

First Circular and Call for Organized Symposia and Roundtables



Planning is underway for the 26th SAfA conference at **Rice University in Houston, Texas, USA, 1-6 June 2023**. This circular provides basic information, a call for proposals for organized symposia and roundtable discussions, and an outline of key dates and submission deadlines.

Conference schedule

Tentatively, the schedule will include Student Day activities organized on Thursday, 1 June, followed by symposia, roundtables, social activities and the business meeting on 2-5 June, and excursion(s) organized for 6 June. Additional information on these activities and the precise schedule will follow in subsequent circulars.

Travel to the United States

If you will require a visa to travel to the United States, we strongly recommend applying as soon as is practical. Letters attesting to your attendance at the meetings may be obtained by filling out a form in

[English](#) or [French](#). These letters are for visa purposes only and do not imply acceptance of abstracts or travel funding. The application period for travel grants will open at the end of 2023 (see timeline below).

Housing

Affordable housing and meals will be available in the Rice University residential colleges. There are a number of hotels within a short walk to campus. More details will be available on the [website](#) in coming months.

Conference format

While we hope that many SAfA members will be able to travel to Houston, the conference will offer opportunities for both in-person and online participation. All classrooms at Rice University are adapted to enable hybrid sessions with both in-person and online participants, and a limited number of online-only sessions will be planned as well. Online-only sessions will be restricted to the early morning hours in Houston, in order to maximize participation by attendees in later time zones.

Types of activities and participant roles

Four kinds of activities will take place at SAfA (in addition to Student Day and social activities):

- **Poster sessions**, with posters placed in timeslots by the Organizing Committee
- **Organized Symposia**, organized by chair(s), with individual papers and optional discussants. Chairs will initially submit a proposal with symposium title, abstract, and tentative list of participants by a 1 September deadline. There will be an online portal available for these submissions. More details will be provided in the second circular at the beginning of August. Abstracts for symposia participants' contributions will be submitted by a later deadline.
- **General Sessions**, which will include individual papers proposed outside of the organized symposia.
- **Roundtable Discussions**, centered on particular themes and organized/moderated by chair(s).

To maximize participation, each participant will be allowed to take on up to three of the following roles:

- Presenter of a poster or paper. Each participant is limited to being lead author/presenter on ONE paper or poster.
- Symposium or roundtable (co-)chair. Participants may chair more than one session.
- Symposium discussant. Participants may be a discussant in more than one session.

For example, a participant may be lead author/presenter of one paper, and co-chair two symposia. All participants leading a paper or poster, chairing a symposium or roundtable, or acting as a discussant, must be SAfA members. For papers and posters, there is no limit to the number of additional (non-presenting) coauthors. We do not consider participation in a roundtable as a 'presenter', so this will not count toward your three-role maximum participation.

Upcoming deadlines

1 August	Second circular: procedure and forms to propose a symposium or roundtable
1 September	Deadline for submitting symposium or roundtable proposals
1 October	Third circular: procedures for abstract submissions
1 November	Deadline for paper and poster abstract submissions and travel grant applications
1 December	Deadline for travel grant applications; Fourth circular: registration opens
1 January	Travel grant awardees notified
1 February	Deadline for early bird registration
1 May	Advance registration closes

Contact information

Conference website: <https://safarchaeology.org/>

Conference email: safa2023conference@gmail.com

SAfA2023 Organizing Committee

Jeffrey Fleisher, Rice University (co-Organizing Secretary)

Mary Prendergast, Rice University (co-Organizing Secretary)

Zoë Crossland, Columbia University

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Karen Lupo, Southern Methodist University

Susan McIntosh, Rice University

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