Conferences & Publications

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How many of you have previously presented at a conference or published your work?
Presentation Outline:

• In this session, we are going to discuss two important factors of professional development in graduate school:
  • Conferences
  • Publications
• You’re not going to be able to do everything at once, so we are here to demystify the process for you!
Conference Presentation

- Why should graduate students attend conferences?
- What is the process of conference application and presentation?
- How will you fund them?
Why Conferences are Important:

- Conferences can give you an opportunity to present and gain feedback for your research ideas.
- It helps you gain confidence
- You can later change these conference papers into publication papers
- Conferences help you network with other graduate students and faculty members
Why Conferences are Important:

- In many cases, you might also get to meet with prospective employers and publishers

- Finally, and the most important advantage is that attending conferences are very good for your CV.

Next, let's talk about the process of conference application...
Submitting Conference Proposals

- Ask your advisor, graduate coordinator, or colleagues
  - Figure out the different conferences that you can attend, on-campus, regional, national or international.

- Look through the website of these conferences and follow the application procedure.
  - For example, focus on the date for submission deadline, the word limit required, and whether you want to present individually, in a panel or as a poster etc.
Things to Remember:

- You do not need a complete paper at the time of application
- An abstract or an idea is good enough for application
- In fact, you can use conference deadlines to complete your dissertation chapters and get initial feedback.
Opportunities on Campus

Graduate Research Symposium (April 9-10, 2020)
• Interdisciplinary panel presentation
• Receive feedback + opportunity to win awards
  https://youtu.be/cedJULzVmYY

Three Minute Thesis Competition (Fall 2019)
• Present research in 3 minutes using one PowerPoint slide
• Preliminary round winners present in front of university audience in the final round
• Registration to participate as a presenter will open in early September.
Planning to Present at a Conference

• Once your application has been accepted, you should start preparing for your presentation
• Do not wait till the last moment to prepare and submit your conference paper
• Figure out the travel arrangements including flight tickets and nearby hotels
Planning to Present at a Conference

• Talk to your faculty members and graduate students, see if they are attending the same conference

• You can collaborate and present in a conference

• Conferences can give you the opportunity to meet reputed scholars in your area of expertise; make time to attend those presentations
Networking Tips

• Carry your own business cards

• Remember to collect the business cards of scholars and fellow panelists

• This will help you network and connect with them after the conference
Funding Conference Travel

• Graduate Student Senate (GSS):
  • Domestic Travel Award
  • International Travel Award
• Departmental Grants / Support
• Student Organization Grants

If you are planning on applying for any GSS Travel Awards, you must be presenting at the conference.

Go to https://www.kent.edu/graduatestudies/gss-awards and/or the GSS session for specific dates and deadlines.
Funding Conference Travel

Other Options:

• Conference Travel Awards
• Graduate Student Volunteering at Conferences
• Individual Grant Research
• Shared expenses with colleagues

If you are preparing a poster, you may want to review these resources:

https://postersmith.com
https://www.kent.edu/ehhs/centers/irc/services
Presentation Tips

• Do not write or revise your paper or poster at the conference.
• Be professional and collegial
  • Show up early to your own session
  • Don’t go over your allotted time
  • Listen carefully to others
  • Stay to say thank you and/or answer questions
Conference Survival Tips

• Do not try to attend every session
• Take breaks and wear layers
• Self care (proper sleep, dietary needs, etc.)
• Take notes during presentations
• If you want to sightsee, arrive early/stay late
Academic Publishing

Comic:

1. WHAT IS WRONG WITH MY WRITING?
2. WELL, FOR STARTERS, YOU USE TOO MANY SENTENCES.
3. ALSO, YOUR CHOICE OF WORDS IS OFTEN INCORRECT.
4. AND YOUR PUNCTUATION MARKS ARE STRANGELY PLACED.
5. REALLY, THE TROUBLE BEGAN WHEN YOU FIRST PRESSED A KEY ON YOUR KEYBOARD.
6. ANYTHING ELSE?
7. YOUR FIGURES ARE UGLY.
Why Publish?

• Share your research (and awesome ideas)
• Enhance your academic and professional résumé/CV
• Help get full time work in some fields
• Academic and professional expectations
• Immortality!
Examples of Academic Publications

- Journals
  - Research Articles
  - Literature or book reviews
- Books or book chapter
- Proceedings (publishing a conference paper)
Publication Routes?

- Consult with your advisor, coordinator, or peers
- Know which publications are emphasized in your field
- Join professional organizations in your field of study (set up Contents Alert)
Writing Tips

- Use the journal’s required citation style (e.g. APA, MLA, CMS, APSA, Chicago)
- Choose an effective title (and a subtitle)
- Keep track of your references (Zotero, Mendeley, etc. help)
- Collaborate with other authors early on (consider the order of authors)
- Set up a session with your research librarian
The Submission Process

• Pay attention to deadlines!!!
  • Submit manuscript in publication’s desired format (electronic or hard copy).

• Check publisher’s website for formatting guidelines and writing styles
  • Also: abstract, appendix, datasets, etc.

• Be prepared to WAIT. Do NOT submit identical manuscripts to multiple publications at the same time.
Review Process & Feedback

- Editor sends manuscript to (2 or 3) reviewers
- Rejection; Revise and Resubmit (different levels); Acceptance
- Rejection is not the end of the world! Feedback is good.
Authorship & Collaboration

• What if you are asked to collaborate for potential publication? Or, you want to ask someone?
  • Establish a clear understanding of expectations (Order of authorship)
  • Communicate conflicts of interest or concerns
  • Be collegial, but remember your rights and boundaries
Writers Beware!

- Peer review
  - Measurement of scholarship quality (Impact Factor)
  - Try to publish in a peer-reviewed journal
- Poor-Quality Journals
  - Use a database (Cabell’s) to determine a journal’s reputation and compare rankings
- Predatory and Pay-to-Publish
  - You do not need to pay to have your work published
- Open access publications?
  - Availability & accessibility
  - Loss of copyright can be harmful
It’s a Process!

Coursework → Comps → Prospectus Defense/Filing → Thesis/Dissertation Defense
Complex Conversation:
Academic Rejection

https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLdvTi4C_V8FU8vodEvNq5vyQExbJecZ3p&time_continue=2&v=-3j5PbV7mEQ
Thank You!

Questions?

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