

2017 AEA-Europe Annual Conference, Prague, Czech Republic

Assessment cultures in a globalised world

Call and instructions for submissions

The submission of proposals for the 2017 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 done through EasyAcademia: <http://www.easyacademia.org/aea2017>

This link to the submission page can also be found on the AEA-Europe website on the Prague Conference page.

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

Scientific Programme Committee

Sarah Maughan, Co-Chair, AEA-Europe member, AlphaPlus, UK

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

Jana Straková, Local Organising Committee Member, Institute for Development and Research in Education, Czech Republic

Mr Radek Blažek, Local Organising Committee Member, Czech School Inspectorate, Czech Republic

Gill Stewart, AEA Europe Council member, SQA, Scotland/UK

Cor Sluijter, AEA-Europe Treasurer, Cito, Netherlands

Theme:
Assessment cultures in a globalised world

Assessment is a complex and multifaceted practice. Yet many assume that when we talk about ‘assessment’ we have a common understanding of what it is and what it involves; that there is a universal understanding of assessment. However, this, as we know from experience, is not the case. For example, teacher assessment in some countries is afforded much more authority, is inherently trusted and is seen as professionally sound in much the same way as national examinations are. In other countries, teacher assessment is afforded less power and is considered less reliable than external assessments. Indeed, even examinations tend to have different status and purposes across various educational systems.

Within Europe, different assessment cultures can be observed. In the Scandinavian countries, for example, teacher assessment dominates, while in England, although teacher assessment has been around for a long time, it is less well-regarded by policy makers than external examinations which have been historically provided by a variety of awarding organisations. In other jurisdictions, for example in the countries of Eastern Europe, national examinations are highly trusted and ministries of education are usually responsible for one external examination which all students complete. In all our nations, assessment has taken on what can be defined as a ‘cultural script’, i.e. a nation can have a propensity to assess in a particular way that is aligned to cultural beliefs about what assessment is and how it should be conducted. For example, in some countries (e.g. Netherlands) standardized testing has a long history and is deeply rooted in the school assessment systems. However, such practices may be less common and not as widespread within the education systems of other countries (e.g. France), which have historically looked to more open-ended ways of assessing students’ knowledge. It is interesting to reflect, in a changing European landscape, whether we can truly identify a European tradition of assessment or whether the differences are more striking than the similarities. As a European association, we also reside within a more international, globalized educational arena and it may be that here too traditions and practices of assessment across cultures, while located firmly within national preferences, are becoming more alike because of a more globalized education project and employment market place. Most developed countries participate in one or more of the international comparative assessments such as PIRLS, TIMSS, PISA and ICCS. What is the true value of such assessment practices? Are the results of these international assessment systems overly influencing policymaking? Or, is it inevitable that there is adaptation and mutation of our assessment systems along with other social and political changes more generally?

Even locally, within countries, different stakeholders might well understand assessments differently. Parents, students, politicians and the media sometimes conceive of examinations as absolute and objective while assessment developers are concerned about levels of uncertainty or measurement error. As more and more national tests are introduced into national education systems, communicating about test outcomes and how they might inform teaching, learning and/or policymaking has become a major challenge for test developers,

researchers and academics. National standards and school accountability concerns, while of intrinsic value to particular audiences, might well counteract the positive backwash on teaching and learning of good assessment practice and principles. How do those responsible for assessment development and regulation meaningfully interact with key stakeholders (e.g. students, parents, teacher, principals and school governors) in discussing and debating such dilemmas?

Furthermore, how do assessment practices and systems take into consideration the movement and integration of people across and within countries and allow for the variety of experiences and understandings of education and its purpose that different groups bring to the assessment arena. Can we develop assessments and assessment systems that are culturally sensitive and allow every student to show us what they can do?

The 18th Annual AEA-Europe conference welcomes presentations from delegates on these and related issues and debates. Possible topics that delegates might also wish to consider include (please note that the groupings and list are not definitive – all contextual explorations of the conference theme are welcome):

Assessment and policy contexts

- The transferability and utility of qualifications between different jurisdictions
- The place of assessment in cultural and political aspects of education
- Tensions between teacher assessment and external examinations
- The politics of external and school-based assessment
- The social responsibility of test developers and policy agents
- The impact of legislation on educational assessment
- Assessment and the reproduction of social stratification
- The global reach of assessment in international policy decisions
- Cross-country comparisons of educational reform and associated assessment approaches

Assessment and theoretical contexts

- Technological and psychometric innovations in assessment
- New assessment formats
- The role of socio-cultural theories in understanding assessment practice
- Evidence-based policy making in assessment
- Alternative assessment paradigms
- Critical approaches in educational assessment
- Validity issues in educational assessment
- Fairness and equality in educational assessment

Assessment and institutional contexts

- Trust in teacher assessment

- The teacher as a stakeholder in the development of new assessment paradigms
- Assessment for citizenship
- Social and political underpinnings of vocational assessment
- Tensions between assessment for learning and accountability

Your submission should clearly and explicitly relate to the conference theme.

Submission formats

The AEA-E conference comprises keynote addresses, open paper presentations, discussion groups, symposia and poster presentations. Submissions are welcomed for all formats except the keynote addresses which will be by invitations only.

On the day before the conference, several workshops will be offered. This call is also for proposals to lead these workshops.

You might propose one or more of the following:

- Pre-conference workshop: Closing date **10th March** (note that the submission date for workshops is earlier than for other proposals).
- Paper presentation: Closing date for submissions **30th April**.
- Discussion group: Closing date for submissions **30th April**.
- Poster presentation: Closing date for submissions **30th April**.
- Symposia: Closing date for submissions **30th April**.

For each submission, please follow the instructions below. Please notice that, although you may submit several proposals, your name can only appear a maximum of four times in the conference programme.

Pre-conference workshops (submission deadline 10th March)

On the day preceding the conference a number of optional pre-conference workshops are run for conference attendees. A participation fee is payable, to cover the cost of rooms, facilities, coffee/tea, lunch and some presenter expenses.

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 consist of a short presentation of the aim of the workshop, a description of required previous knowledge, and the target audience. Please do also complete the form in Appendix A and upload this together with your submission.

For the long abstract, 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 in cooperation with the Professional Development Committee.

A maximum of two organisers/presenters for each workshop can be reimbursed for one night of accommodation and, in addition, receive a gift certificate of 50 Euro.

Open paper presentation (submission deadline 30th April)

There are typically 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.

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 be the main presenter for only one open paper during the conference. You might be co-presenter of other open papers. In the situation that more than one open paper is accepted, the Programme Committee will contact you to discuss the possibility to present the other papers as posters.

Open paper proposals will be reviewed by three reviewers in a blind review process, please see below.

Discussion groups (submission deadline 30th April)

Discussion groups usually feature in each conference. These can offer opportunities to continue discussions begun at a previous conference on particular topics, or new topics can be introduced. In recent years these have been programmed to run parallel with individual paper sessions, with 90 minutes slots. In light of feedback from delegates we have adapted the format slightly for the 2017 conference. Each discussion group will occupy a 60 minutes slot and discussion groups will run in parallel with each other.

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 indicate the main organizer(s) of the discussion group and provide names with affiliation for other presenters. Before submitting, you will be asked to confirm that all co-presenters have read and accepted the submitted proposal.

For the long abstract, the proposal should be written in Times Roman 12 with 1.5 line spacing. Use bold for headings.

Discussion group proposals will be reviewed by three reviewers in a blind review process (please see details of the review process below).

In total 60 minutes are allocated for each accepted discussion group. Please note that presentations should be kept short to allow most of the time to be spent on discussions. Please consider this when writing your proposal.

Symposia (submission deadline 30th April)

Proposals for Symposia for the 2017 AEA-Europe conference are welcomed. AEA-Europe piloted Symposia within the 2016 conference. In light of feedback from delegates we have adapted the format slightly for the 2017 conference. Each Symposium will normally consist of three linked individual papers and will occupy a 60 minutes slot (3 papers with 10 minutes each, a discussant for 10 minutes and 20 minutes discussion with the audience). Symposia (except for the Keynote Symposium, see below) will run in parallel with each other.

The symposium proposal should identify a discussant in the submission. Please note, that unlike 2016, you do not need to submit the individual papers that make up the symposium as individual papers in the overall call for paper presentations. Details of what to submit are outlined below. The top-scoring symposium will be selected for the new **Keynote Symposium session** that will replace one of the keynote addresses at the annual conference.

Thus symposia submission should include:

- Symposium title, convenor and discussant with their affiliations
- Title, author(s) and their affiliation(s) of each of the papers in the symposium (maximum of 3 papers)
- 600 word overview of the symposium
- 200 word abstract for each of the proposed papers.

Poster proposals (submission deadline 30th April)

There will be one session dedicated to poster presentations. The purpose is for the presenters to display, briefly present and discuss their work with a visual display.

The proposal 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 might be co-presenter of others.

Poster proposals will be reviewed by three reviewers in a blind review process, please see below.

Each poster is given a dedicated spot in the poster area. You will be expected to attend to present your poster during the poster session in the programme. You will be asked to give a short 90 seconds introduction to your poster orally when the poster session opens.

The poster format is particularly appropriate for visual displays and work in progress. Please consider this when writing your proposal.

Poster Award

The best poster presented at the conference will win an award which consists of having the opportunity to visit CITO (NL), meeting other experts and getting to experience an institution deeply engaged in assessment. 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.

All open paper, discussion group, symposium and poster proposals will be part of 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 cases where the review outcome is unclear or requires resolution, a member of the Scientific Programme Committee will act as an adjudicator.

In previous years, the Fellows of AEA-E, 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 starting in 2016, 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.

Submission

All submissions are made through EasyAcademia. Please use the link provided on the conference website or the one below:

<http://www.easyacademia.org/aea2017>

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 2017 AEA Europe submission.

Note that if you registered for the 2016 AEA-Europe conference in Cyprus 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 you 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, open paper, discussion group, mini-symposium or poster).

You will, in addition, be asked to indicate a topic category: the social responsibility of examination boards and awarding bodies, international surveys, national tests and examinations, assessment for learning, policy, test development, equity and social justice, psychometrics, vocational education, e-assessment, assessment cultures, other.

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 the format corresponding to your submission.

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?]

Open paper presentation [what is this?]

Discussion group [what is this?]

Symposium: Overview [what is this?]

Symposium: Oral presentation code i

Poster proposal [what is this?]

continue >

In case you are submitting a symposium please select “Symposium: Overview” format and save your submission. Once saved, the symposium will be assigned with a submission code. Next, start a new submission for each individual abstract, and use the code to unlock “Symposium: Oral presentation” format, which will link your individual abstract to the main symposium.

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 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.

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 >](#)

Step 6: Topics

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).

The social responsibility of Examination Boards and Awarding Bodies
 International surveys
 National tests and examinations
 Assessment for learning
 Policy
 Test development
 Equity and social justice
 Psychometrics
 Vocational education
 e-assessment
 Assessment cultures
 Other

[continue >](#)

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	Open paper presentation
Submission Title	<i>submission title not set</i>
Abstract	<i>abstract not set</i>
Keywords	<i>keywords not set</i>
Authors	<i>not set</i>
Topics	<i>no topics selected</i>
Document	<i>no file uploaded</i>

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

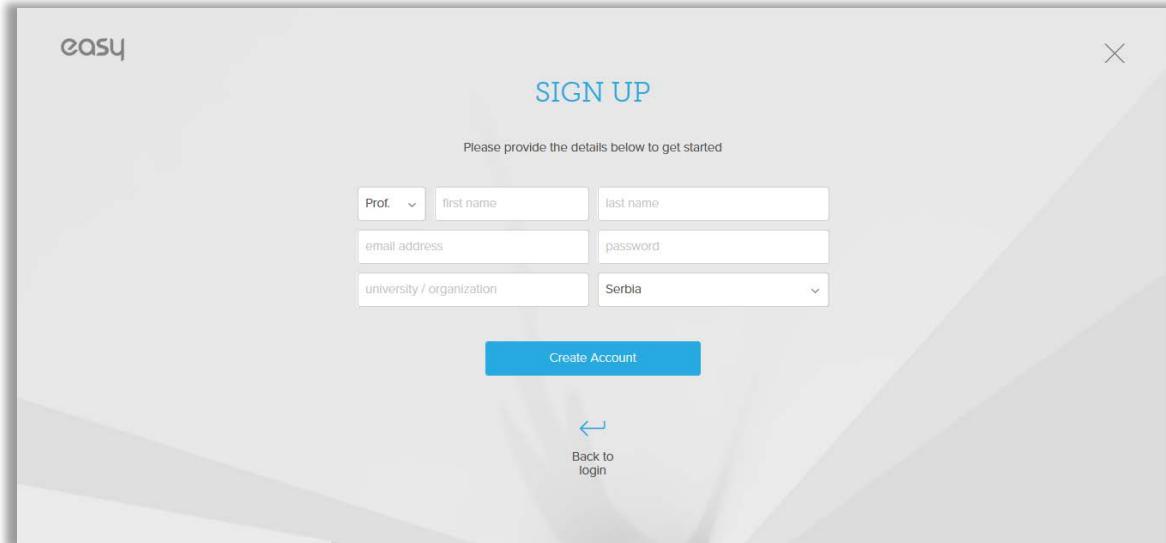
Time	Session	Presenter
09.00	Coffee and registration	
09.30	Welcome & introductions Outline of the Workshop	
09.45		
11.00	Break	
11.30		
13.00	Lunch	
14.00		
15.30	Break	
15.45		
16.30	Workshop close	-

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.