

NECS European Network for Cinema and Media Studies
VR 25865 B
Steuernummer: 17/454/04258

NECS Conference Cancellation

16/03/2020

Dear all,

Due to the uncertain situation world-wide caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the NECS Steering Committee in consultation with the NECS 2020 Local Organizing Team decided to cancel the upcoming NECS conference, which was planned to take place in Palermo from 18-20 June.

We are very sorry about this development, especially since the interest for this conference was extremely high. Also, the NECS 2020 Local Organizing Team and the Conference Committee did a tremendous work during the last months, for which we would like to thank them once again. However, the Steering Committee felt the need to act responsibly and quickly. As a European network, our conferences usually bring together people from a large variety of countries and nationalities. Since the development of COVID-19 is difficult to foresee especially on an international scale, it is difficult if not impossible to predict what the situation will be in June. The SC felt it needed to take this decision at this early stage in order to minimise unnecessary expenditures by conference attendees for travel to Palermo. We should add that several conference participants had already let us know that they were cancelling their trips because their institutions are prohibiting international travel at the present time.

We did explore options for a virtual conference but had to conclude this is an unfeasible alternative due to the scale of NECS. Furthermore, NECS largely functions as a network, and its conferences host many activities such as workshops and workgroup meetings that aim at exchanging ideas and stimulate collaborations. It is impossible to implement a virtual solution for this in an effective way.

Cancellations of flights and hotel reservations

If you are contacting airlines or hotels to request refunds or cancellations for travel and accommodation arrangements made, these will inevitably be subject to the original terms on which you booked with the supplier. In cases where institutions are prohibiting non-essential international travel, these institutions may be offering to

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cover costs. Otherwise, claims for such costs will be conditional on the terms of institutional or personal travel insurance.

Should you need to supply evidence of the conference cancellation, please contact us. We can send you a letter confirming cancellation of the conference and summarizing the reasons why.

Future Conference

We do intend to run the planned NECS conference in Palermo, although any planning for that must be placed on hold while we wait to see when and how the current uncertainties are resolved. We are exploring all possible options to organize the conference at another moment later this year. The Steering Committee will contact you as soon we have more detailed information about eventual rescheduling of the conference.

We are very sorry for the inconvenience but hope that you understand how important your well-being and that of everyone involved is to the NECS SC.

For now, stay safe and healthy!

NECS Steering Committee (Michael Cowan, Judith Keilbach, Bregt Lameris, Skadi Loist, Raphaëlle Moine, Laura Niebling, Michal Pabis-Orzeszyna, Antoine Prévost-Balga and Andrea Virginás)

