

18th EALTA Conference

3-5 June 2022, Budapest, Hungary

Call for Abstracts

Evolving contexts: flexibility and adaptation in language testing and assessment

The contexts in which language tests and assessments are developed and used are constantly evolving due to changes in educational policy, the availability of financial and other resources, the legal environment, stakeholder needs, test-taker characteristics, the wider social and economic trends and, since the spring of 2020, specifically due to the pandemic. The pandemic has triggered changes at an unprecedented pace and scale. Lockdowns and restrictions forced language teachers to adapt their classroom assessment practices for online delivery, sometimes literally overnight, and the availability (or lack) of resources in an increasingly competitive market challenged the flexibility of language test providers. However, while the pandemic threw a spotlight on the need for flexibility and adaptation in our assessment practices, in many cases, it has simply sped up changes that were already in motion. For example, traditional models of language ability now clearly need to evolve in order to better reflect the characteristics and demands of digital language use that spread rapidly during the pandemic, but now look set to remain a ubiquitous part of our communication in education, business, and social domains.

Therefore, the theme of the 18th EALTA Conference focuses on research, theoretical, and practical discussions about how and to what degree language testing and assessment can keep up with these contextual changes while taking into account principles of language testing and assessment such as validity, feasibility, security, and practicality. These discussions may touch upon the roles of different stakeholders (e.g., test takers, language teachers, language testers, local experts) in the adaptation of language testing and assessment instruments, methods, and practices in order to reflect the contextual changes.

We invite proposals for conceptual and empirical papers, work-in-progress presentations, posters, and symposia that relate to this broad conference theme of flexibility and adaptation in language testing and assessment.

EALTA particularly encourages proposals on, but not limited to, the following areas related to the conference theme:

- defining and validating new and evolving constructs,
- identifying and describing new and evolving target language use domains,
- adjustment, accommodation and modification of language assessments to cater for changing contextual characteristics,
- adaptation to new test delivery environments (e.g. digital, hybrid, take-at-home),
- power relations between language policy and language testing and assessment,
- collaboration between language assessment professionals, test providers, test users and/or other stakeholders.

Please submit your abstract online [here](#).

Deadline: 3 January 2022

Guidelines

We would like to encourage as many people as possible to submit proposals, but every year we receive far more than can be included in the programme. The following guidelines will help you make your proposal as effective as possible and give you the best chance of success.

I. We will consider proposals for PAPERS (20-minute presentations), WORKS-IN-PROGRESS (15-minute presentations) and POSTERS adhering to the conference theme, and in a separate strand we will consider proposals which make a significant contribution to language testing and assessment research not directly related to the theme.

The proposals for papers, works-in-progress and posters must:

1. contain a clear explanation of how the paper relates to the conference theme, or if it is not related to the theme, why it is of significance to the field
2. keep to stipulated maximum word count for title and abstract (250 words max.)
3. be well-structured
4. clearly outline:
 - a. the objectives of the paper
 - b. *for empirical papers*: its methods (design, participants, instruments, procedures);
for theoretical papers: its theoretical framework or literature upon which it is based
 - c. the contribution it makes to the field of Language Testing and Assessment
 - d. the novelty it may offer in terms of concepts, approaches or methods
5. be likely to promote discussion and interaction amongst conference participants

II. We will consider proposals for SYMPOSIA adhering to the conference theme (90 minutes).

The proposals for symposia must:

1. contain a clear rationale for the symposium (500 words max.) which
 - a. is well-structured
 - b. outlines the objectives of the symposium
 - c. explains how the papers within the symposium relate to each other and contribute to the symposium goals
2. contain a separate abstract for each contribution which
 - a. outlines its relation to the conference theme and contribution to the symposium
 - b. is well-structured
 - c. keeps to the stipulated word count for title and abstract (250 words max.)
 - d. clearly outlines the objectives, its methods or its theoretical framework, and the novelty it may offer in terms of concepts, approaches or methods
3. be likely to promote discussion and interaction amongst conference participants.

The rationale and the abstracts for the contributions are to be submitted in one document.

III. Each proposal is rated by three independent vetters

We want to ensure an anonymous and impartial vetting procedure. Therefore, we will collect your contact details and the abstract separately. The data containing your name, affiliation etc. go to the conference administrators. They will use IDs to match your personal details with your abstract. You will submit your abstract in a separate file, which goes to three vetters.

NB To ensure anonymity, you are required to avoid any information in your title and abstract that may lead to identifying you or your institution as the author or origin of the proposal.