



## **LTRC 2016 Palermo Call for Proposals**

**Deadline: Oct. 1, 2015**

### **Theme: Language Constructs, Contexts, and Content in Classroom and Large-Scale Assessments**

Numerous theoretical debates over the years have addressed the role of language constructs and contexts in language assessment (Bachman, 1990, 2007; Brindley, 1994; Chalhoub-Deville, 2003; Chapelle, 1998; Clark, 1972; McNamara, 1996; Norris, 2002; Young, 2000). Surprisingly, these debates have not fully addressed how assessment tasks, similar to those that examinees might encounter in real-life contexts, require the processing of meaning through language (Oller, 1979; Purpura, 2004) or the influence that content or topical knowledge exerts on language performance (Alderson & Urquhart, 1985; Clapham, 1996; Douglas, 2000; Erikson & Molloy, 1983; Skehan, 1984; Wesche, 1987). LTRC 2016 encourages the submission of proposals on any aspect of the interface among language constructs, contexts (or tasks), and content (or disciplinary subject matter, themes, topics, etc.) in language assessment in classroom or large-scale contexts.

#### **Dates**

**Pre-colloquium workshops:** Monday, June 20 and Tuesday, June 21, 2016

**Colloquium:** Tuesday, June 21 (evening) to Friday, June 24, 2016

(N.B., to include more sessions, the colloquium will begin on the evening of June 21).

**Banquet:** Friday, June 24, 2016

## **Presentation Categories**

Proposals for LTRC 2016 are invited for presentations in the categories below. Note that proposals not accepted as research papers may be considered as posters or works in progress. However, if a proposal is more suitable as a poster or work in progress, it should be submitted as such. Proposals for research that is in progress should be submitted as works-in-progress (WIPs). Proposals for presentations on test development projects should be submitted as posters. A new category this year, demos, is meant to provide the opportunity for presentations on technological innovations in assessment.

## **Research Papers**

This format is best suited to theoretically-oriented work, and the presentation of completed empirical research. Paper presentations are 20 minutes, followed by 10 minutes for questions and comments from the audience. With empirical studies, the proposal should, in general, include a motivation for the study, a fairly detailed description of the method, the results, conclusions, and implications. In the case of conceptual research, the proposal should discuss an approach or a critical issue, or compare and contrast alternative approaches or issues, and provide significant new insights. Paper proposals must not exceed 500 words.

## **Symposia**

Symposia involve multiple presenters focusing on a single, coherent theme and are best suited for the discussion of empirical research, theory, and practice. The papers should offer complementary or differing perspectives on an important topic or issue that can stimulate wider discussion. Symposia may last up to 90 minutes and may include up to four individual presenters, a moderator and/or an independent discussant. Evidence of careful planning for the implementation of the symposium should be included in the proposal. In no more than 500 words, the proposal should include a summary of the topic and the overarching goal of the symposium. In addition, the titles and abstracts of individual papers should be included, each not exceeding 250 words. The timing of each symposium paper should also be indicated.

## **Demos**

Demos involve the presentation of how information technologies have been applied to assessment in innovative ways. This may involve new ways of designing and developing assessments, delivering assessments, text analysis and scoring of assessments, understanding assessment behaviors (e.g., eye-tracking studies), or other uses of technology in assessment. Presenters should be prepared to showcase their work through screen shots and/or actual demos. Demos are 20 minutes, followed by 10 minutes for questions and comments from the audience. In no more than 500 words, the proposal should fully describe the substantive goals of the presentation, outline how the demo will proceed, and discuss any implications.

## Posters

Posters provide an opportunity primarily for the presentation of test development projects and new tests, and also technological innovations not suitable for consideration as a demo. Posters are displayed on a specific day (TBD). Presenters should be available to discuss their work and answer questions. The proposal must not exceed 500 words.

## Works-in-Progress (WIPs)

These sessions provide an opportunity for the presentation of research in progress or research that is being planned. Presenters discuss their unfinished research or research plans with other participants and receive comments and suggestions on how best to proceed. The proposal must not exceed 500 words.

## Submission of Proposals

Deadline for receipt of proposals: **October 1, 2015.**

All proposals must be submitted via the "[Submit Proposal](#)" link, which is specifically set up for online submissions. No email, fax, or regular mail submissions will be accepted for proposals. Receipt of the submission will be sent to the author listed as correspondent.

## ***Content of Proposals***

The website for online submissions requests the following information:

- type of presentation (paper, symposium, demo, poster, or work-in-progress)
- title of presentation (must not exceed 15 words)
- presenter information: name(s) of the author(s) in the order that they should appear in the program, institutional affiliation(s), and the country of the institution(s)
- the name of the author to whom all correspondence should be sent
- email address of the session correspondent
- telephone number of the correspondent (please include the country code)
- equipment required (A computer, projector, and speakers will be provided; if using a MAC, bring your own cable to connect to the projector)
- abstract of presentation. A blind review process will be employed; therefore, any information that might identify the author(s) must be omitted.

[Click here to view a sample abstract for a research paper with annotations \(PDF\).](#)

## ***Evaluation Criteria***

Criteria used to evaluate papers, demos, posters, and works-in-progress (WIPs) include:

- relevance to the conference theme
- importance to the field of language assessment
- clarity of theoretical orientation
- with empirical studies, quality of research method and findings
- with theoretical papers, quality of the theoretical argument
- with demos, potential to improve assessment practice
- overall organization of the proposal

Criteria used to evaluate symposia include:

- relevance to the conference theme
- importance to the field of language assessment
- clarity of theoretical underpinnings
- coherence and complementary nature of the contributions
- evidence of careful planning for the implementation of the symposium, including sufficient time for discussion

Preference will be given to proposals that are clearly related to the overall theme of LTRC 2016. Authors will be notified in **December 2015**.