ABSTRACT FORMATS

Long paper – methodology

Duration: 45 or 60 minutes (We expect that most will be 45 minute sessions. Please offer justification for the longer session in your justification statement, if seeking a 60 minute session.)

Procedure: Presentation maximum 30 or 45 minutes, with at least an additional 15 minutes for questions and discussion. Suitable for one or more presenters.

Content: Present, explain and illustrate with example(s):

- a new or significantly adapted **method** or set of methods used within a realist evaluation or investigation. Innovative methods designed to facilitate use of realist findings will be of particular interest;

    OR

- a particular **issue** in realist methods (e.g. cross-cultural investigation, statistical methods in realist evaluation);

    OR

- **philosophical or theoretical** development within realist methodology.

Long paper – use of realist findings

Duration: 45 minutes

Procedure: Papers will be up to 30 minutes long, with an additional 15 minutes for questions and discussion. We strongly encourage having two presenters for these papers, with a researcher/evaluator presenting methods and a commissioner/user discussing use of the findings, each presenting for approximately 15 minutes.

Content: Preference will be given to abstracts where commissioners/users co-present the paper with researchers/evaluators. Papers on evaluations, reviews or other realist investigations will be considered, and preference will be given to those where:

- there is an approximately equal focus on the methods used within the investigation and the use of the findings;
- the implications for methods of how and why the findings were (or were not) used are clearly described; and
- there is specific methodological interest or value (e.g. use of innovative methods designed to facilitate use of realist findings)

It is not necessary for the investigation to have been deemed a 'success' – simply that there was a clear intent to use the findings, and that the design was realist. We are as keen to learn about 'what hasn't worked, and why' as we are to learn about 'what has worked, and how'. Papers which explore or compare use of findings over multiple realist investigations will also be welcomed.

Short paper

Duration: 30 minutes

Procedure: 20 minute presentations, with 10 minutes for questions and discussion.

Content: A particular aspect of realist methodology, often in relation to a single evaluation or investigation. Papers may be presented by evaluators/researchers, commissioners/ users or both. Preference will be given to papers where there is a clear focus on the relationship between realist methods and use of the findings.

Multi-paper sessions

Duration: up to 90 minutes

Procedure: Up to 3 papers on a project or a linked theme are proposed by different presenters. Papers can be, but do not have to be, equal in length; for example, there could be one longer paper accompanied by two short allied papers. At least 30 minutes for questions and discussion must be reserved, whether these are scheduled between each paper, or time is reserved after all the papers are presented.

Content: The relationship between papers, on a topic relevant to the conference themes and using one or more realist approaches, should be clearly described in the abstract.

Panel sessions

Duration: 45 minutes

Procedure: Multiple presenters present a suite of issues or ideas linked to a particular realist topic or theme. Presentations should total a maximum of 30 minutes, with an additional 15 minutes for questions and discussion. The names of panellists and the topic should be included in the abstract.

Content: Any topic that relates directly to the themes of the conference.

Round-table

Duration: 60 minutes

Procedure: All participants discuss ideas or questions put by the facilitator, in small groups.

Content: Roundtables provide an opportunity for participants to discuss ideas or questions together, and so should address a topic that draws upon the knowledge, experience and views that participants bring to the session. The presenters should introduce the topic in no more than 15 minutes to allow time for small group discussion and feedback.

Skills workshop

Duration: 90 minutes

Procedure: Training workshops focusing on a particular skill in realist research, evaluation or synthesis

Content: Workshops should be 'hands-on', experiential and/or participatory, and provide opportunities for participants to practise the skill within the session. The abstract should provide a timetable for the workshop, specify whether the workshop targets a particular audience (e.g. evaluators, PhD supervisors, commissioners of evaluation), maximum attendees and what level of preparation, experience or previous knowledge is required to benefit from the session.

My thesis in focus

Duration: 90 minutes

Procedure: Graduate students and their supervisors attend together, meeting in small groups (e.g. 3-4 students plus supervisors). Each student presents briefly (around 10 minutes) on a challenging aspect of their project and presents an issue or question which the group discusses. Each session is led by an experienced realist advisor who can answer questions and provide feedback.

Content: The abstract can be from a group of 3-4 students or from a single student who will be assigned to a suitable group at the conference. Projects can be at any stage from conceptual development to reporting; specify which stage of development and/or aspect of the topic will be addressed in the 10 minute presentation.

PechaKucha

Duration: Session length to be advised, subject to the number of abstracts.

Procedure: 20 slides are presented for 20 seconds each (a total of 6 minutes 40 seconds). The emphasis is on clarity, brevity, and getting one key message through to the audience (with wit and humour encouraged). Multiple presentations are delivered in a short time, with brief questions of clarification in between if required and general discussion after all presentations.

Posters

Posters are a succinct visual representation of an idea, process, methods or findings. Posters are ideal for presenting findings from realist projects where there were no specific innovations in methods or methodology. They can also be used to raise issues in relation to methods.

Other formats

Duration: 30 to 90 minutes

Procedure: Feel free to propose other formats for sessions. The format and its purpose should be clearly explained in the abstract, with the justification statement explaining how this format will provide learning (relevant to the conference theme) that others do not.

Content: Presentations can be as short as 5 minutes each as long as they add up to at least 20 minutes in length (with 10 minutes for questions and discussion), and do not require more than 90 minutes, including question and discussion time. The topic(s) must relate to the theme of the conference, but otherwise be as innovative as you like. Note that only standard presentation technology is currently available.