

## Submission and Review of Conference Abstracts for the Gender Section

### Submitting an Abstract to the Gender Section.

All proposals for a paper presentation at IAMCR must be 500 words. Abstracts can be submitted in any of the three official languages of the association: English, French or Spanish. Presentations, as well, can be made in any of these languages. Although it is not required, it is encouraged that a presenter provide Powerpoint slides summarizing their key points in the other two Association languages for the benefit of all members.

What should be in the abstract? The abstract should provide a sufficient basis to perform a fair and complete evaluation. Although there is no fixed format, abstracts generally include: (1) an introduction, stating a basic research question or a problem that the paper will address; (2) a review of past attempts either to address this question, or else the sort of tradition(s) that this paper comes from or touches upon (in short, a literature review); (3) an explanation of the methodology—whether your proposed work seeks to advance a theory, collect and analyze data, answer a study question and/or interpret results, a clear explanation of the way the paper will proceed, should be articulated; (4) some discussion of known or expected results; and (5) the importance of the above elements for the Section—in short, a justification why the proposed paper should be included on the program and heard by our members.

(N.B. while a literature review is encouraged, a bibliography should not be included. Citations should simply be placed in the main body of the text. The 500 words of the abstract should all be devoted to describing the research project).

About the Abstract Review Process. To date, the Gender and Communication Section has employed a selection process involving multiple reviewers and collective, consensual decision. As is true of the majority of Sections and Working Groups in the association, it has not employed blind peer review, although this is something the Section aspires to, given sufficient volunteers. We would encourage any interested persons to contact us about serving as an abstract reviewer.

### Selection Criteria.

Beyond the static review of the abstract, itself, it is important to bear in mind that many factors contribute to the determination of which papers will be selected for any given conference. These include, but are not limited to:

- a. the originality of the proposed research;
- b. the thoroughness and quality of the proposal;
- c. the impact of the proposed research on the improvement of Women's Human Rights
- d. the "fitness" of the paper with the conference theme;
- e. the fitness of the paper with one (or more) of the themes highlighted in the Section's Call for Papers;
- f. the cohesion between the paper and a critical mass of other quality papers on an topic or substantive area of relevance to the Section;

- g. the number of sessions allocated to the Section by Conference organizers;
- h. the number of other quality papers submitted to the Section;
- i. whether the presenter has had another paper accepted by our Section at the conference being panned;
- j. whether the presenter has presented the same or similar material before (either in the Gender and Communication Section, another section of IAMCR, or a comparable professional association like ECREA or ICA).
- k. Whether the presenter has had a paper accepted at a prior conference, but then failed to attend, without explanation.

In addition, the Section administrators may consider other factors that relate to the Section's mission in selecting certain proposals; in particular: our aim of encouraging young scholars and assisting their early career vector, as well as our preference of securing geographic, methodological, empirical and thematic diversity in our final conference program.

Admittedly, the process is not entirely "scientific", nor does it pretend to be. Rather, it seeks to be thoroughgoing and fair. Those whose papers are not accepted should not infer that our reviewers and program planners are declaring that the proposal was of insufficient quality. Nor would we wish those whose presentation could not, for any of the above reasons, be included in our program, to become discouraged and refrain from submitting their work for future conferences. We hope they would continue to support and contribute to the activities of the Section either through attendance, future conference planning and administration, or future submissions.