

Conference Presentation Tips from CCT Alumna Molly Moran

Keep in mind that different disciplines run their conferences differently. In the humanities, most people bring their paper and read it aloud. If you do this, you'll want to print it out in large font so that you can easily read it at arm's length. Other disciplines prepare a speech, and/or use slides to demonstrate their research. Interdisciplinary conferences are interesting, because you might have four people on a panel all present in a different manner.

Regardless, make sure you get there early to meet the other panelists and set up. Consider having a one-page handout that summarizes your paper and includes your contact information. You could also include your bibliography. Hand it out *after* the presentation, so that people don't read it while you or others are talking. Make sure you have water handy, and a pen to take notes.

Some panel chairs require you to turn in your paper before the conference. Some don't--they're only relying on your abstract. Remember that if you're reading your paper, you will want to rewrite it a bit to make it more friendly for oral delivery. If you have trouble pronouncing foreign words, write them phonetically. Remember to pause often to give people time to process your argument.