Arte exhibitions since 1895. See the Biennale Library, which is part of the central pavilion. For more information, see the official [Biennale Gardens](#) website.

Giardini Reali

See the Royal Gardens of Venice, which are connected to the Piazza San Marco. Admission is free. For more information, visit the [Giardini Reali](#) website.