



YOUR ROLE AS DRUID ACADEMY SENIOR DISCUSSANT

For some, the upcoming conference will be the first time to serve as senior discussant for a DRUID Academy event. What is required is somewhat different compared to similar roles at other conferences. The hints below are intended to provide you with guidance regarding your role as a DRUID Academy Senior Discussant.

As Senior Discussant you are pivotal for the success of a session. It is your intervention /contribution that stimulates civilized controversies, which are at the core of the conference.

First and foremost: Be clear, to the point, sharp but constructive, acknowledge significant contributions but focus on aspects where improvements can or must be made. Aim at providing the young scholars with something useful to bring home. Enlighten, when possible, the audience with some new insight or reflection.

Please keep in mind that the PhD students are presenting draft papers and not final versions. When choosing your comments also take into account how long the PhD student has been enrolled.

Previous experience has shown that the presenters benefit greatly from interaction with their discussants after the session. To discuss PhD student's contributions between sessions is an integral part of the job as Senior Discussant.

Finally: Please inform the Conference Organizers immediately if you become suspicious of any possible fabrication of data or plagiarism relating to the papers you are asked to discuss.

Practicalities about each session

Each paper session is assigned a senior and a junior discussant. Thus, in order that everyone has sufficient time to speak it is important that you exercise discipline, particularly time management. It is considered good practice to let the junior-discussant start.

- Please arrive at the appropriate room five minutes before the session is due to start.
- Introduce yourself to the presenters, co-discussant and the chair. The chair will tell you at

the beginning of the session how long your comments should last. This could vary between sessions depending on the number of papers to be presented. A standard session with three papers lasts for one and forty-five minutes. Each paper will be allocated 35 minutes. 15 minutes for the presentation, 5 minutes for the junior discussant, 5 minutes for the senior discussant and 10 minutes for general discussion and short answers from the PhD student. Therefore you should aim to speak approximately 5 minutes for each paper and then you can add extra comments during the general discussion if needed or during one of the many breaks.

YOUR ROLE AS DRUID ACADEMY CHAIR

In essence your role will be to introduce the presenter and allocated discussants; control the length of time that they speak for and manage any questions from the floor. We believe that it is important to establish some ground rules that everybody understands and works towards during the conference:

Please arrive in the room where the session is to take place at least five minutes before the appointed time. The presenters have been asked to upload their presentation on the PC before the start of the session to save time.

Introduce yourself to the presenters. Ask them for biographical details to use in introducing them. Make sure that their presentation has been uploaded. Inform them of the maximum time they will have to present their paper. For example, in session with three papers, each presenter should have 15 minutes and the two discussants should be allocated 5 minutes each and 10 minutes for general discussion and short answers from the PhD student. It is important that participants are given the chance to ask additional questions from the floor.

For each paper introduce the author and title of the paper.

In managing the questions and answers part of each session please ask those asking questions to identify themselves and to keep their comments as short as possible to allow time for the presenters to respond in full. You may decide how to organize this element of the session, i.e. after each paper or after all the papers have been presented.

Please ensure that the session finishes on time. With the number of papers to be presented this is going to be a busy event.

Thanks once again for your help in making this event as constructive, ambitious and pleasant as we hope it will be.