Preparing your Conference Abstract

An abstract is like a film trailer – it offers a preview, highlights key points, and helps the reader decide if the text could be useful to them. Abstracts must grab the attention of the reader – remember your abstract is the only text the conference review committee will read when deciding which abstracts should be accepted to the conference.

When it comes to preparing an abstract specifically for the CMES Graduate Student Conference, it is okay that you do not have concrete research methods and findings to discuss in relation to your project. This conference is meant as a learning context for students, thus we only ask that you present a research idea/question, and explore it in a presentation. If you have research findings to discuss you are most welcome to, but you can also be still building the project idea.

INSTRUCTIONS

Your abstract should be descriptive in nature, meaning that it describes the issue/problem that you are exploring. It should also contain the following elements:

- What are you specifically asking in relation to your chosen issue/problem? In other words, state your research question.
- Briefly describe why your chosen issue/problem is relevant/important and to what audience?
- What contribution would such a study make to the academic literature and/or larger society?

Note: If you have already carried out a research investigation that you would like to present, you should include in your abstract:

- A brief description of what you did to actually get your results (eg. carried out interviews with a particular group of people).
- Your major findings (nothing too specific in this regard – save something for the presentation).

Be careful that your abstract does not contain:

- Undefined abbreviations or group names for which a reader would not be familiar.
- Citations – this is not a place to be reviewing existing literature!
- Any extra information that does not fit with the structure proposed above.

If you have any further questions, please e-mail studentconference2019@cme.lu.se