



## 2026 CALL FOR ABSTRACTS & SESSIONS

2026 Call for Abstracts & Sessions Released: February 24  
Website Open for Submissions (four weeks): March 3, 5:00pm EST  
Abstract submission deadline: March 31, 11:59pm EST  
Notification of Accept or Reject: Late May

## 2026 CONFERENCE CITY: PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

You're invited to Pittsburgh ACSP! It's an exciting time to be in Pittsburgh as part of the planning field, with not one but three comprehensive planning efforts underway across the city, county and region. The City of Pittsburgh is currently undergoing its Comprehensive Plan, which will culminate in the city's first comp plan after many previous attempts. Allegheny County, where Pittsburgh is located, is also engaged in its comprehensive plan, updating the 2005 Allegheny Places, the county's first comp plan. And, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, the region's MPO, is developing its new Comprehensive Long Range Transportation Plan and Comprehensive Development Strategy. Across the city and region, these current efforts put the spotlight on planning, community engagement, challenges and opportunities, as long-range goals and visions are being developed for the future of the city, county and region. Watch your Tuesday ACSP eNewsletter for Planning Fun Facts about Pittsburgh and we'll see you there!

## CHANGES FOR 2026

Get ready to **show up, connect, and engage** with colleagues at this year's conference! The ACSP Conference Organizers have introduced several updates this year designed to increase rigor in the peer review process, enhance participation during sessions and strengthen your overall conference experience.

- **Revised conference tracks – now only 12:** Check out our [conference tracks here](#).
- **No alternate track option:** With the revisions to tracks, submitters will not need to provide an alternate track option. Authors should submit directly to the most appropriate track. Abstracts will be reviewed within the listed track and either accepted or rejected.
- **Modified pre-organized session management:** All papers intended for a pre-organized session will be submitted as Individual Paper or Research-in-Motion abstracts. Session Organizers will still submit a proposal with a session summary and list of papers they *anticipate* being in their session. Track chairs will review each of the abstract submissions individually to accept or reject based on their own merit. After the review process, if enough presentations have been accepted for the session, track chairs will work with the session Organizers to confirm the final session. See more below.

- **More engagement required of roundtables:** A minimum of 4 confirmed participants will be required for roundtables this year. Additionally, to create more dynamic and audience-engaged sessions, organizers must submit discussion questions intended for the audience. These questions will be published in advance.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Preparing for Your Abstract Submission.....	2
2. Submission Types for 2026.....	4
3. What to Expect After You Submit.....	8
4. 2026 Tracks and Track Chairs.....	10

## 1. PREPARING YOUR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

### ANONYMIZED REVIEW

While the Association collects necessary personal information for all abstract submissions, the evaluation of the abstract is performed by reviewers who do not know the identity of the author or session proposer.

### PLAN FOR ALL REQUIRED ELEMENTS

All abstracts, regardless of type, go through anonymized review for quality, rigorous methods, and clarity. There are no guarantees abstracts will be accepted. Abstracts can be rejected for many reasons including time and space constraints. We strongly encourage your best effort.

Please note all proposals should contain the required information as described below including keywords and citations. Abstracts that do not provide all the required information are likely to be rejected. You will not have the option to attach full bibliographies, reports, or full papers during the abstract submission process, but please note the requirements for final papers below.

### EDITING YOUR SUBMISSION – IMPORTANT NOTE

*Please PROOFREAD, PROOFREAD, PROOFREAD your abstract submission prior to completing your submission!* **Abstracts and author information will not be edited for you after you complete your submission.** You may save your draft and return to the software any time to edit before the deadline. The payment step is the final step of the process after which access to the abstract is locked. Please note, the submitting author is responsible for attesting that all the information for the abstract submission is correct and agrees that it will appear **as is** in the Book of Accepted Abstracts and the conference schedule. The submitting author should include all co-authors and reconfirm the spelling of their name, email, and affiliation before final submission.

## SELECTING THE APPROPRIATE TRACK

Indicate **one** track to which you are submitting the abstract. Many – perhaps most – topics cut across two or more tracks, so please carefully consider which track is the best fit. If you are uncertain about the appropriate placement for your work, we encourage you to review [track descriptions](#) and correspond with relevant [track chairs](#) and before submitting the abstract.

Track chairs will review the abstracts as they are submitted and reserve the right to transfer an abstract to a more suitable track. Please note that your abstract will only be reviewed and decided upon by one track.

## BASIC REQUIREMENTS

Your abstract should contain the following information in 4,000 characters or less and be suitable for publication online without further editing.

- Central theme or planning issue you are addressing: what research question(s) are you trying to answer?
- Approach and methodology: how will you address the question(s)?
- Meaningful and new findings. Research with concrete findings has a better chance of being accepted.
- Relevance and implications of your work to planning scholarship, practice, and/or education.
- Key words - Provide at least one, but no more than five. Key words help track chairs when putting together coherent sessions. The Book of Accepted Abstracts published to [www.acsp.org](http://www.acsp.org) will have an index of key words.
- Major references/citations - Provide at least three, but no more than five (5). Citations help reviewers place your work in its field. Submissions have been rejected for lack of citations.

## MULTIPLE PROGRAM PLACEMENT POLICY

Multiple abstract submission is allowed, however, there are no abstract submission fee refunds. Each abstract submission must be unique. You will not be invited to present the same research in multiple formats. If you have more than one abstract accepted in one of the categories below, in fairness to others, we will ask you to decide which presentation you will make at the conference prior to the scheduling of sessions. Presenters on the final program are limited to one of each of the following:

- Presenting author of one research presentation - whether in a paper session OR research-in-motion session (inclusive of pre-organized sessions).
- Participant for one placement on a roundtable.
- Teacher of one Professional Development Workshop.
- One (or two max) placement(s) as a discussant or facilitator of a research presentation session.

### ACSP Multiple Program Placement Policy

Presenters on the final program are limited to **ONE** of each of the following:

 Presenting author of 1 paper or RiM presentation	 1 Roundtable	 1 Professional Development Workshop	 1-2 placement(s) as a discussant
---	---	---	---

## AICP CREDIT ELIGIBILITY FOR YOUR SUBMISSION













AICP pre-approves all ACSP Conference sessions so AICP members know the sessions they attend will be accepted for continuing education credits. During the abstract submission process, you will be required to use a pull-down menu to choose 1-3 AICP-related topics for your abstract. There may not be a perfect fit choice but select according to those closest to your topic. This is a list created by the AICP.

## SEEKING AESOP-ACSP JOINT SESSIONS

We invite scholars from both the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) to submit pre-organized sessions and roundtables comprised of participants from multiple regions of the world. Global scholarship, transatlantic and transnational, is encouraged in sessions on any topic and in any track. Such proposals should highlight the advantage of the transatlantic perspective. This is part of a long-term joint effort by AESOP and ACSP to build more collaborations. All submissions have the same requirements as others described below and are submitted through the abstract submission site. These sessions must have ACSP-AESOP referenced in the title of the session.

## 2. SUBMISSION TYPES FOR 2026

Over time, presenters have submitted fewer final papers to the conference, but authors continue to propose exciting session ideas. Therefore, we have various session formats to elevate all opportunities to share academic research. As noted earlier, all abstracts, regardless of type, will be evaluated by anonymized reviewers for quality, rigor, and clarity. There are no guarantees that abstracts will be accepted. There are many reasons for rejection, and the conference must limit the number of sessions to be scheduled in the three-day window.

	Individual Paper Presentation	Research-in-Motion Presentation	Roundtable Discussion	Professional Development Workshop
<b>Final Paper</b>	 Submit by Sept. 8			
<b>Shared with discussant for feedback</b>				
<b>Time Allotted</b>	15-minutes	10-minutes	75-minutes	90-minutes
<b>Audience Discussion and Feedback</b>	LOW	HIGH	HIGH	n/a
<b>Can be part of a Pre-Organized Session</b>				

## INDIVIDUAL PAPER SUBMISSIONS

**FINAL PAPERS DUE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2026**

ACSP invites abstracts for individual paper presentations. If accepted, they will be organized into sessions by track co-chairs with a confirmed discussant. Attendees who submit an abstract to present a paper *promise* they will share a written paper with their confirmed discussant and will also submit their paper through the ACSP portal by September 8. We encourage discussants to provide feedback directly to presenters.

- Presenters will have 15-minutes for their presentation.
- Final papers are not PowerPoint presentations; they must be substantive written papers. Draft journal articles fit this format well. ACSP does not have style guide requirements for final papers.
- Conference organizers do their best to confirm discussants before the final paper submission date. Discussants are not required to provide comments on presentations for which final papers were not submitted.
- If the paper is not submitted by the published deadline, the presentation will remain in the same scheduled session, but conference organizers will automatically switch the format to a Research-in-Motion presentation (10-minutes, see below).
- ACSP does not post final papers to the web, nor does it publish proceedings. Colleagues interested in your paper will be instructed to contact you directly.

## RESEARCH-IN-MOTION (RiM)—HIGH IMPACT, HIGH ENGAGEMENT

This format provides space for dynamic, faster-paced presentations for a diversity of research topics and approaches. This submission format is for presenters who wish to make an engaging, high-quality presentation, *without* the commitment to share a final paper. Presentations are expected to be of high quality and based on substantive work. A Research-in-Motion session format provides more time for presenter-audience engagement.

Research in Motion allows for:

- **Momentum** - RiM presentations are 10 minutes each.
- **Engagement** – Each individual presentation will not receive feedback from a discussant, but rather cross-cutting audience discussions are facilitated.
- **Visibility** - RiM presentation submissions may be included in sessions with paper presentations that are thematically related.
- **Rigor** - As for all abstract submission types, abstracts for research-in-motion must be clearly written, compelling, and based on current or completed research projects with at least three citations, but five are strongly encouraged.

During the abstract submission process, submitters will indicate the type of research being submitted:

- Research currently in process
- Innovative practices, concepts, and ideas for pedagogy
- Critique related to a hot topic in planning research

# PRE-ORGANIZED SESSIONS

ACSP invites submissions of well-intentioned pre-organized sessions but reminds authors that they require serious commitment from the Organizer and all presenters of accepted abstracts within the session.

## Before Submitting a Proposal for a Session:

- Pre-organized sessions are recommended where there are pre-determined groupings of authors with presentations that share a common theme.
- The expectation is that a pre-organized session will have a minimum of five presentations.
- The group of presentations for pre-organized sessions must all have strong intellectual merit. It is possible that abstracts intended for a pre-organized session get rejected.
- New this year, organizers may suggest a mix of paper presentations and Research-in-Motion presentations for their session.
- **It is critical** that all submissions are within the same conference track.
- It is the same expectation for paper presentations within a pre-organized session to submit a final conference paper by September 8, 2026, otherwise conference organizers will change the presentation time allowance to 10 minutes.
- Pre-organized session proposals that comprise all faculty from one university or only students, will be rejected unless the organizers provide justification for the listed authors.

## Organizers - How to Submit a Proposal for a Pre-organized Session

1. While ACSP staff work to aid and ensure successful submissions for Organizers and Authors, it is highly encouraged that all Organizers and Authors submit their separate abstracts **EARLY**. ACSP staff can then track submissions to help ensure reviewers have all information needed to review the whole session as you intended it to be.
  - If authors submit to the wrong track, we might be able to catch it early.
  - If authors have not yet submitted, we might be able to flag that for the Organizer to provide encouragement to the Author to meet the submission deadline.
2. During the session proposal submission, the Organizer must include the names of each of the five presentations intended for the session.
3. The Organizer provides a *recommended* discussant for the session. The Organizer should confirm this person's interest in participating with this session prior to including their name. ACSP will not schedule the session based on this person's availability and if they are not available, ACSP will confirm another prior to the conference.

## Authors - Presentations Intended for a Pre-organized Session

- **Critical!** Communicate with the session Organizer to confirm the track to submit your abstract.
- Every author must submit their own presentation as an Individual Paper Abstract or a Research-in-Motion abstract, pay the submission fee, and submit by the submission deadline.
- Each abstract is reviewed and held to the same standards as other abstracts.

## Finalizing the Pre-Organized Session

- It is possible that abstracts intended for the pre-organized session get rejected. If rejections cause the session to have less than five accepted abstracts, conference organizers will communicate with the session Organizer as soon as possible. The options will be:
  - Allow conference organizers to include other accepted presentations in the session that are similar in rigor and theme of the research.

- Opt-out of the pre-organizational plan, and any accepted papers will be scheduled into appropriate sessions as deemed by the conference organizers.

Number of Presentations Accepted (based on individual review)	1-2 Accepted	3-4 Accepted	5 Accepted
Session Accepted/Rejected	Session <i>proposal</i> gets rejected. Track Chairs will place accepted abstracts into other sessions.	Track chairs will work with session organizer to add additional presentations from the pool of accepted abstracts.	Session Accepted with all intended abstracts.

- Over time, if withdrawals of presentations cause the session to collapse (less than 3 presentations), the remaining presentations will be rearranged into other conference sessions by track chairs.

## ROUNDTABLE SUBMISSIONS—THREE ENGAGING SUBTYPES

Roundtables are 75-minute sessions intended for engagement of the audience. If your proposal does not clearly indicate how to engage the audience, then consider submitting your abstract as an Individual Paper or as a Research-in-Motion submission.

Roundtables are not panels of speakers making presentations, and the session time allowance does not provide for PowerPoint presentations.

There are three subtypes of roundtables, the submitter must select one sub-type. Roundtable formats are distinguished by the way they enlist roundtable participants to discuss topics among themselves and interaction with the audience. **In fairness to all registered conference attendees, all roundtable participants must be in-person at the conference.**

- **Facilitated debates:** Roundtable participants debate a topic and then the audience is invited to participate in the debate.
- **Panel interviews:** Roundtable participants are introduced and briefly interviewed by a facilitator. The audience is then invited to interact with participants through a Q&A session or other format that includes the audience interaction with participants.
- **Topical discussions:** This format must have a clear focus and foster discussion among participants and audience on a defined topic.

A roundtable submission requires an Organizer to submit the abstract and to confirm at least four participants in advance of abstract submission, including naming a facilitator to manage the discussion at the conference. A submission without a named facilitator and at least four confirmed participants is likely to get rejected. All participants must be registered for the conference by the speaker registration deadline (September 8, 2026), or the roundtable will be removed from the schedule. A successful roundtable requires strict enforcement of time limits to ensure plenty of time for audience participation.

Additionally, to create more dynamic and audience-engaged sessions, organizers must submit discussion questions for audience engagement.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

This workshop session type involves the teaching of skills or practices (e.g., "teaching with case studies" "best practices for teaching inferential statistics with R" "visual communication workshop"). When submitting an abstract for a workshop, a teaching agenda or schedule should be included along with a description and list of outcomes. As part of the abstract, workshop leaders should provide instructions as to what the audience should bring (e.g. whether they need laptops and specialized software.)

- Workshops will be scheduled for a 90-minute session.
- One workshop leader must be confirmed with the submission.
- ACSP provides Wi-Fi in all session rooms but cannot guarantee strength of connection. This is not to invite outside speakers/teachers, but to access necessary software.
- It is understood all workshop leaders are in-person at the conference.
- LCD projector and screens are provided. Microphones, speakers, recording equipment and specialized software are not provided by ACSP.

## 3. AFTER YOU SUBMIT

### THE FATE OF YOUR SUBMISSION

Due to the volume of submissions, proposals will either be rejected or accepted. Decisions are made based on quality abstracts working within the space constraints of the conference.

- Track chairs may invite authors of acceptable abstracts to present their work as Research-in-Motion prior to the review decision being emailed. Such a request is not a statement about the quality of the proposed work; it is a statement about whether the research is more suited to the RiM format or even possibly to retain it on the schedule given space constraints. The final decision lies with the track co-chairs, and the track co-chairs have the option to reject the abstract if the author does not agree to change the format.
- If a submission is rejected, the format of the paper abstract will not be changed to present as a RiM presentation to allow it to remain on the agenda.
- Track co-chairs make the ultimate decision on whether a submission is accepted or not and ACSP leadership traditionally uphold their decisions.

### NOTIFICATIONS & FEEDBACK

All authors and co-authors related to an abstract submission will receive an email indicating acceptance or not for the conference. We will announce in the weekly eNewsletter and on social media when notification emails have been sent out (at the end of May). Please check your spam or junk mail folders and wait until that announcement is made in the newsletter.

Track chairs welcome your inquiry after notifications have been made. Authors should communicate directly with [track chairs](#) for feedback on their abstract.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

Student submissions are evaluated using the same criteria as all other submissions. If you are a master's or doctoral student, you may submit an abstract for a paper or RiM presentation based on research undertaken in collaboration with a faculty member. Students may also submit abstracts based on the *results* of independent research from their dissertation or thesis. The abstract submission system will require you to certify that either, or both conditions are met. Abstract submissions for general purpose papers or for work done in preparation for qualifying exams will be rejected and, as a reminder, there are no abstract submission fee refunds.

Students will be asked to include the name and e-mail address of their advisor or dissertation supervisor with the submission. If necessary, the advisor or dissertation supervisor may be asked to certify the research is ready for presentation at a national conference. For consideration of anonymized review, the information for your advisor or dissertation supervisor is also kept private and only ACSP staff will reach out to them if necessary.

## SESSION DISCUSSANTS

Track chairs will attempt to invite and confirm discussants at least one month prior to the conference. ACSP welcomes volunteers by authors and session organizers. If you are interested in acting as a discussant or have a suggestion or nomination, please indicate so during the abstract submission process or complete this [volunteer form](#) and include your specializations. Discussants may serve in two sessions if invited to do so.

## CHANGES TO PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS OR WITHDRAWAL

- Over the course of the summer, you may make minor modifications only to the title of the paper or RiM presentation. No edits to titles will be made after August 8, 2026.
- No other edits will be made to abstract submissions after they are submitted. The Book of Accepted Abstracts will reflect the information in the submitted abstract and will not be edited.
- Presentations must align with the accepted abstract. You may not substitute different research if the original research accepted by the peer review is not complete. To do so undermines the peer review process. If you are unable to complete your original research, please notify conference organizers that you must withdraw.

## SCHEDULING REQUESTS

ACSP recognizes ONLY religious holidays as valid reasons for scheduling requests. Once the schedule is created, authors who cannot present during their scheduled time must withdraw their paper from the program.

***Please do not make travel reservations until you know your personal conference schedule*** which should be available before the end of July.

## BOOK OF ACCEPTED ABSTRACTS

**PROOFREAD, PROOFREAD, PROOFREAD** your abstract submission during the submission process and **BEFORE you finalize the submission!**

- Make sure you double-check the author entry portion of the submission for spelling and accuracy of author email addresses.

- The Book of Accepted Abstracts will be posted on the ACSP website as submitted, so it is important that references are complete, all names are spelled correctly, and the text is proofread thoroughly.
- Once abstracts have been submitted, edits are not permitted.

## SUBMISSION FEE AND PAYMENT

There is a required fee for online submission per abstract.

- ACSP only takes abstract submissions through the online submission portal. Abstracts sent directly to a track chair will not be reviewed or considered.
- Payment of the submission fee requires use of a credit card. ACSP does not accept Venmo, cash or check.
- There are no submission fee refunds. The submission system will provide you with a payment receipt. ACSP does not issue invoices.

## QUESTIONS

- **Program questions** should be addressed to National Conference Program Chair Charles Warnken, University of Oklahoma, [cwarnken@ou.edu](mailto:cwarnken@ou.edu)
- **Abstract submission procedure questions** should be addressed to Conference Manager, Camden Miller: [abstracts@acsp.org](mailto:abstracts@acsp.org)
- **Abstract submission IT support** or payment questions should be submitted through online chat support.

## 2026 TRACKS AND TRACK CHAIRS

Track descriptions and track chair contact information can be found [on this page](#).

### 1. AI in Planning

Xinyue Ye, University of Alabama, [xye10@ua.edu](mailto:xye10@ua.edu) [2026, 2027, 2028]

Xiaofan Liang, University of Michigan, [xfliang@umich.edu](mailto:xfliang@umich.edu) [2026, 2027, 2028]

**TBD**

### 2. Community Development and Housing

**TBD**

Yanmei Li, Florida Atlantic University, [yli22@fau.edu](mailto:yli22@fau.edu) [2025, 2026, 2027]

Esteban Lopez-Ochoa, University of Texas at San Antonio, [esteban.lopezchoa@utsa.edu](mailto:esteban.lopezchoa@utsa.edu) [2024, 2025, 2026]

### 3. Environmental Planning

Jennifer Lawrence, University of Virginia, [kmd5xf@virginia.edu](mailto:kmd5xf@virginia.edu) [2025, 2026, 2027]

Himanshu Grover, Alabama A&M University, [himanshu.grover@aamu.edu](mailto:himanshu.grover@aamu.edu) [2026, 2027, 2028]

Katherine Lieberknecht, University of Texas, Austin, [klieberknecht@utexas.edu](mailto:klieberknecht@utexas.edu) [2026, 2027, 2028]

### 4. Inclusion, Anti-racism and Accessibility in Planning

Anaid Yerena, University of Washington Tacoma, [yerena@uw.edu](mailto:yerena@uw.edu) [2024, 2025, 2026]

Fernando Burga, University of Minnesota, [hfburga@umn.edu](mailto:hfburga@umn.edu) [2025, 2026, 2027]

### 5. International Development Planning

Ariadna Reyes Sanchez, University of Texas at Arlington, [ariadna.reyessanchez@uta.edu](mailto:ariadna.reyessanchez@uta.edu) [2025, 2026, 2027]

Shishir Mathur, San José State University, [shishir.mathur@sjsu.edu](mailto:shishir.mathur@sjsu.edu) [2024, 2025, 2026]

### 6. Land Use Policy, Governance and Law

Steven Richter, East Carolina University, [richters22@ecu.edu](mailto:richters22@ecu.edu) [2025, 2026, 2027]

Yesim Sungu-Eryilmaz, Boston University, [yesims@bu.edu](mailto:yesims@bu.edu) [2025, 2026, 2027]

**7. Food Systems and Community Health**

Shakil Kashem, Kansas State University, shakilkashem@ksu.edu [2025, 2026, 2027]

Alexandra Judelsohn, University at Buffalo, ajudelso@buffalo.edu [2024, 2025, 2026]

**8. Planning History, Theory and Education**

Stefan Chavez-Norgaard, University of Denver, stefan.chavez-norgaard@du.edu [2025, 2026, 2027]

Mia White, The New School, miawhite@newschool.edu [2024, 2025, 2026]

**9. Regional Planning & Economic Development**

Bumsoo Lee, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, bumsoo@illinois.edu [2024, 2025, 2026]

Elsie Harper-Anderson, Virginia Commonwealth University, elharperande@vcu.edu [2025, 2026, 2027]

**10. Quantitative and Spatial Methods**

Emre Tepe, University of Florida, emretepe@ufl.edu [2024, 2025, 2026]

Anthony Vanky, Columbia University, a.p.vanky@columbia.edu [2026, 2027, 2028]

**11. Transportation & Infrastructure Planning (*sub tracks*)**

Kelcie Ralph, Rutgers, kelcie.ralph@ejb.rutgers.edu [2024, 2025, 2026]

Lauren Fischer, University at Buffalo, LF44@buffalo.edu [2026, 2027, 2028]

Robert Pfaff, Iowa State University, robpfaff@iastate.edu [2026, 2027, 2028]

**12. Placemaking and Urban Design**

Ryun Jung Lee, University of Texas at San Antonio, ryunjung.lee@utsa.edu [2025, 2026, 2027]

Kelly Gregg, University at Buffalo, kgregg@buffalo.edu [2024, 2025, 2026]