



## AAAS January 2022 Newsletter

**Conference Info below — Save for later and for future reference**

Dear AAAS Members,

It doesn't quite feel right to say "Happy New Year," at least for me living in Boulder County where my community has already weathered a mass shooting on March 22 and then on December 30 [the most devastating fire in Colorado history](#) burned entire neighborhoods, including the homes of some friends—991 homes are gone. Matthew, our corgi Chaucer, and I pre-evacuated to campus during the fire, and our home & neighborhood are in-tact, which I'm grateful for—but there is so much suffering in my community, which means perhaps I want to wish everyone a "happier" new year since there are likely struggles and grief that you've all had to navigate last year—even while I hope there were many moments of shared laughter, wonder, and joy that you all got to experience.

**Email letters of acceptance were just sent out on Tuesday (January 4).** If you didn't receive a notification, please check your Spam folder. What follows is information related to registration for the Denver 2022 conference.

### **AAAS Denver Conference: Ruin and Renewal – April 14-16, 2022**

As I described in [last month's newsletter](#), we intend to hold the conference in-person until public health concerns dictate otherwise. While I know Omicron has everyone concerned and while we don't know what variants may emerge in March and April, I'm hopeful that with the COVID precautions we've put in place, we can host an in-person conference.

The conference will feature concurrent in-person panels Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and on Saturday there will be remote/zoom panels happening—panels are either all in-person or all remote. This means that if you are attending in person but participating in a remote panel on Saturday, you will need to access wifi and login to Zoom to participate in your remote panel and/or to attend a remote Saturday panel. The cost of securing wifi in the conference rooms was cost prohibitive to offer hybrid panels (wifi in conference rooms is how hotels make a lot of their \$\$\$). The conference will be held at the Hilton Denver City Center: <https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/dencyhh-hilton-denver-city-center/> -- downtown Denver is easily accessible through light rail (the A train) from Denver International Airport to Union Station and then a 15 min walk or a short but ride (#43, 48) from Union Station to the hotel; there are also shuttles/taxis/ride shares that you can take. The hotel room rate for AAAS conference attendees is \$169/night plus 15.75% tax. The conference site is also walking distance from both the [Denver Art Museum](#) and [History Colorado](#).

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**conference on or before March 1 to ensure that your name will appear in the program.** You can access the [Event Brite registration site here](#), and you can find information about conference registration [on our website](#). When you register you will be asked to upload your COVID-19 vaccination card or a medical/religious exemption file. I'm copying the language about COVID-19, vaccinations, and masks from our registration site at the end of this newsletter.

In the event that we will have to pivot to an all-remote conference, we are asking chairs of panels to fill out this [google form](#) and to share a zoom link. For people who submitted a single proposal and were put into panels, we ask that each panelist submit a zoom link and that once you are introduced to one another, you select which of the links you want to use. If you submitted for a Saturday remote panel, you are required to send us your zoom link on the [google form](#) as well. We hope that we will not need to pivot to all remote, but collecting zoom links now will enable us to move quickly to an all-remote option, if the need arises.

Finally, I want to pre-thank all of you for [registering](#) on or before March 1, as well as filling out the [google form](#) with your zoom links as soon as you can. Doing so ensures that the conference co-chairs, Marguerite and Cat, as well as our very hardworking volunteer staff don't have to send follow-up individual emails tracking down people for their zoom links and it means we won't have to field requests of people who missed the March 1 deadline and therefore won't be featured in the conference program. The more you can fill out these forms ASAP and register ahead of March 1, the easier it makes it for our staff, conference organizers, and board members. Also, I'd like to ask for everyone's kindness and patience. You may run into problems and will need to ask us for help. It may take time for us to respond given that we all have full-time jobs. Please remember that we're all doing the best we can and any extra grace you can extend to our hard-working staff is greatly appreciated. You can reach me at [aaaspresident@gmail.com](mailto:aaaspresident@gmail.com) and send general inquiries to [aaascontact@gmail.com](mailto:aaascontact@gmail.com).

Finally, let me leave you with a poem from [Craig Santos Perez](#) that he posted to [Twitter on December 31, 2021](#) called "Elegy 2021"—it sums up perfectly, for me, what the past year has meant.

Sincerely,



**Jennifer Ho**, AAAS President

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### **Vaccination Requirement for AAAS 2022 in Denver**

After carefully reviewing the public health data, we have decided that attendees at the in-person conference this spring must be fully vaccinated as currently [defined by the CDC](#) (January 1, 2021), and boosted (receiving one mRNA shot) prior to attending. As a registrant for this event, we ask that you complete the following form, which will ask for your vaccination status and acknowledgment of our COVID-19 waiver. Information you share on this form will only be accessible to those responsible for the execution of this program.

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be able to attend the event but will be required to provide documentation of a negative PCR COVID-19 test completed no more than 72-hours prior to arriving onsite. At this time, we are not requiring daily testing of our participants, but we reserve the right to update this procedure if the COVID-19 status changes in the location of the event.

You will be required to show documentation of your vaccination status or your negative PCR test results at onsite registration prior to receiving your name tag. If you are not able to provide this documentation, you will not be allowed to participate in the event.

### **Mask Requirement**

AAAS will also require that attendees, sponsors, exhibitors, faculty, and hotel staff wear [masks](#) during the event.

Masks are to be worn at all times except while actively eating/drinking, presenting, or in an outside venue. Masks must cover both the mouth and nose. We ask that participants honor the requests of others to wear masks and/or maintain physical distancing.

### **Onsite Meeting Logistics and Physical Distancing Options**

During the event, the AAAS volunteer leaders and staff will make every effort to provide a healthy and safe environment for the event. We plan to have physically distant conference seating and any meal events. More information will be available on the event website prior to the event.

We continue to monitor the pandemic situation and will communicate with you regularly regarding any changes in programmatic offerings and/or managing the event.

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