

Guidelines for Discussants

The Discussant roles have been generally allocated to those who have already reviewed the material being presented. As a Discussant, your focus will be on initiating a constructive discussion on the topic just presented, ensuring that the presenter gets enough clear and useful hints for making progress in their research projects

Before the conference:

- ✓ Please read the abstracts in your session well in advance.
- ✓ You should be prepared to ask questions during the Question and Answer period.
- ✓ Please arrive/online at your session 10 minutes before the start time.

During the session:

- ✓ After the presentation is over, the Session Chair will invite you to initiate a discussion. Please start with a comment that would be reassuring to the presenter (validating his/her effort).
- ✓ Also consider presenting your understanding of what the presenter is trying to do in his/her project (like a quick summary of the goals and methods of the project).
- ✓ Invite constructive comments from the audience.
- ✓ Please manage the interaction to make it effective and useful for all, within the timeframe.
- ✓ If you notice anyone unable to present their ideas in a constructive way, please offer help.
- ✓ If you see the presenter becoming overwhelmed or disturbed, please intervene and assist.
- ✓ In closing the discussion, try to pick up some key points as a useful reminder to the presenter.

Sample

- Title
- Objectives of the paper
- Methodologies of the paper
- Main findings
- Strengths of the paper
- Some weaknesses of the paper
- Some suggestions to improve the paper