

CALL FOR PAPERS
51st Annual Parapsychological Association Convention held in conjunction with the
Society for Psychical Research
The University of Winchester West Downs Centre, Winchester, UK
August 13-17, 2008

Program Information

The 2008 Annual PA convention will be a joint convention held in conjunction with the Society for Psychical Research, and be held at the University of Winchester West Downs Centre, Winchester, UK, from August 13-17, 2008. Information regarding registration and accommodation will be available in due course from the PA or SPR websites.

The convention will be divided up into separate PA and SPR sessions and each organization will have its own separate Program Committee for considering conference submissions and each Committee has its own submission requirements (see below). The PA Program Chair will be Dr Simon Sherwood; the SPR Program Chair will be Prof. Bernard Carr.

In deciding whether to submit to the PA or the SPR Program Committee, the following criteria should be borne in mind: (1) people who would usually submit papers to *both* the PA and the SPR should submit via the PA (when the meetings are separate, it is possible to offer the same talk); (2) on no account should a paper be submitted to both program committees; (3) because PA conferences last longer than SPR ones, PA presentations will cover the whole period of the meeting, while the SPR ones will be scheduled between 2pm Friday and 12 noon Sunday. All delegates are encouraged to attend the *entire* conference, so the SPR and PA sessions will be interspersed as much as possible, with the relative number being determined by the number of papers submitted to each committee.

PA submission guidelines

Papers: Anyone may submit a paper for consideration by the PA Program Committee. Papers may be clinical, experimental, historical, methodological, philosophical, or theoretical, or may report field work or case studies of any relevant kind, and of sufficient interest to the community, and of sufficient depth to be amenable to a 20 to 25 minute presentation time with further discussion. The Program Committee will not consider, in this category, proposals for research which has not yet been carried out, analyses of work in progress, nor will the Committee consider papers published in English prior to the Convention. However, recent papers that have been previously published in a language other than English are acceptable in this category, provided the paper has been translated into English for the purpose of submission to the Program Committee. Papers submitted for floor presentation should be the equivalent of full-length journal articles. A detailed description on the preparation of manuscripts can be found below.

Posters:

Posters are papers or other materials presented on poster board in an installation separate from the convention floor. Poster sessions are especially appropriate for short papers, those that are particularly amenable to visual displays (e.g., demonstration of equipment or techniques) and highly technical papers that cannot be communicated effectively in a brief lecture format to a general scientific audience. Authors who want their papers presented in a poster session should indicate this at the time of submission, with particular attention paid to a description of the visual materials that will make up the content of the presentation. In addition, the Program Committee may, at its discretion, designate other accepted papers for presentation in a poster session. Poster session papers will be included in the convention proceedings. Proposals for posters should be prepared according to the instructions for full papers listed above. Photocopies of photographs to be used in visual presentations are acceptable with the submission.

Research Briefs:

Research briefs are short papers (1500 words) reporting recently completed work or research in progress, of sufficient interest to the community, but able to be adequately summarized in a 5 to 10 minute presentation. Submitted research briefs must include detailed descriptions of the design and planned analyses and may include supplemental descriptions, beyond the 1500-word brief, when it might be helpful to the Program Committee in making a decision. The Program Committee may, at its discretion, designate other accepted papers for presentation as a research brief. Research briefs should be prepared according to the instructions for full papers listed below, but without the 500 word abstract.

Symposia/Panel Discussions/Workshops:

Only Members and Associates of the Parapsychological Association may propose a symposium, panel discussion, or workshop.

Symposia:

Symposia are formal presentations by participants on related topics. Proposals for symposia must include a summary sheet indicating title, chairperson, participants, order of presentation, and proposed time allotments, up to a total of 90 minutes, including discussion periods. Symposia submissions must include full papers from each of the participants included in the symposium and be prepared per the instructions listed below.

Panel discussions:

Panel discussions are informal roundtable discussions intended to maximize spontaneous interactions of panelists and the audience. A total of 90 minutes, including discussion period, is allocated for panel discussions. A minimum of four participants should be proposed, with time apportioned among them and a substantial discussion period. Proposals for panel discussions should include a summary sheet that lists the panel title, chairperson, panelists, order of presentation, and time allotments as well as abstracts of 500 words from each panelist. Panel discussion proposals should be prepared per the instructions listed below

Workshops:

Workshops are informal discussions of specific topics. Proposals for workshops should include a summary sheet listing the title, chairperson, other presenting participants, type of activity, and a description of the intended content of the workshop, not exceeding 500 words. Workshop proposals should be prepared per the instructions listed below.

Preparation of Manuscripts

A standardized template has been developed into which submissions for this year's convention may be entered. Authors are strongly encouraged to use this standardized style template in MS Word or RTF format. The template can be downloaded from the URL http://www.parapsych.org/PA_2008_Submission_Template.dot

(RIGHT-CLICK on the URL above and do "SAVE TARGET AS" in Internet Explorer or "SAVE LINK TARGET AS" in Netscape. Save the file to your local disk.) After downloading this file to their computer, authors can double-click on the file to open a new document in the standardized format. Authors can then replace the text entered as an example with their own text but are cautioned not to change the predefined formats. Tables and figures should be inserted into the text, must be numbered and must have a title or legend but can be of any format that suits the authors' needs.

Authors who are not using MS Word are asked to download a PDF file of the template which is available from the URL

http://www.parapsych.org/PA_2008_Submission_Template.pdf

and to use it as an example of the suggested format. The number and titles of headings and subheadings may be adapted and altered to suit the authors' needs. If authors find it impossible or difficult to use the standardized template, please contact the Program Chairperson for assistance and advice. It is hoped that the template will help to produce a proceedings booklet with a uniform format as well as to simplify the job of the referees who will review each submission.

Full papers for floor presentation, full papers for poster presentation and full papers being submitted as part of a symposium should follow the template as closely as possible, should be the equivalent of a full-length journal article, and should contain a 500 word abstract that will be published in the *Journal of Parapsychology* and placed on the PA's website. The text of the paper (including abstracts, tables, references, figures and illustrations) should not exceed 7000 words in total. If not otherwise specified, authors are requested to adhere to the style of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, or the format used by the *British Journal of Psychology*, especially for quotations and references.

Manuscript Submission

Manuscripts for all types of submissions to the PA Program Committee should be submitted electronically using MS Word for Windows. Authors who do not use this program should contact the Program Chairperson for assistance and advice. By seeking inclusions in the PA Convention Program, submitters of any type of presentation which requires an abstract, are agreeing that the abstract they produce will be up-loaded after the convention to the Parapsychological Association's website (www.parapsych.org), where it will be maintained indefinitely. Persons who are unwilling for their abstracts to be so archived are urged not to submit. The submission deadline is Tuesday 15th April, 2008. Authors should be aware that any papers received after the deadline, even if accepted, may not be included in the printed Proceedings of Presented Papers. Please send all submissions and other correspondence about the PA program to:

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SPR submission guidelines

Summaries of proposed SPR papers should reach the SPR Program Committee before 15th April 2008 (somewhat earlier than usual to allow coordination with PA submissions). These summaries should be single-spaced and have a length of 500 to 1000 words (at most two pages). There will also be a number of SPR invited talks and the Program Committee would welcome suggestions for SPR symposia or round-table discussions. Electronic submissions are preferred and should be e-mailed to the Secretary with "SPR conference" indicated in the subject heading. Otherwise, summaries should be posted and marked "SPR conference". Authors whose SPR contributions are accepted will be informed by 15 June. The provisional conference program will be distributed with the July issue of the SPR Journal; it will also be available from the SPR office and website (www.spr.ac.uk) from early July.

Please send all submissions and any other correspondence about the SPR program to:

The Secretary

<mailto:UKSociety@aol.com>

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