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## OER17: The Politics of Open Call for Proposals

The 8th Open Educational Resources Conference, OER17: The Politics of Open, will be held on the 5-6 April 2017 at Resource for London, UK

**Call is now closed.**

OER17 presents an opportunity for open practitioners, activists, educators and policy makers to come together as a community to reflect on The Politics of Open. What are our current key challenges and strengths – locally, nationally, and internationally? What are our priorities – in terms of political governance, organisational and personal politics? What are the changes that we want to effect together?

The conference will be chaired by social and educational technologist and Wikimedia UK Trustee Josie Fraser, and Alek Tarkowski, Director of Centrum Cyfrowe, co-founder and coordinator of Creative Commons Poland ([find out more about our co-chairs](#)).

Conference Themes:

- Local, national, and international policy and practice
  - Cape Town Declaration 10th anniversary & 5th anniversary of the UNESCO Paris declaration
  - Privacy, surveillance, and open politics
  - Governance and power
  - School-level policies
- Institutional/organisational politics
  - Changing cultures
  - Open in the classroom
  - Open organisations and organising
  - From OER to OEP
- Participation & social equality
  - Open as inclusive
  - Human rights and OER
  - Digital literacy & open
  - Children, young people and open education
- Open Party
  - Celebrating heroes, wins and progress
  - Hacking, making, gaming, sharing
  - Open innovation
  - Wildcard contributions

# Call for proposals

OER17 is inviting proposal for presentations, lightning talks, posters, workshops and panels. Your proposal needs to show clearly how your session will address one or more of the conference themes and should include recent research, case studies, practice or learner perspectives from any educational context including schools, colleges, universities, industry, training and skills.

Keep in mind that the proposal you submit for review now will, if accepted, be used for inclusion in the conference programme and is the primary way that participants will choose which sessions to attend.

## Session and submission formats

You can submit one of the following session types:

Lightning talks	The title says it all. Time: 5 minutes. Abstract word limit: 250
Presentations	These will normally take the form of a 15 minute presentation followed by 5 minutes for questions. Time: 20 minutes. Abstract word limit: 500
Workshops and panels	These may follow a variety of formats. We are especially interested in innovative, interactive and creative session formats. Due to the high demand for sessions, we have to limit the number of workshop proposals to those who clearly demonstrate how participants will engage. Time: 60 minutes (with optional extension to 90 min). Abstract word limit: 500
Posters	Posters will be displayed in the conference area and should clearly address one or more of the conference themes.

All proposals should clearly address one or more of the four main conference themes:

1. Local, national, and international policy and practice (including, but not restricted to, gains and challenges, governance and power, government and law).
2. Institutional/organisational politics (including organisational development, making the case for OER, mainstreaming open cultures).
3. Participation & social equality (including OER for inclusion, barriers to openness, building the open movement)
4. Open Party (innovation, making and hacking, celebration, play and wildcards)

*You are encouraged to consider ways to interact and involve conference delegates in your presentation or session, and where appropriate, you should leave time for discussion.*

Each session will be chaired by a member of the Conference Committee who will help you run the session. If your proposal has multiple authors, you will need to nominate one session lead to act as the main point of contact in the run up to the conference and whose name will appear in the programme as the primary contact for participants.

# Developing your proposal for publication in Research in Learning Technology

Research in Learning Technology is the Open Access international peer-reviewed journal of ALT. We provide a specific route to publication for authors who are looking to disseminate their research more widely. If you are interested in this publication route, you should select the relevant submission type to indicate that you are making a research submission. Your 500-word proposal will then be reviewed as usual and you will be informed about the outcome as outlined above. If your proposal is accepted, you will receive information regarding your full paper being presented at the conference and submitted to Research in Learning Technology for publication.

Papers submitted to Research in Learning Technology and accepted by the journal editors will be published after the conference - giving an opportunity for researchers to use feedback received at the conference to make revisions after the event. Final full papers should be submitted 1-2 month after the conference.

## The submission, reviewing, and acceptance process

All submitted proposals will be double-blind peer-reviewed by members of the Conference Committee. After review and one cycle of revision and resubmission, the Conference Committee will select proposals for inclusion in OER17.

### Submission criteria

- The maximum word count for proposal abstracts is 500 words for presentations and 250 words for lightning talks. Proposals that exceed the word limit will not be accepted or reviewed.
- Presentation proposals should include references<sup>1</sup>, which will be counted towards the 500 word limit. Ideally presentation proposals should include two or three references, and at most six. References should follow the Harvard System (parenthetical referencing – see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parenthetical\\_referencing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parenthetical_referencing)).
- Required fields for submission are: conference theme; session type; author name; email; affiliation; title; abstract.
- All proposals will be double blind peer reviewed so abstracts should not include the names or affiliations of the authors.
- Contributions should not have appeared elsewhere, in whole or in part.
- To ensure a suitably diverse programme, no individual can be named as the main author or presenter of more than one proposal, though they may be named as co-authors.

### Note for proposals with a commercial focus

We do not accept proposals with a primary focus on demonstrating services or products offered by a commercial provider and which do not explicitly address the conference theme(s) in a learning context. If you are unsure of how to best submit your proposal, we encourage you to attend our author webinars or contact us directly.

### Review criteria

Proposals will be reviewed according to the following criteria:

- Relevance to the conference title “The Politics of Open” and to one or more of the conference themes.

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<sup>1</sup> ‘references’ may include website, blog posts, white papers or any other material related to your submission

- Usefulness to conference participants from across all sectors of education and from outside the UK.
- Contribution to the provision of reliable evidence for scholarship and research into open education and the integration of learning technologies into education.
- Appropriate reflection and evaluation.
- Creativity and innovation
- Clarity, coherence and conformance to guidelines.

Here education is considered broadly and includes formal and informal learning settings in schools, colleges, universities, the workplace, homes and communities, at any stage in learners' lives.

## Acceptance and conference registration

When a proposal has been accepted, at least one presenter must register to attend the conference. Presenters will be notified of the registration deadline at the time their proposal is provisionally accepted. Only when the presenter's registration booking has been made will the proposal be fully accepted for the conference. Detailed guidance for presenters will be provided in advance of the conference.

## Submission process

Proposals should be submitted via the Open Conference System (OCS) at <http://ocs.sfu.ca/alt/index.php/conferences/OER17>.

To submit a proposal:

1. Read the full call for proposals at <https://oer17.oerconf.org/call-for-proposals/>.
2. [Login](#) or [create an account](#). **N.B. when creating an account select 'Author' from the options under 'Create account as'. If you do not select this option you will not be able to submit a proposal.**
3. From the [User Home](#) area select '[New Submission](#)' under 'OER17: The Politics of Open'
4. Follow the steps to submit your proposal, you can save your work at any time and return.
5. Once submitted you will receive a confirmation email and can track the progress of your submission at any time from the '[User Home](#)' page.

Please make sure to follow the submission guidelines and note that you can only be lead author for one proposal.

**Call is now closed.**

**<https://oer17.oerconf.org/call-for-proposals/>**

### Document History

Date	By	Summary
28/10/16	AD	Added submission system instructions
04/10/16	JF	Updated conference themes in formats section; 16th Nov is Weds not Mon
13/10/16	MH,MD	Finalised & published
14/11/16	MD	Added research route information



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