ECSA CONFERENCE // 2020

Third International ECSA Conference

Encounters in Citizen Science

24–26 May 2020 | Trieste, Italy

// CALL FOR PROPOSALS

SISSA medialab

EUROPEAN CITIZEN SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TRIESTE

1. Introduction

ECSA's international conferences are aimed at all stakeholders in the field of citizen science: scientists, practitioners, activists, funders, policymakers, non-governmental organizations, artists and other interested citizens. The second ECSA conference, held in Geneva in 2018, hosted almost 400 participants from across the world.

The Third International ECSA Conference (ECSA 2020 hereafter) will be held in Trieste, Italy, in May 2020. It will focus on 'Encounters in Citizen Science' - and we mean 'encounters' in a constructive sense! This theme covers many possible interpretations of junctures in science and society: between scientists and citizens; between East and West; between North and South; and between the different fields of science. It will be a time to talk to each other, to share research findings, opinions, stories and experiences. It will also be an opportunity to listen and learn from others.

The conference welcomes submissions from both ECSA members and non-members, but members will pay a discounted conference fee. If you would like to become an ECSA member ahead of the conference, you can join the association via the ECSA website.

2. Proposal submission

The Programme Committee for ECSA 2020 welcomes you to submit a proposal for this event; details of the different formats that sessions can take are below, and you can submit a proposal for any of these session formats.
All submissions need to be made through EasyChair at the following link:
https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=ecsa2020conferrence, while instructions on how to use Easychair and start your submission are available here: https://easychair.org/help/how_to_submit

Submission instructions
Each proposal should be maximum 500 words in length for abstracts (short proposal), and 1000 words for extended abstracts. This means that if you are aiming to submit a paper for the JCOM special issue for the conference, you can have an extended abstract of up to 1000 words in the submission, while the full paper will need to be available by May 2020. If you only plan to suggest a session, or you are not interested in a full paper in the special issue, please submit an abstract of up to 500 words. Please make sure you **indicate the type of session** you choose (see section 4) **in your abstract submission**.
Each person can only be named as the lead (or co-lead) author for one proposal; there is no limit to the number of times a person can be named as a secondary author.

Language
The proposal must be submitted in English, as this is the conference language. We will also consider proposals in Italian if they are coming from local communities and groups. If we receive enough proposals in Italian, a dedicated open session will be considered.

Deadlines
The deadline for submitting a proposal is 29 September 2019. Proposals will be reviewed by the Programme Committee, and the communication regarding acceptance or refusal will be sent to the corresponding authors during December 2019. Extended abstracts that have been accepted can be turned to full papers by the end of May 2020.

Review process
We will use EasyChair for submission and conference management. Please note that we expect accepted proposals (papers or sessions) to be presented by at least one author, who must register for the conference and is responsible for her/his own travel and accommodation costs. We will not include papers in the proceedings without at least one author attending. In the review process proposals will be accepted or rejected. For the accepted papers (those with extended abstracts), feedback will be provided to allow for improvement. However, additional peer review will be carried out within the JCOM publication process.

Evaluation criteria

When evaluating the proposals, the Programme Committee will use a set of agreed criteria. You have a higher chance of being successful if your proposal:

- stimulates encounters in citizen science (e.g. between scientists and the public, or science and policymakers)
- is clearly linked to one or more of the conference themes (see Section 3)
- aligns with one or more UN Sustainable Development Goal(s), at the indicator metadata level
- uses a format that engages audience members actively (e.g. through a workshop element, group discussions; see Section 4).

Timeline

25 July 2019	Call for proposals opens
29 September 2019	Deadline for proposal submissions
October/November 2019	Review of proposals
December 2019	Submission outcomes sent to the corresponding author(s)
30 January 2020	First draft of the programme is released online
24 May 2020	Deadline to turn accepted extended abstracts to full papers
24-26 May 2020	3rd International ECSA Conference in Trieste

Registration

Registrations to the ECSA 2020 conference will open in December 2019.
More details can be found on the conference website.

Conference proceedings

The conference proceedings will be published as a special issue of the Journal of Science Communication (JCOM). There will be two possible formats to choose from: full paper or extended abstract. Note: only proposals that submitted an extended abstract (1000 words) can be considered for this special issue. Extended abstracts that have been accepted can be turned to full papers by the end of May 2020.

Contact

If you have questions, please contact:

- the local organizers (ecsa2020@medialab.sissa.it) for questions about ECSA 2020
- Tim Woods (Tim.Woods@mfn.berlin) for questions about ECSA as an association.

3. Themes

Each proposal should focus on one of the following themes.

Theme 1. The current state of citizen science

Issues under this theme may address, but are not limited to:

- Country to country collaborations
- New shoots: fledgling citizen science movements in a region/country and how they can be supported
- Networks for sharing best practices between projects in a country or a region: what works and what doesn't
- Sharing of tools, materials and training
- Science-policy interactions in citizen science

Theme 2. Research on citizen science: current trends and future directions

Issues under this theme may address, but are not limited to:

- Lessons from research projects on citizen science, at national and international levels
- The power, outcomes and impacts of interdisciplinary research
- Guidelines, definitions, or criteria for citizen science: what for?

- Where are the research gaps in the 'science of citizen science'? What is our research 'wishlist'?
- Where can we publish and make our work open to all? Disciplinary publications, citizen science/public engagement or mega-journals? Open or paywalled?

Theme 3. Inclusiveness, equity and empowerment in citizen science
Issues under this theme may address, but are not limited to:
- The demographics of citizen science: who is being left behind?
- Tools to embed inclusiveness in projects
- Tools to embed equity in projects
- Addressing diversity: how can projects broaden participation and increase inclusiveness?
- Community-led science: empowering people to lead the way in recruitment criteria, data governance and research methods
- Approaches to co-creation and participation: is full citizen control always best?

Theme 4. From Horizon 2020 to Horizon Europe and national programmes: new opportunities for citizen science
This session is dedicated to the needs of funders and the funded. From the European level to the national, and to the local (city) level, we see growth in dedicated programmes of citizen science. How can we make consortia more inclusive? How can we enable new partners to join? Issues under this theme may address, but are not limited to:
- How EU, national and local funding bodies are supporting and mainstreaming citizen science
- Where are the gaps; what still needs to be done?
- Horizon Europe 'missions': what is the role of citizen science within them?
- Citizen science and policymaking: how to pave the way to impact
- Using platforms such as EU-Citizen.Science or RRI-Tools.eu to increase engagement between citizen science stakeholders?

Note: this session is not aimed at showcasing citizen science projects, but debating the needs of funders and the funded.

Theme 5. The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), climate and biodiversity challenges, and citizen science
Issues under this theme may address, but are not limited to:
- How can we make connections between global challenges and local citizen participation (e.g. large-scale systems and place-based systems)?
- How can citizen science associations establish standards for citizen-generated data suitable for SDG monitoring agencies?
- Beyond indicator data collection: how can citizen science help communities and countries to achieve the SDG targets and goals?
- Research governance: how to manage stakeholder representation and ensure 'no one is left behind'
- Frugal solutions: how to adapt citizen science methodologies to local means
- Projects addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation, or biodiversity loss

Theme 6. Technology-mediated citizen science
Issues under this theme may address, but are not limited to:
- Examples of the interplay of human learning and machine learning, or machine-supported collective intelligence, in citizen science
- Conditions to make citizen science projects based on artificial intelligence (AI) successful: how can we support people to start their own citizen science activities that use AI?
- How new tech (e.g. AI, the Internet of Things) can support - or threaten - citizen science
- Data issues: how to manage data in the age of GDPR
- How technology design influences citizen science involvement
- Citizen science in the age of 'Big Data'
- Citizen science and personal health (e.g. self-quantifying)
- Should citizen science support the uptake of new technologies? How can citizen science support engagement in responsible technology innovation?

Theme 7. Communities of practice for participants in citizen science
Issues under this theme may address, but are not limited to:
- Participant communities in citizen science: from dabblers to 'super-users'
- Learning in citizen science: acquiring new skills and language
- Divisions of labour in citizen science
- Community organization in citizen-led projects
- Facilitating interaction and journeys of development in citizen science

Theme 8. Citizen science in fragile contexts
Issues under this theme may address, but are not limited to:
- Refugees and migrants in Europe: what role can citizen science play?
- How can citizen science improve the living conditions in fragile contexts: in refugee camps, (post)war zones, and after natural disasters?
- Environmental justice and social justice - which evidence can citizen science bring?

4. Session formats

While you are welcome to submit a paper to the conference (at which point the programme committee will organize thematic sessions of papers), we encourage the development of sessions and proposals for them. Sessions can be proposed in a number of different formats (and we are open to other formats - do get in touch with the conference organizers if you wish to propose one).

Presentations sessions: a set of talks, a panel or a discussion
These sessions are comprised of a set of papers presented by speakers (either sequentially or as a panel that makes a set of short statements), with time included for a short discussion. We expect paper presentations to be 10-15 minutes each.
- Time: 60 minutes
- Recommendation: 5 panelists

E-poster presentation sessions
There will be one e-poster presentation session during the conference, on 25 May, 12:00-14.30. The e-posters will be presented as a single page with static text and images shown on LCD monitors in the e-poster pods. Accepted poster authors will receive technical guidelines on how to prepare the PDF document so that it displays properly. Presenters will be assigned the date and time of their presentations, and attendees will find the e-poster schedule in the online programme and the conference app. The amount of time per presentation slot will be determined by the number of e-posters accepted.

Interactive sessions
Interactive sessions provide workshop-style interaction between the participants and panelists, and should be practical, hands-on and/or discussion-based. The panelists will provide an introduction to the framework of the session and act as facilitator(s), while the participants are encouraged to drive the session discussion.
It is also possible to propose a workshop in which the presenters and participants work together on a specific project or idea.
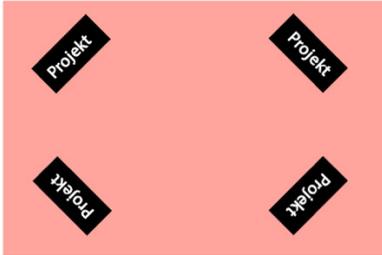- Time: 60-90 minutes
- Recommendations:
  1. Around 20-25 participants per session/workshop
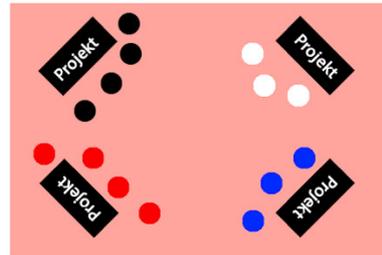 2. At least 2 panelists

Dialogue sessions

A dialogue session consists of a set of different themes/projects. The participants choose the projects they want to learn more about, based upon 2-minute presentations (see figure).
• Time: 20 minutes in total
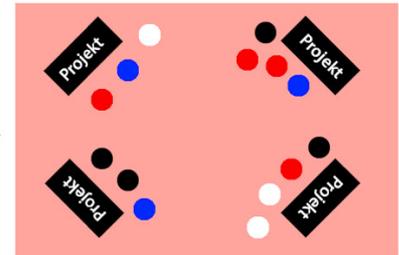• Recommendation: around 20-25 participants

Visualization on Dialog-Session

Each project will be assigned to a table in the room. Except for a powerpoint presentation (no beamer available), all tools and means are allowed to represent your project.

The visitors choose a project and get a short introduction. Then the goal is to establish a vivid dialog about the project (e.g. experiences, learnings, methods or current challenges) with a focus on the visitor's questions and interests.

After ca. 15 minutes the visitors choose another project. This procedure is repeated 2 times and therefore 3 out of 4 projects may be visited. Then, after a break, 4 new projects will be available and a second round starts.

Speed-talk sessions
• These are a brief presentation/talk, with a focus on a general audience (instead of a specialist group) followed by discussions with participants
• Time: 7 minutes for each presentation, 7 minutes for discussion

Other session formats

This list is not exclusive. Please feel free to propose other formats, for example: world cafés, fish bowls, PechaKuchas, barcamps, creative thinking sessions, roundtables, speed-dating sessions, ThinkCamp etc.

5. Public event and conference marketplace

In addition to the call for proposals, ECSA 2020 offers the possibility to be part of a citizen science public event, while a conference marketplace will also be at your disposal. If you have ideas about how to present your activities during the public event in Trieste, or are interested in featuring your research directly at the conference venue, please contact us at ecsa@medialab.sissa.it for more details.