

## Dear interactive session chair

Thank you for agreeing to serve as an in-person competitive session chair at the upcoming AIB-UKI conference. The participation of yourself and other volunteers is critical for the conference's success. The purpose of this briefing is to offer suggestions on how to chair your session, based on the experience of past meetings.

Session chairs are particularly important as they function both as chairs and discussants, under Session Chairs are especially important for Interactive Sessions where papers are presented and discussed in a roundtable format. Please plan and run the session in a way that ensures a meaningful conversation among the individual presenters. We suggest starting the session with a brief introduction of the papers included. Interactive sessions can have as many as seven papers. No formal PowerPoint or overhead presentation will be allowed. We have instructed the presenters to prepare an oral presentation of no more than 3-5 minutes to briefly outline the main ideas and key contributions of their paper. As an option, presenters have also been encouraged to create a ONE-page Executive Summary, or a ONE-page slides handout (e.g., showing no more than six slides), of their paper and circulate these to the other participants of the session. This procedure aims to facilitate valuable and ample discussion among all presenters, the chair, and other attendees, following each presentation. As chair, please make every effort to achieve this objective. Ideally, the brief author presentations should be structured as a conversation (i.e., short interventions and highly interactive), not as a sequence of monologues. The task is not easy and we are grateful to you for agreeing to be an Interactive Session Chair.

Below are some key recommendations:

### **1 Get acquainted ahead of time with the people in your session**

As session chair, you should contact everyone in your session well in advance of the conference. For a listing of the participants in your session, please see the conference website: <https://www.conftool.org/aibuki2024/sessions.php>

Please check the date and time of your session and make sure you save it in your calendar. As a registered ConfTool user, when logged in, you can save the session under 'My Agenda' and/or export it to your mobile calendar.

## **2 Encourage the circulation of the papers in your session ahead of time**

As noted above, presenters are encouraged to create a ONE-page Executive Summary, or a ONE-page slides handout (e.g., showing no more than six slides), of their paper, to share with other participants. We request that presenters reach out to the session chair and other presenters themselves. However, if that does not happen, it may be useful to send a reminder email, to each of the presenters to obtain their summary or handout, and then distribute them to all the participants. You can see the emails of participants when logged into ConfTool using your user credentials <https://www.conftool.org/aibuki2024/sessions.php>.

Please encourage everyone in your session to read all the summaries or handouts before the conference. In this way, each participant can join the discussion in an informed way for a more cohesive and stimulating session. We have shared separate guidelines with the authors for all sessions, but feel free to email them any additional or specific instructions, as the sessions do differ in length, number of participants, purpose and content.

## **3 Order of presenters**

Unless there is a problem, please keep to the order of papers, as outlined in the official programme <https://www.conftool.org/aibuki2024/sessions.php>. We ask that each presenter remain in the session in which they are presenting for the entire scheduled time, in courtesy to the other speakers and to ensure a more coherent session.

## **4 Manage the session time**

The physical layout of the room will be (should be) a roundtable in the centre of the room with approximately 10 chairs for presenters and session chairs that allow for direct interaction and then an outer ring of chairs for other participants who are more than welcome to join the discussion. There will be no computer projectors in the room. The handouts will be the main visual aids used during the presentations.

All sessions are one hour and thirty minutes (90 minutes). As mentioned already, for Interactive Sessions, each presenter should give an oral presentation of no more than 3-5 minutes to briefly outline the main ideas and key contributions of their paper. We suggest you hold presenters to this time limit to foster substantive discussion and feedback on each paper. Please initiate discussion on each paper immediately after each presentation, or at the very least, after a couple of highly related presentations. This will help ensure fairness to each author in terms of the time devoted to their paper. The total amount of time for each paper in aggregate (presentation and comments) should be no more than about 10-12 minutes where there are 6 papers.

Time will be tight so please enforce the time limits on presentations. Do not allow a speaker to run on and take time away from the speakers that follow, or from the feedback that they themselves will receive. Please avoid a situation in which the session time has expired, but your session hasn't ended yet. Watch the clock to ensure that everyone gets their fair share of the time, and that the session can be adjourned on time.

In addition, please discourage presenters from responding during the session itself to the comments they receive. Such comments can be defensive, add little to the discussion, and merely reduce the time available for further feedback to the author, which is the purpose of these sessions. If they wish to continue discussion, they can do so informally later after the session or during the breaks.

Some groups are very interactive. As Session Chair you should focus on ensuring that each paper receives comments from the other presenters and/or the audience but doesn't exceed its allotted time. Alternatively, some groups are reserved. In such cases, please be prepared to step in and ask a question to initiate discussion on the papers. The aim is to allow all interested parties to comment, and for no individual (whether chair, presenter or audience member) to dominate the discussion.

## 5 How to start a session

As chair, it is up to you to start the session. There are two basic tasks:

- Start on time. This can be challenging, especially when participants may arrive late. But it is important to start on time, even if others join the session late.
- Introduce the topic and the speakers. The whole introduction should take no more than 2 minutes. Aim to set an informal first-name tone from the start of the session.

## 6 Audio-visual equipment

In interactive session rooms, there will be no audio-video equipment. The authors are not expected to make a formal presentation, and as such they should not expect to find a computer or a projector (even if it is available in the room).

## 7 Other suggestions

Meet the participants of your session 5-10 minutes BEFORE the session starts so that everyone can be introduced, handouts can be distributed, and you have a chance to tell them how you wish to conduct the session. Please try to do this before the session starts, to avoid having to do this in the time of the session itself.

It also helps to give your session members your email/mobile telephone number where you can be reached should an emergency occur. If that unwelcome emergency does occur please let your session members know as soon as possible, and make other plans. Please be prepared for the unexpected.

## 8 No shows

AIB-UKI follows the AIB world "no show" policy, to maintain the integrity and quality of the conference. This policy requires that at least one author of each manuscript listed in your session must register, attend, and present at the designated session. You can find more about this policy at <https://www.aib.world/events/2022/resources/policies/>. Therefore, we would like to ask for your help in informing us if a paper was not presented at your session. At the end of your session, please report any "no-show"s via an email to [aibuki2024@aston.ac.uk](mailto:aibuki2024@aston.ac.uk).

Similarly, if for any reason you cannot present your paper, please inform both your session chair and the AIB-UKI admin team in advance of your session.

We hope you find the above recommendations useful and look forward to seeing you in Birmingham!

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