

THE DISCUSSANT'S ROLE For 'Discussion Session' papers

Papers that have been selected for the discussion session are fundamental to IBAM given our developmental mission. The reviewers and division chair(s) have assessed that the discussion session paper is not ready for a full presentation and discussion. An abbreviated presentation of the basic idea(s) of your paper and the feedback from reviews, an individual and dedicated discussant, and the audience would benefit these manuscripts so that they could be revised and considered for a later conference or audience. In many conferences, the paper selected for the discussion session would be a "poster" session paper. However, at IBAM, we believe that a "workshop" format would aid the development of these works to a greater degree than a poster session would allow.

Authors of papers in the discussion session are allocated 5-10 minutes total to present the basic ideas of their paper and what they are trying to accomplish with this work. There will likely be 3 discussion papers for each 90 minute session; therefore, each discussant should plan on 10-15 minutes of dialogue with the author that is specific to their paper and should encourage the audience to become involved as well.

The duties of the **Discussant** include the following:

1. You should receive copies of the papers to be presented in your session in advance of the session from the Division Chair (please contact the Chair or the Program Chair if there are any problems). Please read these papers carefully and come prepared to comment on the papers. These comments can include, but need not be limited to **constructive** criticism about the research questions addressed, the theoretical foundations established, the methodologies employed, the analyses and results presented, and the implications derived. You may also want to indicate where you believe the papers make contributions to the broader stream of literature or how the papers open up new perspectives. Feel free to send your comments to the authors prior to the conference.
2. **Importantly, the bulk of your time as discussant should be spent stimulating the author to think about improvements to their article in terms of positioning, writing style, and literature that would make their paper more successful for publication. Rather than using your allotted time to conduct a one way presentation about the paper(s), we encourage you to use the bulk of your time talking with the author and the audience to see the potential within this piece for future development as a research topic and manuscript.**

As this description suggests, preparation in advance and attentiveness during the session are two keys to serving successfully in the role of the developmental session discussant. Please help us make the program sessions as meaningful as possible by fulfilling this role effectively. Discussants should be as well prepared as the presenters and therefore the use of audiovisuals is highly recommended.

On the day of your session, show up to the room 5-10 minutes before the session begins. Identify yourself to the session Chairperson in advance, and note any changes in your affiliation of which the Chairperson may not be aware.

3. As discussant you have been allocated **10-15 minutes per paper**. Please try to keep your remarks limited to this amount of time so that ample time is left for audience participation.