CENTER FOR STUDIES IN DEMOGRAPHY AND ECOLOGY

Questions & Answers
about the 2006 PAA Meetings

Are you considering submitting an abstract to the 2006 **Population Association of America** annual meeting?

For more information about the 2006 PAA Meetings, see the main PAA website at http://paa2006.princeton.edu/ or the PAA 2006 Call for Papers at http://paa2006.princeton.edu/PAA_2006_CALL_FOR_PAPERS.pdf.

For those of you not able to attend the Q&A meeting on September 7th, here is some advice from UW faculty and students who have been to PAA and have presented papers or posters there.

The deadline for submission of papers or posters is **September 23rd** !

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1. What will I have to do?

- All authors are asked to submit both: (a) a short 150-word abstract to be entered online; and b) an extended (2-4 page) abstract or a completed paper to be uploaded to the website following instructions available online. Both are required.

2. How do I write my abstract?

- The 150-word limit is very strict. The submission form will reject your abstract if it is longer than 150 words.
- Focus on your content and method
- Try to include the following information:
  - What is motivating your work?
  - What large question is your work linked to? (Don't assume the reviewer knows this already)
  - Is there anything novel about your methods?

- Ask your supervisor(s), mentor(s) and peers to read your abstract and give feedback. Many faculty have been PAA reviewers and know what will make your submission stronger.
- It may be advantageous to mention your faculty advisor (This work was done as a student of Advisor Name/ Under the supervision of Advisor/ Joint work with Advisor). All other things being equal, reviewers may feel more confident of your work if they know you are working with a respected faculty person.

3. How do I submit my abstract?

- Go to the login/register webpage: http://paa2006.princeton.edu/lobby.aspx You will be asked to register with your contact details. Then you will be given the option to submit an abstract.
- The submission form will reject your abstract if it is much longer than 150 words.
- You will be able to make changes to your online submission even after you have uploaded your abstract right up until the final deadline. There is no penalty for submitting early.

4. Should I choose a session?

- **Yes**. Choose two sessions that are most relevant for your work. You must indicate the session numbers of your first and second choices on the Submission Form. This gives the first designated organizer first right of acceptance.
- If a reviewer feels that your work would fit better in another session, s/he may forward your submission to the PAA committee chair to reroute your submission. Occasionally, a reviewer may recommend that a second section of a session be opened to accommodate the many high-quality submissions received.
- No paper/abstract may be submitted to more than two sessions. No participant may appear on the program more than twice.

5. Should I have my work considered for a poster session?

- **Yes**. There are a couple of reasons why you should ask for your work to be considered for a poster session if it is not accepted for a paper session. 1) Posters at PAA get a lot of exposure and give you the opportunity to showcase your work. 2) Work that is accepted as a poster at PAA would often be accepted as a paper at a less prestigious conference. Having a poster at PAA still looks good on your CV.

6. What if I'm not sure I should submit something?

- If you will be on the job market in the near future, it is very important that you submit your work, even if it is accepted only as a poster.
- If your work is not accepted, you now have an abstract to submit to another conference. (American Sociological Association, American Geographic Association, Canadian Population Association, IUSSP, European Society of Population Economists, etc.)
- Writing and submitting your work for review is good practice for the future.

7. What if my questions aren't answered here?

- Just email your question to: csde@u.washington.edu.

Several faculty and graduate students have volunteered to share their experience and knowledge of this process with interested students. If we don't know the answers ourselves, we will forward your questions to them.

8. If you get accepted to present a paper:

- Practice your paper in front of an audience. PRACTICE!
- Assume the computer will crash! Always have a backup.
- For example, have transparencies and/or printouts of your slides
- Carry blank transparencies with you, as copy places close to the conference will often run out.

9. If you get accepted to present a poster:

- Read the instructions for posters on the PAA website.(coming soon)
- There are many good resources online for creating posters: See links under "Poster Making" at http://csde.washington.edu/training/workshops.shtml
- CSDE will hold a poster-making information session shortly before the conference.
- If you need help making a poster or have any questions, feel free to contact Lisa Jenschke Stephens (lisaj1@u.washington.edu). She is happy to meet with you and help you.

8 September 2005

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