



SPR

Society for  
Psychotherapy  
Research

'25



KRK

Jagiellonian University  
Medical College  
in Krakow

# Call for Submissions

56th International Annual Meeting

The Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland

Wed, June 25 - Sat, June 28, 2025

## Submission Portal Dates

Open: Monday, October 21, 2024

Close: Sunday, January 12, 2025

Notification of acceptance: By the end of January 2025.

PLEASE   
SUBMIT HERE

## Conference Theme

Psychotherapy Research-Practice Integration: Who  
are the voices we need to hear?



We are pleased to announce the 56th International Annual Meeting of the Society for Psychotherapy Research (SPR), which will be held in Kraków, Poland, from Wednesday, June 25, to Saturday, June 28, 2025. The conference will be offered in **both onsite and online formats running in parallel**.

The theme of the conference is **“Psychotherapy Research-Practice Integration: Who Are the Voices We Need to Hear?”**

As an international and multidisciplinary organization, SPR has a long tradition of encouraging inclusivity. Our next meeting will provide an opportunity for us to come together to identify and discuss what is needed to build on this tradition and to improve equality, diversity, and inclusion in both psychotherapy research and practice.

The word "research" derives from the French word *recherche*, meaning ‘to go about seeking’. As a multidisciplinary organization, SPR aims to support and advance both the empirical basis and the applied value of psychotherapy research. We do this by fostering a focus on a broad spectrum of psychotherapy approaches, diverse client populations, the full range of problems and difficulties, and the application of various qualitative and quantitative methodologies.

However, in addition to the "why" and "how" of seeking knowledge, it is important to consider where we should seek next and who should be involved in this process. While psychological treatments have become more available in many high-income countries, their provision remains suboptimal, leaving many people in need at a serious disadvantage. The pledge to explore and address barriers to treatment access by service providers and professional organizations has been a step in the right direction, as has the growing commitment to identify and provide the necessary skills and competencies to improve equality, diversity, and inclusion in the profession. What would psychotherapy research need to fully embody the values that underpin equality, diversity, and inclusion? What could our research efforts contribute to addressing individual, structural, and societal discrimination, and exclusion?

While many of us straddle both worlds—that of practitioners and that of academics and researchers—one of the ongoing challenges is the successful communication between these worlds. For research findings to become meaningful, they need to be integrated into clinical practice. To improve clinical practice, we need to understand what questions are worth seeking answers to from those in the real-world settings. While we have made important advances over the past years in addressing the practitioner-researcher gap, other gaps are calling for our attention: Are we including all relevant stakeholders in the research process?

The theme of this conference calls for conceptual and methodological innovations in psychotherapy research. Whose voices are being included and heard, and whose are not? And what consequences does this have for achieving true research-practice integration and creating an evidence base of psychotherapy that serves the diverse range of individuals and their experiences in the world?

## Scope of submissions

Along with submissions related to the specific conference theme, the programme committee invites submissions on all areas of psychotherapy research, practice, training, and supervision. We welcome a full range of contributions to the field of psychotherapy, including reports of innovative research methods and empirical studies of varied treatment modalities (individual, couple, family, group, and milieu therapies); diverse patient populations (children, adolescents, adults, and seniors); a wide range of diagnostic and problem categories (e.g., various psychological/psychosomatic disorders as well as the effects of cultural, political or economic oppression and migration) and a broad spectrum of theoretical approaches (e.g., behavioural, CBT, existential, humanistic, interpersonal, psychodynamic, systemic, etc.)

As in all previous calls for submissions to SPR conferences, we invite research that draws on a diversity of methods including qualitative and quantitative studies, single case research, process and outcome studies, mixed methods, meta-analyses, methodological contributions, research on psychotherapy measures, literature reviews and so forth.

## In-person/online meeting

We have experimented with various formats over the past years to balance in-person and remote participation, and we consider this an ongoing learning curve for us. Each year presents new aspects to take into account. Based on last year's model, we have decided to offer both in-person and online participation again.

What does this mean? We will run the in-person and online events in parallel with no active crossover. Therefore, you need to decide whether you will be presenting online **OR** in person when you submit your proposals on the portal. In other words, we will **not** be able to combine online and in-person sessions (hybrid).

## Online format

For the online sessions, we accept panels, structured discussions, brief papers, and posters. The online presentations will be live and run concurrently with the in-person meeting (Central European Time). With presenters' consent, recordings of presentations will be available for conference attendees for a limited time.

Following last year's success, we will again include brief poster presentations in addition to making the posters available online. These brief presentations will allow poster presenters to summarize their work in a group of 5-6 and provide space for questions and discussion among presenters and viewers.

## In-person format

In-person sessions will include pre-conference workshops, semi-plenaries, panel presentations, structured discussions, and poster and brief paper sessions. For in-person sessions, no online participation will be accepted, although some of these sessions will be live-streamed and, with participants' consent, recorded for later viewing by conference attendees.

**Please note:** Panels and structured discussions cannot be changed from online to in-person format. However, you can change a whole in-person session to an online format if unforeseen circumstances prevent the entire panel/structured discussion from attending in person.

## Submission types and process

In keeping with SPR tradition, we offer five types of presentation. Here is an overview of each type and what you need to consider:

### Preconference Workshops

Workshops will be held on Wednesday, June 25, prior to the evening session that opens the conference. They are scheduled for 3 hours. We invite two types of pre-conference workshops:

1. To provide training in specific areas of psychotherapy research, methods, or data analysis.
  2. To present a clinical assessment, treatment, and/or training method followed by a discussion that facilitates an exchange between clinical and research perspectives.
- Please note: This year, we specifically encourage workshop proposals that address the conference theme. The total number of pre-conference workshops will be limited.

### Panels

Panels should consist of 3-4 presentations focused on a common theme and a panel discussant. We encourage inclusive panels with authors from different research groups, as these often have the largest attendance. We also encourage including a discussant who can provide a clinical perspective and/or a research perspective related to the conference theme.

Panels will be 60–90 minutes long, including a minimum of 15 minutes for open discussion. The panel organizer will be asked to moderate the session and submit the full session, including the panel introduction and all included paper abstracts together. The organizer will need to provide the abstract, author and co-author names, their affiliations, and email addresses for each presenter.

### Structured Discussion

Structured discussions provide an opportunity for group discussion on a specific topic relevant to our field (e.g., specific methods, theories, new developments in research and practice, EDI issues, etc.). These sessions will be 60 or 75 minutes long and should include position statements (of up to 5 minutes each) from designated discussants to stimulate active participation from audience members. The session should be moderated by the organizer. The organizer should submit the abstract and provide the names, affiliations, and email addresses of the discussants.

### Brief Papers

Brief papers are 10-minute presentations about ongoing or completed studies. Brief paper sessions will be 60–90 minutes long and will include several short presentations, with time allotted for discussion. The programme committee will group these by topic and designate moderators for the brief paper sessions.

## Posters

Posters are suitable for a wide full range of research reports, including completed projects, single case studies, pilot studies, and work-in-progress. They provide a good opportunity for detailed discussion with interested colleagues during the conference poster session events. Poster dimensions should approximate 24" x 36" (61 cm x 91 cm). For online poster display and brief presentation, they should be available in PDF format. We encourage in-person posters to also be made available online.

## Submission Process

Submissions should be in the form of an abstract limited to 250 words. For panels and structured discussions, the moderator/organizer should provide an overview of the session as a whole. Brief papers, papers in a panel, and posters should be structured using the following headings: Aim, Methods, Results, Discussion.

It is a joy to witness the steady increase in active participation at SPR conferences. However, it poses a challenge for organizers to accommodate everyone without causing disappointments. Therefore, we ask that you **limit your involvement to one presentation as the first author** and participate **in no more than five roles**, including as presenter, moderator, or discussant in panels and structured discussions, and poster presenter. (Invited roles for plenaries are not included.)

Depending on the number of submissions and possible time constraints, the programme committee may request changing the type of presentation (e.g., oral presentation to poster).

Please use the submission portal's free-text box if there are any days/times when you are unable to present (e.g., due to religious observance). Note that pre-conference workshops will only be offered on Wednesday, June 25. Delegate presentations will begin on Thursday, June 26, in the morning and end on Saturday, June 28, in the afternoon. Please bear in mind that it might not be possible to make changes on short notice; thus, to avoid disappointment, let us know as soon as possible.

## Continuing Education Credits

We will seek support from Division 29 of the American Psychological Association to offer continuing education (CE) credits for workshops and for semi-plenaries and panels. This will require three additional pieces of information for the submission: CVs for presenters, learning objectives for the session (specific number depends on the length of the presentation), and three references from peer-reviewed sources (published in the last ten years) supporting the presentation. We will request this information for selected submission types, excluding posters and brief paper sessions. CEUs are awarded for live attendance only (at this time).

## Conflicts

Please tell us if there are any days/times when you are not able to present (for example, for observation of religion). Pre-conference workshops will be offered on Wednesday, June 25. Presentations will begin 8:00 AM (EST), Thursday, June 26, and end 5:00 PM (EST), Saturday, June 28, 2025.

## Want to collaborate with colleagues?

If you have an idea for a conference contribution and wish to collaborate with colleagues with similar interests, please consider using the SPR mailing list:

- The SPR mailing list ([list@psychotherapyresearch.org](mailto:list@psychotherapyresearch.org)) or [ResearchGate](#)



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## Dates to remember

- Online submissions will be open from October 21, 2024, to January 12, 2025.
- Notifications of acceptance will be emailed by the end of January 2025.
- Online revision period: Presenters will be able to modify their abstracts from March 15 to April 15, 2025.

## Questions

If you have any questions about the 56th International Annual Meeting 2025 in Kraków, Poland please contact us by email at [sprconference@psychotherapyresearch.org](mailto:sprconference@psychotherapyresearch.org)

**We look forward to receiving your submissions and seeing you in Kraków in June 2025!**



**Felicitas Rost**  
Program Chair



**Michał Mielimąka**  
Local Host