



Stony Brook University and Florence University of the Arts are pleased to announce the 9th Annual Conference, which will take place in Florence on Friday, December 1 and Saturday, December 2, 2017.

The international conference is titled: 1968: Where Have All the Flowers Gone? Reflections on the 1960s Revolutions

Certain years hold particular symbolic value: one of these is 1968. A turbulent period in history associated with the unrest and Counterculture of the 1960s, it was a year of both triumph and tragedy. America soared to new heights, introducing the first Boeing 747 and orbiting the moon, but the year was also marked by the assassinations of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy. Between 1967 and 1968, the Chinese Revolution peaked, and the underlying themes that came to the forefront sparked interest among students and intellectuals in the Western world. In many parts of Europe and the United States, college students participated in tumultuous and often violent demonstrations.

The anti-war and civil rights protests across the US, the revolts at UC Berkeley, Prague Spring, the May '68 events in France, and the clashes at Valle Giulia in Rome are only some of the manifestations of the growing unease that crossed much of the Western world in those years.

In truth, there is no one singular corpus of ideas or ideology of '68; the positions were so numerous, varied, and conflicting that in the concrete reality of every day, each group, or party seemed at odds with everyone else, each accusing the other of being objectively fascist, capitalist, bourgeois.

It is possible, however, to trace some of the ideas and, even more so, the common mental attitudes which made those historic movements, even in the deep diversity of their positions, possible. One could say that they are characterized not so much by their common goals but by their common enemy: the general attitude of the time was the desire to change the status quo and so the true opposition was the whole of society. It was an uprising against the "establishment." The desire for freedom was expressed in the rejection of social conventions and traditional institutions, the family in particular. The desire to experience new dimensions found its way in the use of drugs, as well as in an interest for everything that was an "other," including cultures (interest in other literatures, religions, philosophies), food (interest in ethnic alternative foods), and music and art as a whole. The general consensus among the "revolutionaries" of the time was that everything should be allowed or, at least, experienced.

What has remained of all this? The four-year period that goes from '66 to '69 was most certainly a moment of decisive transformation for the Western world. At a vantage point of 50 years in the future from that time, this Conference will aim to provide, with a critical eye, an in-depth reflection on those years.

The fields the conference addresses are History, Literature, Journalism, Geopolitics, Sociology, Politics, Religion, Cinema, and Food Culture. Suggested topics include but are not limited to:

- i The Legacy of 1968
- i Chinese Cultural Revolution and its influence in relations with the West
- i Pacifist Movements in USA, Prague Spring, May '68 events in France
- i 1968 as one of the "formative events" in the history of our modern world-system
- i 1968 as a Social and Cultural Revolution
- i Contemporary Music
- i Art and Architecture
- i Literature and Philosophy
- i Human and Civil Rights
- i Religions and Spirituality
- i Feminist Movements
- i Food Culture
- i History of the Western Society

ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS

One-page abstract (not exceeding 300 words) and short Curriculum Vitae

The above materials must be submitted in the English language to conferences@fua.it no later than July 15th, 2017. All proposals will be examined by the Conference Scientific Committee, which will notify selected candidates by July 31st, 2017.

Conference presentations will be conducted in English for a maximum of 20 minutes. The selected papers will be published in an online volume of the conference proceedings.

CONFERENCE VENUE

Florence University of the Arts
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