TPRC Call for Conference Submissions: Papers, Posters, Panels, and Graduate Student Consortium

WELCOME to TPRC47!
September 20-21, 2019
American University Washington College of Law
Washington, D.C.

The 47th Research Conference on Communications, Information, and Internet Policy

TPRC is an annual cross-disciplinary conference on communications, information, and Internet policy that convenes researchers and policymakers from law, economics, engineering, computer science, public policy and related fields working in academia, industry, government, and nonprofit organizations around the world.

TPRC is seeking submissions for its 47th conference, including papers, posters, panels, a Student Paper Competition, the Graduate Student Consortium, and the Charles Benton Early Career Scholar Award.

Proposals can be submitted at https://www.tprcweb.com/ through March 15 (proposals for student tracks are due April 30).

Papers & Posters: Submit an abstract of research in progress or recently completed and present the completed paper in a conference session or as a poster. The presentation format is best for work that has been completed, whereas posters are ideal for feedback on work-in-progress and completed work where detailed feedback and engagement is desired. Posters will be prominently displayed and provide an opportunity to discuss your research in detail with conference attendees.

Panels: Propose a panel discussion of a relevant topic. If your proposal is selected, you will be asked to organize the panel.

Student Paper Competition and Graduate Student Consortium: In addition to the regular conference proposals, students may also submit papers to the student paper contest and/or participate in the Graduate Student Consortium (GSC). The Student Paper Contest winners receive cash prizes, and GSC participants receive unique mentorship and networking opportunities. Both receive complimentary registration in TPRC47. Mentors are also sought for the GSC.

Important Dates:

- Submission of papers, posters, and panel ideas: from February 15 through March 15
- Submission of GSC and Student Paper Contest entries: April 30
- Notice of decisions to the submitting author: May 31
- Final, complete papers for presentation: July 26
**Topic Areas**
We will consider proposals on the following and related topics. The program committee encourages submissions from diverse organizations, disciplines, approaches, and geographies.

- Broadband technologies, deployment, adoption, and regulation
- Wireless policy (e.g., auctions, 5G, Radio spectrum, WRC-19)
- Media, content, and online platforms and their regulation
- Internet governance
- Privacy, information security, cybersecurity, data protection, and surveillance
- Innovation policy and intellectual property (copyright, trademark and patent)
- Emerging technologies (e.g., AI, facial & biometric recognition, etc) and their social, economic, and policy implications
- Data science, data-driven and evidence-based policy making, economics, and policy/program analysis
- Competition and antitrust analysis and policy
- User and consumer behavior in communications and media
- International communications and developing countries
- International dimensions of technology policy: trade, geopolitics localization
- Gender and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

**Papers and Posters**
Paper sessions generally include three presentations of selected papers, grouped by common topic, with a moderator. Presentations are 20 minutes, followed by a 10-minute discussion period.

In the poster session, participants display materials that highlight their research and discuss such research with conference attendees. Posters should display the question, hypothesis, data, and results.

Proposals (abstracts) can be submitted at https://www.tprcweb.com/ by **March 15**.

**Guidelines**
TPRC will not accept papers previously accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal or conference proceeding, in a law review, or as a chapter in a published book.

An author may present only one paper or poster at the conference, although may be a coauthor on multiple papers or posters. An author may submit multiple abstracts for consideration, but at most one will be accepted.

Papers not submitted in final form by **July 26** will be removed from the program.

TPRC is a research conference; therefore, any paper or proposal must meet academic standards of research.

**Proposal Criteria:**
Proposals are an abstract of the research. Abstracts should:
- Convey the paper’s contributions. This includes explanations of:
  - The objective(s) of the paper, relevant field(s) of research, and topic;
b. The methods and data, if relevant (empirical methods are not required);
c. Why the research is novel and relevant to contemporary communications policy; and
d. Results or conclusions if available.

- Be 500 words or less.
- Not include author’s name or other identifying information.

**Review Process:**
All abstracts will be evaluated through double-blind peer review and assessed on the merits of the proposed contribution. Each submission will be reviewed by three or four members of the TPRC Program Committee. The chair of the Program Committee is ultimately responsible for final decisions, which are made in consultation with the committee. The Program Committee aspires to provide written feedback to submitters along with notifications.

**Important Dates:**
- Submission of Abstracts: from **February 15** through **March 15**
- Notice of decisions: **May 31**
- Final accepted papers in full form: **July 26**
- Posters: **September 20**

**Panels**
Panels typically convene a slate of experts to address current topics of interest to the TPRC community. They include:
- Three or four panelists plus a moderator. Participants may include scholars, policymakers, practitioners, and industry experts.
- 90 minutes of discussion, of which 30 are reserved for audience questions.

The submitter of an accepted panel is responsible for organizing the session.

Proposals can be submitted at [https://www.tprcweb.com/](https://www.tprcweb.com/).

**Proposal Criteria:**
*When submitting a panel proposal, you should, in 500 words or less:*
- State the panel’s objectives and topics
- Justify its relevance to the TPRC community
- Explain the proposed composition of the panel and its diversity, including the perspectives and contributions that each participant will bring to the topic
- Include the participants’ names, organizational affiliation, and any other relevant identifying information

**Review Process:**
Panels are reviewed openly, not through a double-blind process, in order to assess the composition of the panel, its diversity, and ability to address the proposed topic in a manner appropriate to TPRC. The chair of the Program Committee is ultimately responsible for final decisions, which are made in consultation with the committee.

*Note:* Submitters must ensure availability of all participants. Remote participation by panelists is discouraged but may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
**Important Dates:**
- Submission of proposals: from **February 15** through **March 15**
- Notice of decisions: **May 31**

**For Students!**
Students receive discounted conference registration and are welcome to apply to one or more of the following opportunities:

1. The general conference, following the instructions for paper, poster, and panel submissions.
2. The Student Paper Contest
3. The Graduate Student Consortium
4. The Charles Benton Early Career Scholar Award

Proposals can be submitted at [https://www.tprcweb.com/](https://www.tprcweb.com/).

**The Student Paper Contest**

**Overview:**
Unlike the general conference where only abstracts are submitted and reviewed, the student paper competition requires full papers for peer review. Three papers will be selected to be part of the conference program through a double-blind review process.

**Details:**
The student paper competition is open to all graduate and law students enrolled during the 2018-2019 school year regardless of their status at the time of the 2019 conference. Co-authors may be other students meeting the same criteria. Papers co-authored with faculty or other non-students are not eligible. Papers should not exceed 15,000 words, including references. Students are encouraged to have their submissions endorsed by a faculty member at the student’s institution.

As with the general session papers, student papers previously accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal or conference proceeding, in a law review, or as a chapter in a published book are not eligible. Material that has been published or presented in other venues (e.g., dissertations, working papers, position papers, documents in repositories like SSRN, and other conferences) is acceptable.

**Awards:**
- First Prize: $1,000
- Second Prize: $500
- Third Prize: $300

To be eligible for an award, students must attend and present their paper at the conference. Students will be provided feedback on their papers and may be asked to make edits prior to presenting at the conference.

In addition to the prizes above, all award winners also receive complimentary conference registration, travel reimbursement up to $500, and inclusion in a paper session in the conference. If a student paper
winner has also been accepted as a general conference paper or poster presenter, the student will be asked to present the student paper contest paper and must have a co-author present the general conference paper. All authors are permitted to present only one paper at TPRC.

The next three highest-rated papers will be given the opportunity to present their research during the Poster Session.

**Important Dates:**
- Full paper with accompanying abstract: **April 30**
- Notice of decisions: **May 31**

**Graduate Student Consortium**

**Overview:**
The Graduate Student Consortium (GSC) is designed to provide graduate students with mentoring by academics, industry, and government leaders as well as networking opportunities with other graduate students the day before the conference begins. Mentors are leaders from academia, industry, government, and the non-profit sectors, chosen to ensure balance among perspectives and to match areas of interest with GSC students.

**Details:**
The day prior to the main conference, GSC participants will convene for a short seminar on research methods and to present their proposed research and receive feedback. The GSC is open to all graduate and law students enrolled during the 2018-2019 school year regardless of their status at the time of the 2019 conference. Conference registration is complimentary for accepted applicants. Students are responsible for their own travel and lodging. [Doesn’t the registration include meals? If not, do the Student Paper Contest winners also receive conference meals?]

**Application Criteria:**
- A statement of 1,500 words or less outlining their proposed research topic. The statement should describe the research objectives, methodology, and the study’s implications for industry or policymakers. The topic can be a new area of exploration chosen specifically for the GSC or ongoing research.
- A 150-word abstract summarizing their proposed research topic
- Applicants must submit a statement of endorsement from a faculty member at their institution. (the endorsement form is available [here](#)).

**Review Criteria:**
- Clear articulation of the proposed research topic.
- Relevance of the selected topic to the TPRC community.
- Faculty endorsement.
Although we welcome applications from returning participants, preference will be given to first-time applicants.

**Important Dates:**
- Submission of abstracts and summaries: from **February 15** through **April 30**
**Notice of decisions:** **May 31**

The GSC will take place on Thursday, **September 19** at a location to be announced in the Washington, D.C. area.

**Graduate Student Consortium Mentors**

Those interested in serving as a GSC mentor should email Laura.verinder@gmail.com to express their interest.

For questions regarding the GSC, please contact, Prof. Jane Bambauer at janebambauer@email.arizona.edu

**Charles Benton Early Career Scholar Award**

TPRC and the Benton Foundation announce the third year of the Charles Benton Early Career Scholar Award, recognizing scholarship in the area of digital inclusion and broadband adoption. This special honor will be awarded at TPRC f in 2019 in honor of Charles Benton, a longstanding supporter of TPRC and tireless advocate for media, communications and digital equality. The award recipient will receive $1,500 and will be recognized at lunch during the TPRC conference and the winner will receive complimentary registration for the conference.

**Application Criteria:**

Scholars currently enrolled in a degree program or no more than five years from receipt of their most recent degree are eligible.

Acceptable submissions include:

- An original, empirically-based research paper pertaining digital inclusion and/or broadband adoption
- A policy proposal for digital inclusion and broadband adoption with a discussion of the justification
- An essay on a topic dealing with digital inclusion and/or broadband adoption.

Submissions must be less than 25 double-spaced, typewritten pages, including notes and references and will not have been formally published in a peer reviewed outlet prior to TPRC47.

The recipient will be chosen by a TPRC Board Committee and must attend the conference and agree to work with Benton Foundation’s Executive Editor, Kevin Taglang, to produce a blog article based on the winning submission for benton.org.

**Due Dates:**

Applications: **May 31**

Notice of Decision: **July 15**

Blog post: **December 31**

For questions regarding the Charles Benton Early Career Scholar Award, please contact Prof. Robin Mansell at r.e.mansell@lse.ac.uk