TPRC Call for Conference Submissions: Papers, Posters, Panels, and Student Paper Contest

WELCOME to TPRC48!
September 25-26, 2020
American University Washington College of Law
Washington, D.C.

The 48th 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, data science, social sciences, and related fields working in academia, industry, government, and nonprofit organizations around the world.

TPRC is seeking submissions for its 48th conference, including papers, posters, panels, the Charles Benton Early Career Scholar Award and the Student Paper Competition.

Proposals can be submitted at https://www.tprcweb.com/ through March 31 (proposals for student tracks are due April 30 and for the Benton Award on May 31).

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 of a paper 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: In addition to the regular conference proposals, students may also submit papers to the student paper contest. The Student Paper Contest winners receive cash prizes, and GSC participants receive unique mentorship and networking opportunities. Both receive complimentary registration in TPRC48.

Important Dates:
- Submission of papers, posters, and panel ideas: from February 15 through March 31
- Submission of Student Paper Contest entries: April 30
- Submission for Benton Award: May 31
- Notice of decisions to the submitting author: May 31
- Final, complete papers for presentation: July 26

TPRC is a nonpartisan organization that is strongly committed to diversity, equity and the free expression of ideas. We seek to hold a conference in which responsibility, integrity, intellectual freedom, equality of respect and opportunity, and collegiality are paramount.
**Topic Areas**

The program committee encourages submissions from diverse organizations, disciplines, approaches, scholars, and geographies on the following and related topics:

- Broadband technologies, deployment, adoption, and regulation
- Wireless policy (e.g., auctions, 5G, Radio spectrum, IMT-2020)
- Internet governance
- Platforms, media, and content and their regulatory design and convergence
- Social media, video-sharing platforms, harmful content, regulatory initiatives
- User and consumer behavior in communications and media; advertising and targeting
- Privacy, information security, cybersecurity, data protection, and surveillance
- Encryption, lawful access, and law enforcement
- 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
- Gender, race, ethnicity, diversity, social justice, and social inclusion and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)
- Competition and antitrust in ICT, big tech
- ICT and developing countries
- International dimensions of ICT policy: trade, geopolitics, localization, security, and digital platform markets

**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/](https://www.tprcweb.com/) by March 31.

**Guidelines**

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

Authors may present only one paper or poster at the conference, although they may also participate in a panel or be a coauthor of papers or posters presented by others. 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.
Paper and Poster Proposal Criteria:
Proposals are an abstract of the research. Abstracts should:

- Convey the paper’s contributions. This includes explanations of:
  (a) The topic and objective of the paper;
  (b) The types of modeling, formal reasoning, and/or evidence to be presented, including a description of data if relevant (empirical methods are not required);
  (c) The methods and disciplinary field(s) to be used in reaching conclusions;
  (d) Why the research is novel and relevant to contemporary communications policy;
  (e) Results or conclusions if available.
- Be 500 words or less.
- Exclude author’s name or other identifying information.

Paper and Poster 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.

Have more questions? The chair of the Program Committee will be available for a live question-and-answer session at 12 noon to 1 pm ET on February 7. This session will be conducted using the Zoom meeting service. You can join on a computer or smartphone via https://zoom.us/j/577520626. Or for audio only you can call one of the following two numbers and then enter the meeting ID: +1 669 900 6833 (San Jose, CA, USA), +1 646 876 9923 (New York, NY, USA), Meeting ID: 577 520 626.

Forward specific questions you would like addressed to laura.verinder@gmail.com by February 5.

Important Dates for Paper and Poster Proposals:
- Informational Session on Submissions: February 5, noon ET
- Submission of Abstracts: from February 15 through March 31
- Notice of decisions: May 31
- Final accepted papers in full form: July 26
- Final accepted 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/.
Panel 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

Panel Review Process:

Panels are reviewed openly, not through a double-blind process, in order to assess the composition of the panel, its diversity, and its 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 for Panel Proposals:**

- Submission of panel proposals: from **February 15** through **March 31**
- Notice of decisions: **May 31**

**Charles Benton Early Career Scholar Award**

TPRC and the [Benton Institute for Broadband & Society](https://www.benton.org/) announce the fourth 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 in 2020 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. A runner-up may be named but does not receive a Conference fee waiver and is not obligated to do a blog.

**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 to 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 TPRC48.
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.

**Important Dates for Charles Benton Early Career Scholar Award:**
- Applications: received by **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

**For Students!**

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

1. The general conference, following the instructions for paper, poster, and panel submissions.
2. The Student Paper Contest
3. The Charles Benton Early Career Scholar Award (see above)
4. The Graduate Research Symposium Pre-Conference (New)

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 2019-2020 school year regardless of their status at the time of the 2020 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.

All student paper submissions should be blind to the author’s name and affiliation. Please remove any identifying information from your paper prior to submitting it to the contest. Improperly blinded submissions may be rejected.

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 to present a different paper or poster, the student will be asked to present the student paper contest paper and must have a co-author present the other paper or poster. All authors are permitted to present only one paper at TPRC.

The fourth through sixth place submissions will be given the opportunity to present their research during the Poster Session.

Important Dates for Student Paper Contest:

- Full paper with accompanying abstract: April 30
- Notice of decisions: June 15

The Graduate Research Symposium Pre-Conference (New!)

This year, TPRC and The Internet Governance Lab at American University will present an inaugural 2020 TPRC Graduate Research Symposium Pre-Conference on September 24, 2020 at American University’s School of Communication in Washington, DC. The pre-conference will be held from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. More details will be shared in the next few weeks.