

Terms of Reference

1. The CPSA Programme Committee (the Committee) will normally award the CPSA Poster Prize (the prize) every year. However, the Committee may decide not to award a prize in any given year.
2. In the implementation of these Terms of Reference, the Committee shall act through and be represented by the Posters Section Head.
3. Posters are selected by the Posters Section Head for the Posters Session(s) of the CPSA Annual Conference.
4. Posters are an excellent way to disseminate work in a visual, rather than completely textual way. Posters are welcomed from any CPSA member wishing to present material in this format at the conference.
5. Instructions regarding submissions are included in the CPSA Annual Call for Proposals.
6. Eligible posters may be single-authored or multi-authored.
7. In the case of a single-authored poster, the presenter must be a member of the CPSA in the year the poster is considered for the prize. In the case of a multi-authored poster, at least one of the presenters must be a member of the CPSA in the year the poster is considered for the prize. The membership fee must be received at the [CPSA Secretariat](#) by the early registration deadline, which usually falls on March 31.
8. The Posters Section Head shall be responsible for the administration of the competition and granting of the prize. This responsibility includes ensuring the regular granting of the prize, the integrity of the adjudication process, and publicity surrounding the granting of the prize.
9. The selection of the recipient of the prize will be the responsibility of the Posters Section Head. In making the award, the Posters Section Head will seek the recommendation of the Prize Jury (jury), which may be advised by one or more discussants.
10. The Posters Section Head may also appoint discussants for each day. Discussants are not members of the jury, but instead are responsible for asking questions to the poster presenters at the conclusion of the presentation.
11. The jury and the discussants will be appointed by the Posters Section Head, with due regard for the characteristics of the CPSA membership – including, but not necessarily restricted to, gender, region and linguistic community.
12. The jury will be responsible for nominating the recipient of the prize.

13. The jury should feel free to recommend that no prize be given if in their view no presentation worthy of the prize is made.
14. The jury will consist of:
 - i. A single team of three judges, including the chair; or
 - ii. Multiple teams of three judges supervised by one chair.
15. The Posters Section Head decides how many teams are required based on the number of poster presentations to be assessed.
16. At least one jury member per team should be able to read and to interact both in English and French.
17. Jury members can sit on the jury for up to two consecutive years.
18. In the case of a single team:
 - i. The jury assesses the posters in a one round process;
 - ii. The poster presenter with the highest score wins the prize;
 - iii. If at all possible, the jury should choose the winning poster by consensus;
 - iv. If the jury is unable to reach a consensus, a majority vote will determine the winning poster;
 - v. One jury member is responsible for the initial tabulation of the scores, and a second jury member confirms the tabulation is correct.
19. In the case of multiple teams:
 - i. The teams assess the posters in a two-round process;
 - ii. Presenters are divided between a number of clusters equal to the number of judging teams;
 - iii. Each team assesses all posters within a given cluster;
 - iv. The Posters Section Head decides how many finalists (one or more) from each cluster are selected for the second round;
 - v. Finalists are asked to attend the second round and to be ready to answer a few questions from judges;
 - vi. At least three jury members, including the chair, assess the poster presentations during the second round;
 - vii. The poster presenter(s) with the highest score(s) is/are selected for the second round, following the number decided by the Posters Section Head;
 - viii. Jury members involved in the second round deliberate to select the winning poster;
 - ix. Sections 18 ii, iii, iv and v apply.
20. The Posters Section Head is responsible to announce the finalists and to organize both rounds in a convenient way given the constraints of the conference.
21. See "ANNEX I" for presenters' instructions and details about the competition during the Annual Conference; and "ANNEX II" for the judging criteria.
22. A jury member shall not judge / a discussant shall not comment on a poster if he/she/they:
 - i. is in any way related to the author of the poster;
 - ii. is the author's thesis supervisor.

23. At any time during the jury deliberations, a judge or discussant who considers that he, she or they has a conflict of interest (for example, judging the work of a student in his, her or their department, a co-author or a former student) shall remove himself, herself or themselves, and a substitute shall be appointed.
24. The award presentation takes place at the President's Dinner. The Posters Section Head can select an alternative but equally prominent time and venue.
25. The winner(s) will receive \$700, first runner up \$400 and second runner up \$200.
26. The Posters Section Head, in consultation with the CPSA Conference Team, will oversee the implementation of the prize process.

ANNEX I - INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT THE POSTERS AND RULES TO APPLY DURING THE COMPETITION

1. Posters should contain the following information:
 - the title and author(s);
 - the current degree program or last degree of the author;
 - the abstract (in large font);
 - an introduction to the research question, methods (as appropriate), results, and a short bibliography; and
 - any tables or figures that communicate the results of the research.
2. Posters are to be 3' x 4' in size. Beyond size, there is no specific format for either the visual display of the poster or the three-minute presentations (see sections 4, 5, and 6 below). The judges encourage creativity, clarity and communication of scholarly contributions and will be looking for these during the adjudication process.
3. A poster board will be provided for poster presenters. It is expected that each board will hold four (2) posters (1 on each side). Fastening pins will be available at the conference but presenters are permitted to bring their own fastening materials.
4. Poster presenters:
 - must email to the [CPSA Conference Team](#) by February 27, 2026 the following information:
 - i. a picture (headshot)
 - ii. the URL of academic/professional (e.g., University, LinkedIn) page
 - iii. Twitter-X/Bluesky/Instagram handles
 - iv. The e-mail addresses listed on the on-line programme will be used to contact presenters. If poster presenters **will not check/have access to their e-mails at the conference**, they are asked to submit a telephone number where they can be reached.
 - **are encouraged to attend a 40-minute information session on Thursday, May 14, 2026 @ 12:30pm ET via Zoom;**

- should note that visual representations of results will be more effective than text (Click [HERE](#) to see winning and runners up posters in previous competitions);
 - are expected to prepare a three-minute presentation for the juries -contestants exceeding the three-minute **maximum** will be disqualified;
 - should send a .pdf version of the poster to the [CPSA Conference Team](#) for uploading to the conference online programme **TWO WEEKS** prior to the conference start date;
 - must prepare their poster for display and be present at their poster session if they wish to be considered for the prize;
 - are expected to prepare a three-minute presentation of the poster for the jury.
5. Presentations must NOT exceed three minutes. There will be a deduction of points to any presenter who exceeds the three-minute limit AND he/she will be cut off from continuing his/her oratory past that three-minute window.
 6. Presenters are permitted to pre-record these presentations and to display them for the judges. If this option is chosen, presenters must provide whatever technology they desire to facilitate the playback of the pre-recorded presentation.
 7. The jury and discussants will visit each poster. The jury will use a judging rubric sheet to score each poster applying the following criteria, approved at the CPSA Board of Directors meeting of December 3, 2005: visual impact, clarity and scholarly contribution (see ANNEX II).
 8. The Posters Section Head will email:
 - the name of the poster winner to the [CPSA Conference Team](#) by noon, on the day of the President's Dinner;
 - a separate message to the [CPSA Conference Team](#) and the finalists (the winner and up to two runners up), by noon, on the day of the President's Dinner, inviting them to attend the dinner; the message **will inform them that they are the finalists; no mention will be made regarding the identity of the winner; there shall be an embargo on any communication regarding the name of the winner until the announcement is made at the CPSA President's Dinner;**
 - a 100-word citation to be posted as the "Excerpt from jury report" on the CPSA Web site (click [HERE](#) to see previous prize citations) to the [CPSA Conference Team](#) one week after the conference at the latest.
 9. Dinner tickets are reserved for the finalists in case they have not already purchased them. The finalists are asked to settle the ticket with the [CPSA Secretariat](#) at their earliest convenience.
 10. The prizes will be sent after the conference by the [CPSA Secretariat](#).
 11. If desired, the winning poster may be displayed at the CPSA Information Table until the last day of the conference.

ANNEX II - JUDGING CRITERIA

NAME OF POSTER PRESENTER _____

TITLE OF POSTER/PAPER _____

CURRENT OR LAST DEGREE OF PRESENTER _____

DATE _____

Judging will be based on the following criteria (50-point maximum)	
Oral Comments (1-10) Is the presenter engaging, concise clear and logical in three-minute overview?	/10
Visual Impact (1-15) Does the poster have aesthetic appeal, good graphics and visuals of high quality? Does it appear professional, and is it easy to read including from a reasonable distance?	/15
Contribution (1-10) Is there a compelling contribution to the discipline/scholarly debate and/or policy/society?	/10
Creativity (1-10) Is there originality in scholarly substance, and/or presentation style and/or visual appeal?	/10
Overall Impression (1-5) Summative of all criteria above.	/5
TOTAL	/50
Time Deduction*	
OVERALL TOTAL *NOTE: 5 points will be automatically deducted if the presentation exceeds the three-minute time allotted.	/50