

sSPT2023 4-10 June 2023, Otranto

Newsletter #5

Dear All,

you are receiving this message because either you formally subscribed to our mailing list, or at some point mentioned you would like to receive information about sSPT23. You can of course unsubscribe at any moment.

All the previous newsletters are available on the workshop web page

<http://www.sptspt.it/SPT2023.html>

1. The sSPT23 workshop is organized by G. Gaeta and S. Walcher, with the precious help of R. Vitolo.
2. You find information about a number of matters, including practical matters as Hotel fares and registration procedure, in previous Newsletters.
3. The deadline for proposing talks has now expired, and we have now a list of other accepted talks (available online); it is the privilege of those giving an early acceptance to our invitation – and thus making this workshop possible at a time when pandemic fears were higher than now – to have more time to communicate their title & abstract; a number of our invited speakers have anyway already given these, and you find everything in our preliminary titles & abstracts booklet, available through our SPT2023 webpage.
4. It turns out the workshop, albeit not as large as pre-pandemic SPT meetings, is going to be quite larger than initially foreseen, so that the qualification “small” is a bit out of place (we will see if leaving it in the denomination or taking this out). You will note, looking at the list of titles, that in the end it is however a bit “smaller” in the sense it is less interdisciplinary than previous editions (in particular, nearly no quantum physics at all). We trust it is however still quite interdisciplinary, and that speakers will keep this in mind when preparing their talks.
5. The fact we are going to have more talks than expected led us to foresee a shorter length for each talk. This in turn means we could still allot a few more contributed talks (when I say “few” I mean two or three). Those who wish to make a late proposal should do this **by the end of January**; these late talks could be given a shorter slot independent of their scientific merit, and those exceeding the number of available slots will be put in a “waiting list”. After this date you can still propose talks, but these will be considered only in case of cancellations, i.e. be put at the bottom of the waiting list; a poster option could also be available (if there is sufficient demand for this).

6. All participants should take care of their own lodging reservation, possibly taking care of the convenient half-board rates we secured at the conference hotel. You are of course free to lodge elsewhere and join for the conference (possibly also for dinners, of course paying these separately). In this case it might be convenient if you can tell us, as we cross our registration data with the reservation data at the hotel.
7. As you might remember, the Hotel is keeping all of their rooms (slightly less than 50) for SPT participants until the end of January (we hope they will not be too strict in this, but don't count on it); after this dates, rooms can be booked by the general public. On the other hand, cancelation is possible free of charge up to a conveniently late date, see the reservation form, to protect you from possible unforeseeable problems (including, albeit we all hope this will not be the case, a pandemic resurgence). This is to say that those intending to lodge at the conference hotel should make their reservation as soon as possible. Late comers will still be able to enjoy the conference reduced fares, but the Hotel could be fully booked.
8. You might be already dealing with your travel arrangements, in particular those intending to fly. In this respect, the Hotel communicated us the current fares for transfer (please note these are by a company they usually work with; they could change, in particular if gasoline price raises, and on the other hand you might be able to find cheaper arrangements); as several options are possible, I will split them into several points. Please note that later on there will be more detailed information provided by our Lecce friends (many thanks to Raffaele Vitolo!) so take these as preliminary information just to get an idea.
9. First of all, a word about distances:
 - Lecce/Otranto is about 43 km
 - Brindisi/Otranto is about 97 km
 - Bari/Otranto is about 215 km
10. If you come by **car** (your own or rented at the airport) please note that the Hotel does NOT have a parking lot. Free parking is available at about 200mt from the Hotel; parking on the road in the immediate surroundings of the Hotel costs about 1.40 E per hour (usually in Italy this is 8-20, I am not sure about Otranto), the hotel garage would cost about 12 E / day.
11. If you come by **train**, you will most likely go through Lecce, which is connected to all major cities in Italy, often by direct trains. You find connection schedules on the Trenitalia web site (www.trenitalia.com); summer schedule should be announced sometimes in the spring. See there also for the Lecce-Otranto trains. Later on our friends from Salento will also provide us with bus schedule for the Lecce-Otranto trip.
12. If you **fly to Brindisi** you can either have a taxi/minibus direct to Otranto or use the airport shuttle to Lecce (see below). There is also a train Brindisi-Lecce, but this appears to be less convenient as it would involve reaching Brindisi station from the airport.
13. If you **fly to Bari**, a direct taxi is most probably not convenient in terms of cost; you can instead use the regular – and frequent – train service to Lecce, and get a transfer (or another train) to Otranto from there. There is a train station in Bari airport.
14. A transfer Lecce/Otranto by taxi/minibus will cost
 - For 1-3 persons (car), 80 E
 - For 4-8 persons (van), 110 E

15. A transfer Brindisi (airport) / Otranto by taxi/minibus will cost
- For 1-2 persons, 100 E
 - For 3-4 persons, 120 E
 - For 5-8 persons, 150 E
16. We will later on put in contact participants flying to the same airport so you can share a taxi/van and split the cost. As you see from the prices given above, if you fly to Brindisi it makes little sense to go through Lecce and get a taxi from there.
17. Should you by any reason find it more convenient to get a Saturday/Saturday or Sunday/Sunday travel, you may of course spend the extra day in Otranto itself, but I would suggest you also consider spending one day in the beautiful city of Lecce – or Bari, if you fly through there.

Giuseppe Gaeta

January 22, 2023