

Scientific Conferences

Professional Development

SHER Lab

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What exactly are scientific conferences?

A designated place where scholars come together to present their research findings across various formats (e.g., posters, talks, panels), present awards to people for their work, sometimes around a general theme

Sometimes official business of the organization is discussed

Why are scientific conferences important?

Learn about the newest research across many areas within a field

Be exposed to new techniques/skills that you can apply to your work

- Statistical techniques, methodologies, recruitment strategies

Network with others in and out of your area

Expose others to your work

What do you get out of attending them?

Why should I attend?

Learn how to communicate your ideas in a clear, efficient way

Improve your presentation skills

Get mentored by others!

- Feedback on your work

You can put it on your CV (if you present)

Learn about new research

Improve your networking skills

Find collaborators

Conference Attendance Etiquette

- There's a lot to see, so it can be helpful to plan in advance
 - Balance between content (your specialty versus others), professional development, and rest
- Communicate with others
 - Talk to people after talks and during breaks; take a buddy with you if you feel nervous
 - Communicate via social media (using hashtags, etc)
- Follow up with new contacts after the conference!
- Attend the social events, but remember this is still a professional event
- Aesthetic presentation: Make a good impression!

Example National Scientific Conferences

1. American Psychological Association (APA)
 - Largest psychological organization representing US psychologists
2. Association for Psychological Science (APS)
 - Advance the science of psychology nationally and in the international community
3. Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)
 - Social and personality psychology centered
4. American Psychosomatic Society (APS)
 - Health psychology centered (more experimental work, no clinical work)

Example National Scientific Conferences

5. Society for Behavioral medicine
 - Health psychology focused but on clinical interventions
6. Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI)
 - Focused on important social and policy issues
7. American Public Health Association (APHA)
 - Focused on public health and epidemiology (interventions!)
8. National LGBT Health Conference
 - Focused on the health of LGBTQ