

Information for poster presentations (FAQs)

What is a poster presentation, and what is the role of this genre in the context of a scholarly conference?

As a genre within the context of a scholarly conference, the poster is one of the most accepted forms of presenting research findings. Naturally, the visual nature of the poster plays a prominent role, since the poster itself, usually one square-meter in size, creates an opportunity for a concise spatial organization of research findings. One of the advantages of this genre is that it fosters direct interaction between the presenter and people who take an interest in the research in question, and this interaction is not confined to any rigid timeframe. We ask that participants who wish to present posters at the 13th National Pedagogy Conference submit electronic versions of their posters to us, as we intend to give bound copies of the posters to all the participants in the conference.

How does the genre of the poster compare with the traditional oral presentation from the perspective of prestige?

Some of the participants in the conference who will use posters as the genre of their presentations will submit the abstracts of their presentations as posters. Some do this because the striking visual nature of the poster genre suits the given subject (for instance the poster creates an opportunity for detailed presentation and analysis of photographs and colored diagrams). Some people prefer the less rigidly structured interaction and discussion that evolve between presenter and audience, a kind of interaction that fosters a more personal response than the traditional, more monologue-like oral presentation. One finds very fine work among the materials that were originally submitted as posters.

At the same time some of the poster presentations were originally submitted as traditional oral presentations, and because of the system of points that was established we offered prospective participants the opportunity to present their findings as posters. Unfortunately the very tight schedule of the conference puts a limit on the number of oral presentations that can be held (it is worth noting that we have endeavored to keep the number of parallel sections to a minimum). The spatial problems that arise in the case of poster presentations, in contrast, are fairly easily solved (in a space where one can present 20 posters, there is usually room for 40 or even 80).

We also find numerous excellent abstracts among the materials submitted originally for oral presentations that should not be excluded from the conference simply because they were not given the minimum number of points on the basis of the assessments of the judges.

How are the posters presented?

As noted in the call for papers, the posters are organized into thematic units consisting of 8-10 posters. The poster section, which will last 60 minutes, is led by the chair of the section, who is selected by the program committee. We suggest the division of this period of one hour into the following: (1) the first fifteen minutes will be devoted to free contemplation by the viewers of the posters, (2) in the second and third fifteen minutes the authors will speak for roughly 3 minutes on

the most important aspects of their research, and this will be followed by (3) open conversation and debate.

How can one summarize the most important aspects of a research project in three minutes?

First and foremost, one should not speak about the research itself, since even a single-sentence summary of a research project would exceed the time limits. Presenters should focus instead on the organization of the poster, how the images and text are arranged, which parts of the poster merit particular attention, and which parts are particularly essential.

How large should an eye-catching, informative poster be, and how should it be organized?

The size of a poster in general is roughly the size of an A0 piece of paper (841 × 1189 mm). In recent years, presenters have tended to use PowerPoint (or similar software) to create posters that are coherent wholes. It costs roughly 10.000 forint to print a poster of this size on paper of an appropriate quality. Posters consisting of two pieces of A1 paper are also common, though one also sees posters made using 10-12 sheets of A4 paper. We use glue or pins to hang the posters, depending on the material of the screens to which they are affixed. We will make these materials available to participants in the conference.

Depending on the nature of the research (empirical or theoretical), we suggest presenters adopt one of the following two organizational divisions in the preparation of their posters:

Posters that have been designed in order to present the findings of empirical research are usually divided into the following six, visually distinct units:

1. Title, author, contact information, mention of any sources of funding
2. Theoretical background
3. Research questions, hypotheses
4. Methodology
5. Findings
6. Discussion, conclusions, a short bibliography

We suggest that posters that have been designed in order to present the findings of theoretical research be divided into the following organizational units:

1. Title, author, contact information, mention of any sources of funding
2. The relevance of the theoretical problem; an overview of the secondary literature
3. The opinion of the author regarding the theoretical question at hand
4. Arguments in support of the author's viewpoint
5. The relevance of the author's viewpoint from the perspectives of theory, practice, and policy
6. Discussion, conclusions, bibliography

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