

**2018 Social Science Education Consortium International Conference**  
**Democracy at a Crossroads: Examining the Past and Facing the Future**

June 5, 2018 – June 10, 2018  
Florence, Italy

The 2018 Social Science Education Consortium (SSEC) International Conference will be held in Florence, Italy, from June 5, 2018 through June 10, 2018. Highlighting the conference's theme **Democracy at a Crossroads: Examining the Past and Facing the Future**, presenters and attendees will be given an opportunity to discuss the future of world democracy, by looking at recent historical cross-cultural phenomena and noting what these portend for social science and social studies educators now and in the future. Florence is the perfect site for this exploration, as it is an epicenter of the evolution of modern government, art, and socio-cultural constructs.

Conference questions should be referred to Michael Berson ([berson@usf.edu](mailto:berson@usf.edu)), Jim Davis ([jamesdavis711@gmail.com](mailto:jamesdavis711@gmail.com)), or Rich Diem ([richard.diem@utsa.edu](mailto:richard.diem@utsa.edu)).

**Hotel**

The 2018 SSEC Conference will be held at the Hotel Ambasciatori in Florence from June 5 – 10. The hotel has 220 rooms, is air-conditioned, has free Wi-Fi, international television access (CNN, BBC), and a lobby ATM. It is directly across from Florence's main train station, and one block from Santa Novella Piazza and Church. For those flying directly into Florence, it will take about 20 minutes to reach the hotel. From the Pisa airport, it takes about an hour to get to the hotel. It is a ten-minute walk to the heart of Florence (the Dumo) and its main attractions. There are numerous restaurants, bars, and pizza places within 5 minutes walking distance from the hotel.

Room rates include a continental breakfast served from 7:00 AM – 10:00 AM. A buffet lunch is also available to guests. There is a very nice bar on the second floor, open from 10:00 AM – 2:00 AM. There are both gluten-free and vegetarian options on their menu.

The rooms are very modern and up-to-date with European style baths. A double room will accommodate up to four people.

The conference center is on the second floor. They have a complete AV set-up, including a computer and presentation device. Those of you bringing your own computers will need an adaptor for electrical purposes. They can copy any papers, or other items we may need, on the premises.

Directly outside the conference center is a bar/reception area where we can have our breaks during the paper sessions. They can send up snacks and drinks as we wish.

The hotel will extend conference room rates two days prior the conference for those wishing to be in Florence before the conference starts. They cannot do this after the conference, as they have another group coming in after we leave. If rooms are available, you can stay at the regular room rate.

The hotel will provide a shuttle from the Pisa airport if requested.

Ambasciatori Phone: +39 02 76020241

Booking Website: <http://www.hotelambasciatori.net/index.htm>

Use this reservation code: A1A2018

Single room/night – 215 Euros; Double room/night – 235 Euros, both plus city tax

*The hotel wrote us that credit cards will not be billed until the time of check-out. Reservations can be modified or cancelled without penalty up to 30 days prior to check-in. After that, they are subject to full charge. You may book for two days ahead of the conference, but not after the conference.*

### **Transportation Options**

- a. Fly directly to Florence: There are no non-stop flights from the United States to Florence. If you choose this option, you will have to go through a European gateway. It would probably be the most expensive option, unless you have stopped off somewhere in Europe before the conference. The Florence airport is about 20 minutes from the hotel.
- b. Fly to Rome or Milan and take a train to Florence: Landing at the Rome airport, you can take a direct train to the Rome Termini and get a non-stop train to Florence. Total cost for both will be about \$55.00(US). It takes 90 minutes to get to Florence from Rome.

Landing in Milan, you can also take a train to Florence. It takes an hour and forty minutes and costs \$38.00(US).

- c. Fly to Pisa and take a train to Florence: If you choose to arrive in Pisa, you will also have to make a stop in either Rome or another European city. Costs are close to round-trip flights to Rome. As noted above, it is about an hour to the hotel from the Pisa airport.

\*Note that all train tickets can be purchased online.

\*\*For most, the best travel options would be to fly into Rome or Milan and take the train to Florence, unless you are coming from another European city and can get a cheap flight from there into Florence.

## **Proposed Conference Schedule**

June 5<sup>th</sup>: Opening reception/registration/information session. 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

June 6<sup>th</sup>: Walking tour of Florence, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, led by Art Historian. Leave hotel, walk down toward Dumo, visit Academia where the David is housed, walk through center of Florence with sites described by the leader. End-up at Ristorante Il Pennello (near Dante's house) for lunch from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM. Rest of the day free for conferees to visit other Florence sites, including Uffizi, Ponte Vecchio, and Florence markets. Dinner on your own, or an opportunity, for those who want to visit Fiesole, for an over view of Florence at the La Reggia restaurant.

June 7<sup>th</sup>: Visit to Sienna, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, led by Sienna guide. Includes visits to Sienna synagogue, city hall, and cathedral. Lunch in restaurant under main square. Dinner on your own.

June 8<sup>th</sup>: Conference paper presentation, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Papers continued after lunch, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM. Dinner on your own.

\*Snacks/drinks for break and buffet lunch outside the conference center.

June 9<sup>th</sup>: Visit to winery in Tuscany with lunch, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

June 10<sup>th</sup>: Check out of hotel