Cognitive Science Arena: guidelines

TALKS

When in the conference room, please, upload your presentation as soon as you can and, generally, in the break before the oral session.

1) Addressed to a broad audience.

CSA is a conference with a wide spectrum of topics: just take a look at the titles of talks and posters. It is fundamental that everybody understands and appreciates your talk. The following is an unsorted list of advices to make your talk simple and understandable even by a 'non-expert' audience. Use examples, pictures, or videos. Use simple words. Explain acronyms. Tell what is on the x-axis and on the y-axis of your graph. Avoid large tables. Try to link your talk to the general concepts such as those that can be found in textbooks. Talk slowly. Do not write much text into your slides. In the introduction, proceed from general to particular. In the discussion, proceed from particular to general.

2) Timing, timing, timing!

You will be given a time slot of 15+10 min discussion. Use your time well! Try as much as possible to use 15 minutes for your talk and 10 minutes for the discussion. Respect the 10 minutes of discussion with the audience: these minutes could be the most important part of your time-slot, providing you with advices and ideas to improve your work.

3) Possible general questions and further guidelines

At CSA we endorse and support the new scientific practices. So be ready to respond to the following questions (or take into account the following questions when preparing your contribution):
- Is your study preregistered?
- How did you calculate the sample size for your study?
- Is the sample size large enough to support your hypothesis?
- Are you describing your results in terms of effect sizes (i.e., not in terms "it is significant, it is not significant"?)
- Will you share your data? Are your data available in an accessible online repository?
- Will you share your materials, such as the computer program you used to run the study? Is your material available in an accessible online repository?
- Will you share your analysis script? Is your analysis script available in an accessible online repository?

4) "Pies and bars are for eating"

Are you about to draw the graphs for your contribution? Check out this paper here that explains a few concepts about the graphical representation of results:
https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2017.01666/full

Remember that, in general, the graph you draw has to be congruent with the type of data you are representing.

5) Among your goals, you may aim also to the "Valiant Award".

Talks are going to be evaluated along three parameters:
- clarity of presentation
- Author's expertise in his/her own field

- respect of time constraints

POSTERS

Posters will be displayed for the whole duration of CSA. The first day of the conference, poster presenters are given the chance of a mini-talk to introduce the poster to the audience. The second day there is the classic poster session.

1) Guidelines for mini-talks

You will be given three minutes to present your work. You can use PowerPoint slides to support your presentation. There is no discussion after the presentation and presentations longer than three minutes will be truncated. That said, it is important that you communicate the topic of your poster in a clear and intelligible manner. CSA is a conference with a wide spectrum of topics: just have a look to the titles of the contributions! Try to link your mini-talk to the general concepts such as those that can be found in textbooks. We suggest you to use the three minutes only (or mainly) to introduce the topic of your poster. Later, during coffee breaks and the poster session, you have the time, in front of your poster, to go into the details of your research (e.g., the method, the results). The PowerPoint for the mini-talk has to be short (max 4 slides): remember that you have three minutes only!
Please, upload your presentation as soon as you can and, generally, in the break before the oral session.

2) Guidelines for the poster

- Poster size.
Poster boards are 150(H) by 120(W) cm. We recommend using the poster format B1, portrait oriented (in order to leave space beside your poster for your body too!)
- General hints for poster presentation.
Address your poster to a broad audience. Therefore, it is fundamental that everybody is in the position to understand and appreciate your poster. Keep your poster as simple as possible. Link the topic of your study to general concepts of cognitive science. The following is an unsorted list of advices to make your poster presentation effective.
Balance text and pictures. Use simple sentences. Explain acronyms. Tell what is on the x-axis and on the y-axis of your graph.
Avoid large tables. Try to link your intro to the general concepts of cognitive science such as those that can be found on textbooks. Use the two-columns format, rather than using one single column: this would avoid people reading lines from the very left to the very right side of your poster. Use a char size that could be read from 2 meters (>20 points). Create enough contrast between text and background, and avoid heavy/complex pictures/patterns as background: it's a research poster, not (only) a poster to be hang-up in your room!

3) Possible general questions and further guidelines

At CSA we endorse and support the new scientific practices. So be ready to respond to the following questions (or take into account the following questions when preparing your contribution):
- Is your study preregistered?
- How did you calculate the sample size for your study?
- Is the sample size large enough to support your hypothesis?
- Are you describing your results in terms of effect sizes (i.e., not in terms "it is significant, it is not significant"?)
- Will you share your data? Are your data available in an accessible online repository?

- Will you share your materials, such as the computer program you used to run the study? Is your material available in an accessible online repository?
- Will you share your analysis script? Is your analysis script available in an accessible online repository?

4) "Pies and bars are for eating"
Are you about to draw the graphs for your contribution? Check out this paper here that explains a few concepts about the graphical representation of results:
https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2017.01666/full

Remember that, in general, the graph you draw has to be congruent with the type of data you are representing.

5) Among your goal, you may aim also to the "Painter Award".
Posters and mini-talks are going to be evaluated along three parameters:
- clarity of the mini-talk
- clarity of the poster's artwork
- is the poster stand-alone (self-explanatory)?