



Annual Corporation Meeting on June 27, 2021

As a 501(c)3 corporation, we are required to hold annual member meeting of the corporation, usually carried out at the annual conference. All members who are current with their dues may vote on all motions. This year, the corporation meeting will be held virtually in conjunction with the annual conference. The meeting will begin at 2:00 PM EDT on Sunday, June 27, we are scheduling a virtual corporation meeting via the Zoom conferencing tool. Members can access the meeting via phone or Zoom. We will send out the agenda in advance, with complete participation instructions. So, **SAVE THIS DATE AND TIME: Sunday, June 27, at 2:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time.**

2021 SSEC Virtual Conference Register Now!



The 2021 Annual Conference is scheduled for **June 25-27** (Friday through Sunday) via Zoom. We will have a total of 35 presenters who will provide a combination of panels, papers, and classroom applications. A informal **SPARK session** will facilitate discussion of

preliminary and ongoing research and will tackle conceptual, theoretical and methodological quandries. While we cannot enjoy our usual exploration of the locales we visit, we will take a virtual tour. Having survived the largest pandemic of our time, we will travel back in time and **follow a plague doctor along the streets of Prague** in 1713. Our tour guides will provide live commentary and field participant questions. You can [review the conference program and register here](#). The Zoom link will be provided to registered participants just prior to the conference.

Thanks for Board Service



As of the June annual corporation meeting, two of the SSEC's dedicated board members will be rolling off the board. **Michael Berson** (University of South Florida), who provided extended service to SSEC, will complete his term as Past President. **Christy Hammer** (University of Southern Maine)



will complete her three-year term at the same time. Both have provided valuable service to SSEC and tremendous dedication to the goals and growth of our organization. **We are accepting nominations for two new Board members for 3-year terms beginning on July 1.** Member nominations (and self-nominations) should be sent to [President Greg Samuels](#) ASAP.

Honors

Past SSEC member **James A. Banks**, Kerry and Linda Killinger Endowed Chair in Diversity Studies Emeritus at the University of Washington (Seattle) "is among the leaders in academia, business, philanthropy, the humanities and the arts elected as **2021 fellows of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences**. AAAS is one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious honorary societies. Honored for his work in education, Banks is the founding director of the Banks Center for Educational Justice – originally the Center for Multicultural Education – in the UW College of Education. He retired from the UW in 2019, after 50 years. Widely known as the 'father of multicultural education,' Banks specializes in the teaching of social studies, diversity, and citizenship education."



What's New at SSEC

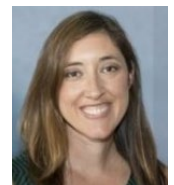
Webinar Series

In the fall of 2020, the SSEC Board decided to initiate a series of occasional events as a service to SSEC members and a means of outreach to the broader social studies/social science education field. Our first offering was a 90 minute webinar in January, highlighting the publication of **The Divide Within: Intersections of Realities, Facts, Theories, and Practices** with the help of the chapter authors. Thanks to SSEC Board member **Laura Handler** for hosting that January webinar.



Our second webinar at the end of March focused on **Women as Activists: How, Where, and Why We Act**, including a panel of authors assembled by SSEC Board host **Kathryn Engebretson**. Feedback from participants was glowing, from a broad spectrum of experience in the field.

On May 26, we presented the third of our spring webinar offerings, spearheaded by SSEC Board member **Sara Demoigny**, with the substantial contributions of other members. Another stellar panel engaged in **Challenging the Myths: Possibilities of Integrative and Critical Elementary Social Studies**.



These webinars were recorded and [uploaded to the SSEC website](#). We expect the series to continue in the fall. What topics would you like to see? What topic would you like to host?

Social Media *(What's New at SSEC continued)*

We've been working on using social media to extend our outreach to potential new members. Thanks to our webinars, we have built up our electronic mailing list substantially and conducting follow up after each event. Together, the spring webinar attracted 150 non-members, including students, faculty, and classroom teachers. We would like to be more successful at attracting social scientists with an affinity for the pre-college classroom. Any ideas?

To help us gauge the effectiveness of our web presence, we have integrated [Google Tracker](#) with the SSEC website. We get monthly reports on website users, what they look for, and user characteristics. It provides a wealth of data we have yet to fully explore.

With the addition of recorded events, we have established an [SSEC YouTube channel](#) – currently a capability waiting to be fleshed out. As a “brand” channel, we can also do live streaming if we so choose.

Member Survey Results

This spring the SSEC Board distributed a survey to current members asking for guidance in two areas: (1) locations [for future domestic and international conference sites](#), and (2) preferences for future webinar topics, include topics members might like to offer. With a 70% return rate, here are the results:

Conferences. We presented two domestic options for consideration: Birmingham AL and Milwaukee WI. Using a five-point Likert scale, Birmingham scored 3.49 compared to 2.89 for Milwaukee. The survey offered fifteen options for future international conference locations, based on existing potential collaboration partners. The following options score above a 3.0 average (in order of preference): Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Ecuador (Quito), South Africa (Cape Town or Durban), Australia (Sydney), and Morocco (Marrakech).

Webinars. Survey respondents offered an array of [topics for future webinars](#), with no discernible clustering around individual ideas. Members proposed webinars on civic engagement/critical service learning, elementary education, rebuilding world history, integrating science [environment] and social studies, teaching controversial issues, transatlantic civic education, race and anti-racism in social studies, STEM & social studies, quantitative research & data analysis, and “Twenty years after 9/11: What has been the civic education impact of the terrorist attacks?”

Articles, Presentations, and Productions



Dean Vesperman

(University of Wisconsin-River Falls)

(2021). “Just voting for the side you believe without understanding the other argument does nothing to further democracy:” The evolution of preservice teachers’ conceptions of democracy. [Great Lakes Social Studies Journal](#), 1(1), 37-47.



Crista Banks (Murray State University)

(2021). Banks, C.K. & Hendrith, S. (2021). Using current events to develop civic-mindedness in the social studies classroom. [In Context](#), 4(1), 1-4.

Charles White

(Social Science Education Consortium)

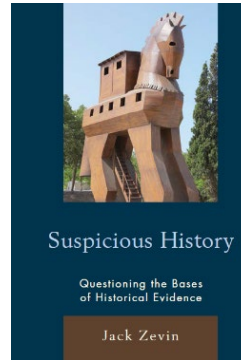
(2021). Made an invited presentation at an online international civic education conference, [Civic Education for Lithuania and Global Success](#), in Vilnius, Lithuania, on May 13-14. His topic was



[Teaching Citizenship in a Time of Global Autocracy, Disinformation, and Truth Decay](#) and his remarks were simultaneously translated and streamed to the host’s YouTube channel.



Jack Zevin



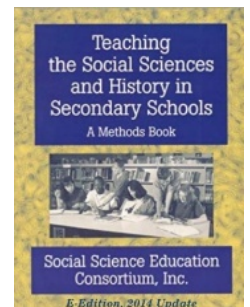
[Suspicious History: Questioning the Bases of Historical Evidence](#) (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2021). “Suspicious [History] aims at providing teachers and students of history and related social sciences with ideas for critical thinking about past and present applied to documentation, images, and historical writing. Issues of perspective, bias, storytelling, patriotism and heroism, as well as interpretation are distributed among different chapters, along with guidance for making discussion provocative and involving, in light of principles for rethinking history.” (publisher website). Also, Jack’s 1990 book [Social Studies for the 21st Century](#) will be released shortly in its 5th edition (2021).

SSEC Publications

While we did not have a conference in 2020, we are pleased to say that SSEC has produced a new book to be released this fall. [Fostering Diversity and Inclusion in the Social Sciences](#) will be the third volume our [SSEC Book Series](#) published by Information Age Publishing. The book is edited by [Greg and Amy Samuels](#), who serve as series co-editors. It will be listed on the IAP SSEC Book Series page. SSEC members in good standing will receive a free copy as a member benefit when it is released.

Teaching the Social Sciences and History in Secondary Schools: A Methods Book

Formerly published by the Social Science Education Consortium through Waveland Press (2000) and Wadsworth/Thomson/ITP (1996) the new digital edition (2014) continues to be ordered for pre-service secondary social studies courses. In addition to having its content comprehensively updated, each chapter includes active web links to a wide variety of Internet-based social studies teaching resources. The text can be purchased in PDF format for \$26.06. Contact publications@ssec-inc.org for more information.



News from Overseas

Jean Monnet Program (European Union)



(Our good friend and colleague from Germany, [Karlheinz Dürr](#), has submitted this item.)

With its program "Erasmus+," the European Union (EU) implements one of the world's largest funding programs. Named after the Dutch philosopher and Christian scholar Erasmus of Rotterdam (1466-1536), the program funds actions and projects in the fields of education, training, youth and sport. In addition to offering grants for student exchanges, Erasmus+ also supports teaching, research, networking, and policy debate on topics related to European integration. Thus, it is the umbrella label for a number of "sub-actions" for general and vocational education. It was recently relaunched for a new 7-year period (2021-2027) with a budget of 28 bn Euros (33.8 bn \$), almost doubling the budget of its predecessor period. Like no other EU program, Erasmus+ embodies the spirit of the European idea. For more than three decades, it has been a major flagship for academic exchange and mutual understanding in Europe, aiming at the creation of a Common European Educational Space.

One of the major "sub-actions" under the overarching roof of Erasmus+ is the [Jean Monnet Program \(JM\)](#), named after one of the founding fathers of European integration. It is dedicated to building bridges between academics, researchers, and EU policymakers. The main focus is on initiatives that encourage teaching and research on EU integration and that foster a better understanding of Europe's place in a globalized world. The Jean Monnet Program is one of the main actions which provide additional funds aimed at increasing the participation of higher education institutions from countries outside the European Union, designed at promoting the Union's strategic interests worldwide by reinforcing its external strategies, policies, and actions.

Thus, each year, the Jean Monnet Program receives applications from all around the world, many from the US and Canada, but also from Latin America, Russia, China, and Australia. JM supports four funding lines. It funds Jean Monnet Chairs and Jean Monnet teaching modules, furthermore the creation of European Centres of Excellence (recognized for their high quality research into, and teaching of, topics relating to European integration), and supports the creation of networking between academic institutions on these topics.

In the previous funding period, these projects brought together 1500 professors and reached half a million students every year. All JM projects are selected on the basis of their academic merits and through a rigorous peer-review process. They are implemented in strict compliance with the standards and principles of academic autonomy and freedom. In the last period, the JM action supported a considerable number of project applications from the U.S., Canada and other American countries.

For more detailed information on the Jean Monnet Program and application process and deadlines see: https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en



From Our Partners

SSEC Champions the Education for American Democracy Initiative

SSEC joined other organizations as a "Champion" of [Educating for American Democracy \(EAD\)](#) and we stand in agreement that K–12 education plays a pivotal role in ensuring the next generation is prepared to strengthen and sustain our constitutional democracy. Spearheaded by our partner [iCivics](#), EAD is the result of several years of research and development by over 300 academics, historians, political scientists,



A subset of EAD "champions" with links

K–12 educators, district and state administrators, civics providers, students, and others from across the country. A key product of this collaboration is the [EAD Roadmap](#), organized



around seven themes. It then presents five design challenges that span the seven themes and that reflect the six core pedagogical principles presented in *its Pedagogy Companion*. The EAD initiative coincides with a number of bills introduced in Congress to aggressively fund expanded history and civics teaching. [Ace Parsi](#), [iCivics](#) senior director of outreach and dissemination, will present an [EAD session at the upcoming SSEC conference](#).

IAP Creates an SSEC Conference Bookstore

[Information Age Publishing](#) continues to serve as SSEC's official publisher as we add titles to our [SSEC Book Series](#). As noted above, a third title in the series, *Fostering Diversity and Inclusion in the Social Sciences*, will be added this fall. IAP also posts [Calls for Chapters](#) for upcoming SSEC publications and makes our biannual newsletters available to IAP users. IAP also gives SSEC a [deep member discounts](#) on SSEC books, as well as a 25% discount on its entire catalog. IAP also supports an [annual Young Scholar award](#) of \$250 (except for COVID-19 years). For our 2021 annual conference, they are adding another benefit – a [virtual conference bookstore](#) open to all conference registrants offering a 35% discount on paperbacks and 42% on hard-cover titles.



Support the work of SSEC!

We welcome your tax-deductible donations in any amount to support the work of SSEC, especially our Young Scholars program. Advanced graduate students, post-docs, and pre-tenure faculty are selected to present at our annual conferences and receive free conference registration and partial travel reimbursement. For donations of \$100 or more, we are pleased to send you a small thank you gift – the official SSEC coffee mug pictured here.

Do we have your email address? Communicating via email saves postage. Email us at ExecDirector@ssec-inc.org.

Member News



James A. Banks served on the Steering Committee that developed the report [*Educating for Civic Reasoning and Discourse*](#). It was published by the National Academy of Education. “The aim of the Educating for Civic Reasoning and Discourse report is to better prepare students to examine and discuss complex civic, political, and social issues by ensuring that the curricula, pedagogy, and learning environments that they experience are informed by the best available evidence and practice. This includes identifying opportunities to learn from well-established areas of interdisciplinary research on human learning and development, as well as current exemplars of instruction.”

Crista Banks will be leaving Murray State University in August and taking a new position at the University of North Texas at Dallas. She will be an assistant professor in elementary education and the social studies program coordinator.



Joseph Stoltman, former Board member and SSEC president, tells us that “it has been over a year since I was on an airplane. March of 2020 I led a field study at Point Reyes and returned to Michigan wearing a mask on the plane (my wife is a virologist who took a righthand turn into public health at the University of Michigan with an MPH in her credentials after her PhD and envisioned what was coming with the Coronavirus -- and it did). “My trip to South Korea in June is off again, but the EU decision has put my trip to Norway in August 2021 back on the nearly a possibility list. In the past year I have cancelled Spain, Norway , Chile/Argentina, South Korea, and China. Staying home was the best - and the only - choice. We are both healthy and looking forward to the day when Michigan’s conservatives can come to grips with the reality that Whitmer is actually a very competent governor.”

Bill Stepien, former SSEC member and UNCC conference participant, is feeding the fire of his enduring love of history. “My teaching methods and research interests changed early in my career when it became very clear that students loved exploring history more than just covering it. That was in the 60s and 70s. And what a great time to be a history teacher! Research on inquiry, simulation, moral reasoning and questioning strategies was abundant and a number of organizations were fanning the flames of change. With my retirement from the classroom and consulting in 2010, something else became very clear about history, social studies and me. Retirement does not mean the fire in your belly goes out!



“So, about five years ago, I began looking for another group that might be interested in exploring history (especially with coffee and croissants within reach). I contacted the Charlotte (NC) public library system and the Levine Community Center’s senior group. I was surprised to learn, although I shouldn’t have been, that both organizations thought there would be an appreciative audience for programs that took adults on an exploration of history topics that contained unresolved mysteries, unusual twists and turns, or just

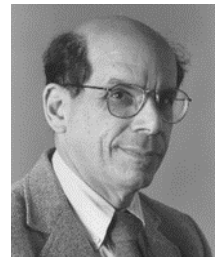
surprising things they never got to in school. Today, I do three History’s Mysteries programs each month (via Zoom) for organizations in the Charlotte area. To my delight, [*History’s Mysteries*](#) will be offered to blind and physically handicapped members of BARD, a library program offered by the Library of Congress, beginning in June.

“And here is something else I need to share. Putting together and delivering the hour long programs each month brings me almost as much satisfaction as did the daily journeys of discovery that took place in the classroom. My wife and I listen to podcasts, attend Senior Scholars at a local university, listen to audio books (I can no longer read the printed page), and turn the Internet inside out looking for topics we believe will excite our audiences. And then the real fun begins. We create a 20 slide Power Point program, with text and graphics, in a way that promotes speculation and conversation with our audiences as the programs unfold. Here’s a few programs we’ve done during the last six months:

- The Evolution of Time
- How the Sears Catalog Changed America
- Mysteries in the White House
- The Americas before Columbus Arrived
- Mysteries Archeologists Can’t Explain
- Where Did Skyscrapers Come From - How High Can They Go?
- What Does the Evidence Say About Oak Island?
- Women and the Game of Spy Craft

Might a form of [*History’s Mysteries*](#) fit into your future plans? Leave a little space just in case.”

Jack Zevin and his wife Iris keep extraordinarily busy. Jack developed a webinar presentation of [*COVID-19 Economic Policies*](#) for the Association of Teachers of Social Studies of the United Federation of Teachers (ATSS/UFT) in New York City. He and Iris are working on a new [*international mysteries course*](#). He’s hoping that trip with the National Geographic on the Columbia River doesn’t get canceled.



Donate to the Young Scholar Program

Make a Donation

PayPal or Debit/Credit Card

At the beginning of 2019, SSEC initiated an online means to accept donations for the Young Scholar Program. We are most grateful to those who have helped raise over \$1,500 from April 2020 to April 2021. The names of our benefactors during that time appear below.

We appreciate our benefactors



Since April 2020, we received donations for the **Young Scholar Program** from the following individuals and sources::

• Charlotte Anderson	• Anonymous	• Mary Haas
• Carole Hahn	• Jean Craven	• Jim & Sharryl Davis
• Christy Hammer	• Roger Miller	• Murry Nelson
• Maggie Tittler	• Charles White	• John White, Jr.
• Anny Wu	• SSEC Book Royalties	

Do we have your email address? Communicating via email saves postage. Email us at ExecDirector@ssec-inc.org.