

## COMICS/POLITICS FAQs FOR PRESENTERS

### **Who do I contact if I have accessibility questions or requests?**

Contact the conference email as soon as possible to let us know about accessibility needs.

### **How long do I have for my presentation?**

Panel papers should be no longer than 20 minutes. Roundtable presenters will have 5 minutes at the beginning of their session for opening comments and then the moderator will move the roundtable into discussion mode. Moderators will be asked to keep all presenters to their time limits in order to allow enough time for questions and discussion after the presentations.

### **Who is the audience and how should I pitch my presentation?**

The audience at CSS conferences includes academics, researchers, students, artists, teachers, librarians, curators, and members of the comics community. This is a peer-reviewed conference, and you should assume the audience is familiar with the basics of comics studies. The audience may not be familiar with your area, approach, or comics, though, so try to pitch your presentation for both specialists in your sub-field and informed non-specialists in the broader field of comics studies.

### **What should I expect if my presentation is scheduled on Community Day?**

Community Day is the Thursday morning of the conference open and free to the public, and you should expect additional audience members from the local educational, artistic, and activist communities. Papers scheduled on Community Day speak to readers and attendees beyond academic comics studies, but you should still pitch your paper as above.

### **How will I be introduced?**

Following on a practice established at the inaugural CSS conference, moderators will introduce presenters by name, affiliation, and paper title. We will not be requesting or reading out bios in the panels or roundtables. We got overwhelming feedback from last year's conference that this is a more inclusive practice and allows for more presentation time.

### **I'm new to this field/conference/academic presentations, do you have any tips?**

Here are a few tips from members of the organizing committee:

**PRESENTATION:** Papers should be written for the ear, not the eye, meaning that you should write your paper for the audience's ears instead of how it will look in eventual published form. A conversational style is more accessible than a very tightly argued and densely written paper, but there should still be a clear organization, argument, and analysis.

Try not to over-pack your paper so that you have to read very quickly, and time reading your paper in advance to ensure it isn't too long. If you need to scale back your proposal (which will not be published in the program), no need to apologise, we all understand that conference presentations are works in progress. However, you were accepted to the conference on the basis of this proposal and panels have been organized accordingly, so do work with the main ideas and argument you submitted.

SLIDES: Your presentational slides (e.g., PowerPoint) are not your presentation. Less is more when it comes to filling each slide, and the fewest number possible is the ideal number of words on any given slide. As a rule of thumb, keep each slide under the 5 x 5 rule: No more than 5 lines of text and no more than 5 words per line. Be sure to describe the images on your slides rather than letting them scroll by without comment. Include the credit information for images (artist & source).

### **What kind of vibe does this conference have? Should I wear a suit?**

The vibe at last year's conference, which we are continuing this year, is friendly, relaxed, and focused on sharing the latest research in comics studies. Wear what you're comfortable wearing (or wear your #womenonpanels tshirt from our fundraiser!) because Toronto is hot and humid in July and you'll have to go outside at some point.

### **What technology is available in the presentation rooms?**

The presentation classrooms feature a podium, with multimedia equipment stored inside, and a ceiling mounted data/video projector. A touch screen or key pad on the podium provides basic control over the equipment installed in the room, including the desktop computer with USB ports, laptop computer input, and a sound system.

Please go to your presentation room 10 minutes before your panel and set up your technology. Saving your presentation on a USB or in a filesharing service will make it easier to set up than connecting your laptop.

### **How do I connect to WiFi at the conference?**

Eduroam is available on the Ryerson University campus. We will also provide the login and password to connect to the local WiFi.

### **How do I print documents at the conference?**

There is a TPH: The Printing House directly across the street in the Eaton Centre, and they can print documents sent digitally or taken in on a USB: <https://www.tph.ca/web-to-print-solutions>.

See the Conference Information page for more on the campus and Toronto area.