2021 AEA-Europe Annual Conference, on-line

Call and instructions for submissions

The submission of proposals for the 2021 Association for Educational Assessment-Europe annual conference is now open. This document includes the conference theme and describes the different submission formats and how to make a submission. Submissions will be made through EasyAcademia at: https://www.easyacademia.org/aea2021

Please note that due to the pandemic situation, the conference will now be taking place online.

This link to the submission page can also be found on the AEA-Europe website https://www.aea-europe.net

Please read the guidelines carefully before uploading your proposal(s) to EasyAcademia.

Important dates

Main conference:	November 3-5, 2021
Pre-conference workshops:	November 2 2021 (3)
Submission deadline for pre-conference workshops:	April 2, 2021
Submission deadline (other than workshops):	April 16, 2021
Acceptance notification:	June 30, 2021
Registration by presenters:	August 31, 2021
Online registration closes:	October 18, 2021

Assessment for Changing Times: Opportunities and Challenges.

The cycles of educational and assessment change and reform across many systems get shorter and shorter, as policymakers respond to emerging needs. Such needs are typically driven by societal and economic factors, informed by ever-increasing volumes of research, evaluation of practice and public comment. This process reflects experience across most areas in society, including education and educational assessment. Such rapid change brings opportunities. For example, it allows for research and development of new methods and approaches to measure skills and competencies, development of enhanced forms of digital assessment, creation of virtual items and introduction of adaptive assessment into large-scale testing programmes. These are exciting developments that occupy the professional lives of many individuals, groups and agencies globally.

However, such developments bring challenges also. Change in assessment policy and practice command the attention of stakeholders in education – policymakers, teachers, students, parents and the research community. Such attention by stakeholders can evolve into anxiety, debate, struggle for control of assessment systems and conflict. Examples include concerns about measuring problem-solving as part of the Programme in International Student Assessment (PISA), struggles between teachers' unions and Government in Ireland about school-based assessment, and the opt-out-of-testing movement by parents in Scotland and the US.

Quite apart from these developments, we have experienced rapid enforced changes worldwide in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic, which has significantly affected the educational and assessment environment. The need to adapt to a rapidly changing assessment environment has accelerated even more. New needs have emerged, including the fact that most school children (and higher education students) undertake at least some of their learning online beyond the traditional classroom environment.

Questions of Interest

The AEA-Europe online conference 2021 offers delegates the chance to explore change in assessment and how it is received by stakeholders. Questions of interest include:

- *What are we changing in assessment?*
- *Why is change needed?*
- *How do we introduce new ideas, practices and methods?*
- *What are the benefits of such reform and where is the evidence that change works?*
- *What are the obstacles to changes in assessment and to systemic reform or practice?*

The conference theme unifies and extends the themes explored in some previous AEA-Europe conferences, particularly those in Lisbon (2019) and Arnhem/Nijmegen (2018) and in the our first major online event, the AEA-Europe Festival (2020). The 2018 theme encouraged delegates to discuss the development of optimally fitting tests and assessments designed to meet the needs of learners, teachers and policymakers in the future. Such assessments, many of which draw on advances in digital technology, require solid evidence of fit with relevant curriculum content and skills and need to display psychometrics properties appropriate to their use. Delegates in Lisbon (2019) were invited to consider how assessments can be used to transform teaching and learning and thus improve educational outcomes for students. Focusing on assessment as a pedagogical tool, that theme emphasised, in part,

how formative and summative assessments can be embedded in classroom practice and how feedback processes can be used not only to inform students but to highlight valuable insights for teachers and other stakeholders in education. Keynotes, presentations and symposia during the 2020 online Festival focused almost entirely on the current impact of the pandemic on assessment. Throughout 2020, COVID-19 posed enormous challenge to the functioning of assessment systems globally. These challenges remain still and continue to shape how assessment professionals adjust and tailor assessment approaches in response to a changed educational environment, while retaining public confidence.

The theme for 2021 encompasses the essence of previous themes, inviting contributors to continue exploring the development of high-quality assessments (for example, assessment of skills and competencies, use of digital assessment, log-file analysis, adaptive testing) and how to implement them most effectively to measure and support learning and to inform system review and development. In addition, the theme especially invites consideration of the consequences of the development and implementation of change in assessment. Inevitably, any perceived changes will be affected by the pandemic. Knowing how and why stakeholders respond to the well-intentioned efforts of the assessment and policy community can help inform more appropriate approaches to implementation. We need to understand to what extent assessment changes are understood and interpreted by test users and those they work with. Understanding why key stakeholders sometimes oppose change helps us design and implement systems that recognise the concerns and frame solutions at the outset. The intended and unintended effects of assessment use are, therefore, important to identify. There is a clear link to validity here in that validity evidence supports (or refutes) the consequences of the interpretation and uses of results: more importantly, how they are understood and used. Clearly, there are consequences both for test users (teachers, students, parents, policymakers) who may hold differing perspectives and for assessment professionals.

Submissions from 2020

The pandemic affected the last year's annual conference, scheduled for November 2020. Instead of the 2020 conference we decided to organise a small online event which attempted to capture some of the essence of the traditional, more familiar full conference. For this reason, all submissions for the 2020 conference (submitted in April 2020) have remained unevaluated. In May 2020, the Scientific Programme Committee asked all who had submitted proposals (in any format) to consider whether they wished to withdraw their submissions. A few did but the vast majority did not.

You may, of course, retain your 2020 submissions and have them evaluated for presentation during the 2021 online conference instead. You may also submit further proposals if you wish. We would like to offer you the opportunity again to withdraw your submissions, should you wish. If you do then you will need to let us know as soon as possible. However, the rules for the maximum number of submissions appearing under the same named presenter still apply.

If we do not hear from you regarding proposals submitted in 2020 then we will assume that you do not wish them to be considered for the 2021 conference.

If you want to supplement or modify the submission from the previous year, then of course it is possible. In that case, please let us know, and we will delete your existing submission and you will be able to upload it in a new updated form.

To access your submission, please log in with your credentials at
https://www.easyacademia.org/aea2021

Your dashboard will list all submissions from 2020, and offer you to either CONFIRM or DISCARD (see screen shot below) submissions that were originally submitted by you (please note that co-authors and presenters that did not submit their work originally will not have the said options). In case that your work has been submitted by someone else and you no longer have contact with that person, the arrangements to keep your submissions can be done by contacting support@easyconferences.org

Areas of Interest

The conference committee therefore invites proposals covering a range of possible areas related to the overall theme of Assessment for Changing Times. Some topics may focus significantly on impacts of the pandemic; some may not. Possible areas overall include:

- *new developments in test development and assessment (including e-assessment)*
- *assessment as solution-oriented whereby implementation of appropriate assessments seeks to address problems at classroom, school and system levels*
- *what are the "wicked" or highly challenging problems in assessment (measuring transferable skills, measuring transferable skills, using an assessment for multiple purpose, ensuring positive impact)?*
- *what are the challenges in introducing assessment reform? Technical, financial, political?*
- *how do stakeholders, especially those charged with implementation, understand assessment?*
- *what are the responses from stakeholders, especially teachers, students and parents?*
- *how adequate is our messaging about assessment and its role in education? How effectively do we communicate with schools, parents, the public?*
- *how can we improve the assessment literacy of all stakeholders, including the media?*
- *the impact of COVID on large-scale assessments (examinations for student certification, national surveys, international surveys), school-based assessment, and on students, parents and teachers*
- *managing the impact of a pandemic in education, with a special focus on assessment.*

The overall theme offers opportunity and indeed challenge to the assessment research and policy community to explore issues of technical development and implementation and also to consider the wider contexts around how assessment is perceived amongst those it is supposed to serve, particularly in light of the current pandemic. Contributors may opt to focus on specific aspects of the theme, or to take a more holistic view that approaches assessment from the perspective of the end-user (students, teachers, parents, college admissions officers, employers) rather than the assessment professional. Whilst there is no absolute requirement to submit Covid-related proposals, relevant and interesting submissions would be welcomed. We invite you to be creative in interpreting the theme and look forward to stimulating discussions throughout the 2021 conference on a topic that touches hundreds of millions of people across Europe and beyond.

Subthemes

In addition to relating to the overall theme, subthemes should relate to at least one of the following:

- ***Assessment of Practical Skills***
- ***Comparative Judgement***
- ***Educational Policy and Assessment***
- ***E-assessment***
- ***Fairness and Social Justice***
- ***Formative Assessment***
- ***Summative Assessment***
- ***Higher Education and Assessment***
- ***Assessment against the backdrop of the Covid Pandemic***
- ***Language Issues in Assessment***
- ***National Tests and Examinations***
- ***International Assessments***
- ***Psychometrics and Test Development (including Reliability, Validity)***
- ***Test Development***
- ***Assessment Cultures***
- ***Other***

Your submission should clearly and explicitly relate to the conference theme. We encourage you to tick a subtheme in the submission system indicating your subtheme grouping preference. While we cannot guarantee grouping in a particular session/subtheme, we will take your preferences into account.

Submission Formats

The AEA-E conference comprises keynote addresses, open paper presentations, connected papers sessions, ignite presentations and poster presentations. We welcome submissions for all formats, except the keynote addresses, which are by invitation only.

All submissions are evaluated and this includes consideration of the applicant's preferred format. If the Scientific Programme Committee come to the conclusion that your submission would fit better in another format, you may be asked to consider the submission format change (e.g. from open paper presentation to a poster, etc.). If there is any other format that

you are willing to accept, you can state it in your application. This can speed up the acceptance process.

This call also covers proposals to lead a pre-conference workshop. Normally several workshops are held on the day before the conference - so submissions for these workshops are also welcome. Please note that the deadline for submission of workshops is earlier.

You might propose one or more of the following:

- Pre-conference workshop: Closing date for submissions 2nd April

- Ignite presentation: Closing date for submissions 16th April
- Paper presentation: Closing date for submissions 16th April
- Connected papers presentation: Closing date for submissions 16th April
- Poster presentation: Closing date for submissions 16th April

For each submission, please follow the instructions below. Please note that, although you may submit several proposals:

(i)   your name can only appear a maximum of **four times** across the conference programme

(ii)   your name can only appear **once as lead person** for any given format – for example, you can only be lead author for one paper presentation.

Pre-conference workshops (submission deadline 2nd April 2021)

On the day preceding the conference a number of optional pre-conference workshops are run for conference attendees. A participation fee is payable.

The proposal should consist of a short abstract (maximum 200 words) and completion of Appendix A which is provided in the online submission system. The proposal should consist of a short presentation of the aim of the workshop, a description of required previous knowledge, and the target audience. The proposal should also indicate a good balance of professional input from the workshop leaders and time for input and discussion by the participants.

The proposal should be written in Times Roman 12, 1.5 line spacing. Use bold for headings and underline the name of the main organizer(s).

Pre-conference proposals are reviewed by the Scientific Programme Committee.

Ignite Presentation (submission deadline 16th April 2021)

Ignite presentations received positive reviews last years, so this year we are seeking proposals for Ignite presentations again. An ignite presentation – also known as 'pecha kucha' - is a high energy way to present content in a quick and concise format. Twenty slides automatically advance at 15-second intervals for a total presentation time of five minutes in length. You will also be allotted an additional 5 minutes for Q&A following your presentation. Ignite presentations should include innovative ideas or approaches in the field of educational assessment and relating to the conference theme.

To propose an ignite presentation, please describe what you wish to share with the audience and do this in 150 words (maximum). If you choose this option, you will be asked to upload a separate proposal for an individual oral presentation in the Ignite format.

For more inspiration about this format, you might want to visit the following websites:
https://www.pechakucha.org
http://sixminutes.dlugan.com/ignite-presentations

In order to make such an ignite session successful, AEA-Europe will provide some coaching and rehearsal/testing opportunity before and during the actual session (e.g. number of words per sheet etc.).

The 150 word proposal should be written in Times Roman 12, 1.5 line spacing. Use bold for headings and underline the name of the main organizer(s).

Open paper presentation (submission deadline 16th April 2021)

There are a number of parallel paper sessions on each conference day. These sessions comprise three individual papers and are allocated to 90 minute slots. Speakers are asked to present for 20 minutes and allow 10 minutes for questions/discussion, making each paper presentation a maximum of 30 minutes. Please consider this when writing your proposal. For unfinished research or research in the early stages, please consider the poster format.

The proposal should consist of a short abstract (maximum 200 words) and a long abstract (maximum 600 words). The short abstract should be written without references, while at least one reference should be given for the long abstract.

The proposal should be written in Times Roman 12 with 1.5 line spacing. Use bold for headings. You will be asked to provide the name of the main presenter and co-presenters with affiliation.

It is possible to submit several proposals; **however, you can only be the main presenter for ONE open paper during the conference.** You may be co-presenter of other open papers.

Connected Papers Session (submission deadline 16th April 2021)

This is a new format that is particularly suitable for those who conduct research in the same or related field and would like to present their results to the public together. Each connected papers session consists of three linked individual papers and will occupy a 90 minutes slot. Connected papers sessions will run in parallel with each other and/or with other presentations. Unlike in open paper presentation, there will be no discussant or chair in the session; hence you will be responsible for organizing the session (technical assistance will be provided), including time scheduling, allowing time for questions and discussion. When planning, please keep in mind that this format is primarily intended for discussion and interaction with the audience, so question and discussion time should be at least 40% of the time. It is up to you in what form and when you include it.

Connected papers session should include:

- *Session title, main convenor (main responsible person) and his/her affiliations*
- *Title, author(s) and their affiliation(s) of each of the papers (maximum of 3 papers)*
- *800 word overview of the session including proposed organization (how much time for the presentations, in which form, when, how the audience can ask questions, when, etc.)*
- *200 word abstract for each of the proposed papers.*

The proposal should be written in Times Roman 12 with 1.5 line spacing. Use bold for headings.

Poster proposals (submission deadline 16th April 2021)

Digital posters will be presented in a poster session where delegates will view each poster in sequence. Each poster will be accompanied by a short oral commentary from the presenter, delivered online.

The proposal for a poster should consist of a 200 word abstract.

It is possible to submit more than one proposal; **however, you will only be able to be the main presenter for ONE poster during the conference**. You are able to be a co-presenter of other posters.

After the poster session online, each poster will be uploaded to a dedicated location on the conference platform. Your email address should be prominently displayed on the poster and delegates may wish to communicate with you during the conference in relation to your poster.

The poster format/size should be submitted as a pdf.

The posters will be presented in such a way that each poster will be presented electronically on the main screen and the presenters will have 90 seconds to introduce their work. One slot

will be allowed for the poster presentation (typically 90 minutes). Once all the presentations have been given, conference delegates will be allowed to view the posters and chat with the poster presentations in Zoom group rooms. If multiple posters meet the minimum acceptance criteria, posters that scored more evaluation points will be given preference in the acceptance process until the maximum of the slot's time capacity is used.

Delegates at the conference will be asked to vote for their preferred poster. The poster with the most votes will win **The CITO Poster Award** which consists of the opportunity to visit CITO (NL), meeting other experts and getting to experience an institution deeply engaged in assessment development and production (when it is safe to do so). Further information about the poster award can be found on the AEA-Europe website.

Review process

The review process will be managed by the Scientific Programme Committee.

Stuart Shaw, Co-Chair, AEA-Europe member, Cambridge Assessment, UK

Andrej Novik, Co-Chair, AEA-Europe member, SCIO, Czech Republic

Elisa de Padua, Member, AEA-Europe member, University of Cambridge, UK

Nico Dieteren, Member, AEA-Europe member, CITO, the Netherlands

Gerry Shiel, Member, AEA-Europe member, ERC, Ireland

Damian Murchan, AEA-member, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

Please note that we will not proofread the submissions so authors need to ensure that all submissions have been proof-read and are error free.

All ignite presentations, open papers, connected papers sessions, and poster proposals will be considered through a blind peer review process. Each proposal is reviewed by **THREE** independent reviewers. Proposals will be judged on the scientific quality of the proposal and how it relates to the conference theme (strongly, weakly or not at all). Proposals that are accepted by at least two reviewers will be accepted by the Scientific Programme Committee.

In previous years, the Fellows of AEA-Europe, members of the Conference Organizing and Scientific committees, the Local Organizing Committee, Council members and members of AEA-Europe committees have acted as reviewers. In the past three years the number of proposals has increased substantially, and AEA-Europe members that have participated and presented in a large number of previous conferences may be approached and asked to act as reviewers, in order to secure a sound review process.

EasyAcademia System

To access EasyAcademia, please use the link provided on the conference website or the one below:

https://www.easyacademia.org/aea2021

The submission process has two parts:

1.   Log in to EasyAcademia using an existing account or set up a new account and log in.

If you registered for EasyAcademia for a previous conference, you should use the same username and password to log in also for the 2021 AEA Europe submission.

Note that if you previously submitted for the 2016 AEA-Europe conference in Cyprus or any AEA conferences since then, you may use the same account details.

If you have not used EasyAcademia previously, you will need to set up an account. Please follow the instructions in Appendix B.

2.   Submit your abstract(s)

Before you submit your abstract(s), please make certain you have the necessary information for co-authors: full name, affiliation, country of residence and email. You will need to provide a list of keywords for your submission. The keywords will be used in the programme.

You will be asked to indicate the submission category of your proposal (pre-conference workshop, ignite presentation, open paper, connected papers session or poster).

You will, in addition, be asked to indicate a topic category: e.g. assessment of practical skills, comparative judgement, educational policy and assessment, e-assessment, fairness and social justice, formative assessment, higher education and assessment, national tests and examinations, international assessments, psychometrics and test development (including reliability, validity), test development, assessment cultures, etc.

We will use the topic category and the short abstract to allocate reviewers to your proposal. If more than one category fits your proposal, please select the most appropriate. If none fits, please select 'Other'. The few categories provided represent topic categories that typically receive a large enough number of submissions to be reviewed by a team of reviewers. Proposals submitted as 'Other' will be reviewed following the same standards and guidelines as all other proposals.

Please use the instructions below to help you submit your abstract(s). The procedure is quite simple and we do not anticipate many problems, but if you do need help, please contact us at support@easyconferences.org.

If you want to submit more than one proposal, you will need to submit each individually.

Please note that EasyAcademia does not run effectively if you use Internet Explorer. We recommend using another browser, for instance Chrome, Opera or Firefox.

Step 1 : Submission Format

Select Format

Please choose one of the following submission formats as your preferred format. If your submission get accepted, the final decision on the format will be made by the chair.

○ Pre-conference workshop [what is this?]

○ Ignite Presentation [what is this?]

○ Open Paper Presentation [what is this?]

○ Connected Papers Session [what is this?]

○ Poster proposal [what is this?]

continue >

Select the format corresponding to your submission.

Step 2: Submission Title

Please provide the title for your proposal.

Submission Title

Please provide the title of your submission.

0 words

continue >

Step 3: Short Abstract

Please provide a short abstract for your proposal.

Abstract

Please enter the abstract for your submission in the box below. Plain text should be given only, no html code is allowed.

0 / 200 words

continue >

Step 4: Keywords

Please provide a minimum of 3 keywords.

Keywords

Please enter the keywords separated by a comma.

keyword1, keyword2, keyword3

continue >

Step 5: Authors

Please input details for each author and mark them with appropriate roles. Corresponding authors will receive updates and information regarding the submission. Authors not marked as presenter, convenor or corresponding, will only receive an initial notification of submission.

Step 6: Topics

List Authors

Please list people involved in this submission below. There must be at least one presenting and one corresponding person listed. Please note that the same person can be listed as both corresponding and presenting.

+ add new author

continue >

Please select the most appropriate topic for your proposal. We will use the topics and the short abstract to allocate reviewers to your proposal. If more than one topic fits your proposal, please select the most appropriate one. If none fits, please select 'Other'.

Choose Topics

Please select topics most applicable to your submission. If none of the topics below suit your submission, please choose the nearest applicable topic(s).

- [ ] Assessment of Practical Skills
- [ ] Comparative Judgement
- [ ] Educational Policy and Assessment
- [ ] E-assessment
- [ ] Fairness and Social Justice
- [ ] Formative Assessment
- [ ] Higher Education and Assessment
- [ ] Language Issues in Assessment
- [ ] National Tests and Examinations
- [ ] International Assessments
- [ ] Psychometrics and Test Development (including Reliability, Validity)
- [ ] Test Development
- [ ] Assessment Cultures
- [ ] Other

Step 7: Long Abstract Upload

Please upload your long abstract in PDF or Word format.

Upload Document

Please upload the document by clicking on the upload button below and select the file from your computer. Make sure that your file is prepared by the conference standards before you upload.

| no file uploaded yet | upload abstract |

The following file format(s) can be uploaded: 📄 📄

continue >

Step 8: Attachment

If you are submitting a Workshop, the Attachment step will appear. Complete the Workshop Application form (Sample in Appendix A) and upload it as part of your submission.

Step 9: Submit

If you are happy with the summary information, please click on Submit Now to finalize the process, and a notification e-mail will be sent to all authors.

Summary

A summary of your submission can be seen below. If all information is correct, please finalize the submission by selecting *submit now*.

Format	Ignite Presentation
Submission Title	Sample title
Abstract	Your abstract
Keywords	keywords not set
Authors	not set
Topics	no topics selected
Document	no file uploaded
Attachment	no attachment uploaded

submit now

APPENDIX A: Template pre-conference workshop

WORKSHOP TITLE:

Presenters:

Presenters' Bios (500 words max per presenter):

Why AEA members should attend this workshop:

Who this Workshop is for:

Overview (500 words):

Preparation for the workshop:

Tentative Schedule

Time	Session	Presenter
10.00-12.00	Block I	
12.00-13.00	Break	
13.00-14.30	Block II	
14.30-14.45	Break	
14.45-16.00	Block III	

APPENDIX B: Set up an Account

First, you will need to set up an account. Go to www.easyacademia.org and click on the "Get Started" button.

This link will bring up a signup page:

Follow the on-screen instructions and complete the form and click on "Create Account".

Now, you will receive an email with the activation code. Use the link provided in the email to verify your account.

Note: Please check your Spam folder if you have not received the email within a few minutes.

Note: If your email appears taken, it is possible that you have signed up for EasyAcademia in the past for another conference. In this case, you simply need to ask the system to remind you of your password based on your email.