Wisconsin Russia Project Virtual Young Scholars Conference, 2021: Information and Guidelines

Information:

A preliminary program listing all presenters and discussants has been distributed along with this information sheet. Note that each panel will be 1:45 in duration and have the following format:

- Four presenters (aside from one panel with five presenters, which we will allow to go over schedule). Each presenter will have 15 minutes to present their paper.
- A discussant, who will provide commentary on the papers for 10-15 minutes.
- Questions, comments, and discussion from the audience, for 30 minutes.
- A panel chair, who will introduce the speakers, ensure that they stick to the allotted time limits and moderate the questions and discussion session.
- Each panel will also have an additional staff member from CREECA to assist with technical issues, so that the presenters, discussant, and chair can focus on the content of the conference.

Note that there are six full panel sessions across the two days of the conference, including two plenary sessions and four parallel sessions. We have tried to arrange panels taking into account the wide variation in time zones in which our speakers are located. We apologize to those who may have to speak earlier or later than they would prefer. However, we hope that the opportunity to participate in the event will offset any inconvenience, and we note that one advantage of the virtual format is that it opens up the conference to a participants located across the globe without requiring international (or domestic) travel.

We will circulate the final program by January 23.

The conference organizers will distribute the papers to the discussants and to those panel chairs who request them. Conference papers will not be published or posted publicly.

The conference will be open to the public; please feel free to invite colleagues and friends. However, we will not be recording the event.

The conference will be held over Zoom.

Guidelines and suggestions:

- Please check your scheduled presentation time, and let us know immediately if you have a conflict with that time.
- All presenters must submit their papers (maximum of 30 pages) to the conference organizers at this link **by January 21**. In order to ensure that our panel discussants have ample time to read all the papers and prepare their remarks, ***we will be enforcing this deadline strictly***. Therefore, the program will be finalized January 22, and anyone who has not submitted a paper will be removed. If you encounter any problems with the paper submission link, you may email your paper, as an attachment to Jacob Aehl, at russiaproject@creeca.wisc.edu.
- Presentations must be no longer than 15 minutes each. We strongly recommend practicing your presentation in advance, to ensure that you can fit it into that time frame. We have many excellent papers, and a packed program. Keep in mind that the main goal of your presentation should be to communicate your main arguments and findings to stimulate interest in your paper. Generally, it is best to keep literature reviews and detailed examinations of empirical details to a minimum, instead focusing on your key messages.

- The conference organizers will not be collecting copies of presentations. Presenters who plan to use PowerPoint or other visuals will use the "share screen" function in Zoom (instructions will be provided to help with this).

- Be sure to download the latest version of Zoom and install it on your device before the conference. The University of Wisconsin uses the latest version of Zoom, and previous experience suggests that older versions of the program must be updated in order to log into the event. Doing so can take a little time, so make sure you have the latest version installed well before the start of the conference!

- Also, be sure that you have a sufficiently strong and reliable internet connection to use Zoom without interruption, and that your computer audio is working well.

- All participants are expected to participate as audience members in other sessions of the conference. Just as you appreciate having others attend your presentation, so you can do a service for the other participants by attending their sessions and providing questions and commentary!