Call for Papers and Additional Submissions

WELCOME to TPRC44!
Arlington, VA
September 30 – October 1, 2016

The 44th Research Conference on Communications, Information, and Internet Policy

Overview: TPRC is an annual conference on information policy that convenes researchers and policymakers from academia, industry, government, and nonprofit organizations. TPRC strives to inspire top quality information, communications, and technology policy research, and to connect researchers, policymakers, lawyers, and practitioners. TPRC is the longest-running conference of its kind, and has a legacy of showcasing cutting-edge research across multiple disciplines and international perspectives.

Participate! TPRC has many ways to be involved. The main way is to submit an abstract of new research you’re working on or have recently completed. The scope is broad: a topic can be empirical, analytical, legal, historical, institutional, or theoretical. We use a double-blind review process, and if your paper is accepted you will be asked to submit your completed paper just prior to the conference, and to present your work at the conference. You can do this as part of a typical paper session, or in the poster session.

In addition to the paper sessions, TPRC has a vibrant and engaging poster session. At TPRC44, every abstract that is not accepted for a paper session will be considered for presentation as a poster (unless the author indicates a preference to opt out of such consideration). If you would prefer only to present at the poster session, you can submit an abstract for consideration for that session.

There are a variety of other participation options. TPRC44 is interested in your expertise as a moderator for a session, as a participant in our Birds of a Feather tables, as a mentor for our graduate student consortium, and as a discussion panel member. If you are a student, we have a special student call for papers and a Graduate Student Consortium to which you can apply. You will find specific details of each of these options in the full Call for Papers (see applicable links). Our goal is to provide multiple opportunities for active and engaging conference participants to interact, take part, and share their knowledge. We welcome academics, policy-makers, lawyers, students, and industry experts alike.

Dates and Location: The 2016 conference will be held from the morning of Friday, September 30 through Saturday, October 1, 2016, at the George Mason University School of Law in Arlington, Virginia. A Capitol Hill event and the Graduate Student Consortium will take place a day before the conference on Thursday, September 29. Details for these events are found by following the applicable links. Our long-standing attendees should take note of the change in format from prior years: TPRC will be held all day Friday, September 30 and all day Saturday, October 1. There will be no Sunday sessions.

Quick Facts: The submission period opens on March 1, 2016 at http://www.tprc.org. Deadlines for completed submissions are as follows:

• Abstracts for paper sessions and posters, and proposals for panels: March 31, 2016
• Applications to the Graduate Student Consortium: March 31, 2016
• Student paper submissions: April 30, 2016
TPRC is a great place to meet new people, and to reconnect with experts in the field of Internet policy, communications, and information. We are a diverse and energetic community of scholars, and we welcome your participation!
Call for Conference Papers

TPRC44 welcomes submissions of abstracts of new research you’re working on or have recently completed. The scope is broad: a topic can be empirical, analytical, legal, historical, institutional, or theoretical. We are interested in papers discussing communications, information, intellectual property, technology, and Internet policy in all countries and regions, including regional and international comparisons.

Quick Facts:
• Abstracts can be submitted from March 1, 2016 through March 31, 2016, at http://www.tprc.org.
• After a double-blind review process, notice of decisions will be provided to the submitting author by May 31, 2016.
• At the conference, presenters of papers will have a 20-minute time slot to present their findings.

Possible Research Topics: (this is by no means a complete list; all related topics are considered):
• Social media use, social network privacy policies, the role of social media in society
• Information policy dimensions of emerging technologies (drones, biometrics, virtual reality, cryptocurrencies, data analytics, artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, and 3-D printing)
• Reviews of law and legal arguments relevant to telecommunications policy issues.
• Metrics and assessment of communications service performance with respect to policy goals
• Competition, media ownership, antitrust, and the role of regulation in the market
• Defining, allocating, and managing scarce resources, including spectrum, rights of way, numbers, and domain names
• Intellectual property issues, including copyright, patent, trademark, and trade secret
• Network architecture (e.g. security, reliability, interoperability)
• Privacy, data security, and surveillance
• Transnational Internet governance
• New communications business models (e.g., over-the-top video providers, healthcare delivery and monitoring, MOOCs and flipped classrooms)
• Impact of the rise of large multi-sided platforms as providers of Internet-based devices and/or digital services (e.g., search, news, email, mapping, shopping) on competition and consumer choice
• Social, economic, societal, or environmental impacts from the use of telecommunications (wireline and mobile) and Internet technologies
• Critical theoretical analyses of communications and information policy and practices (e.g., assessing race, gender, or class effects)
• Evaluation of programs (public, nonprofit, private) to increase access to, and adoption of, communications, information, and Internet technologies and services
• Topics in innovation policy

Important Guidelines: A paper that has been accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal or conference proceeding, in a law review, or as a chapter in a published book, will not be accepted for TPRC. Material that has been published or presented in other venues (e.g., dissertations, working papers, position papers, documents in repositories like SSRN, and other conferences) is acceptable.

At least one author is expected to attend the conference to present an accepted submission. A person may present only one paper at the conference (although he/she may be a coauthor on others.) If multiple papers are submitted by a single author, at most one of them will be accepted. If there are
multiple papers with the same or overlapping co-authors, different authors will be required to present each accepted paper.

**Note:** TPRC is a research conference, and thus pieces of advocacy will not be considered for inclusion in the program.

Please direct questions concerning acceptances/rejections to Laura.verinder@gmail.com. Complete papers for accepted abstracts will be due to TPRC on August 15, 2016. Papers not submitted in final form by the due date will be removed from the program.

**Submission Criteria:** To aid the Program Committee in selecting the most appropriate papers for presentation, abstracts must adhere to the following guidelines:

- The abstract **SHOULD NOT CONTAIN** the author’s name or identifying information.
- Abstracts should be 300 to 500 words in length.
- Abstracts should not contain a detailed literature review as the reviewers are likely to be familiar with the topic of the paper and will require at most a short paragraph of background.
- Abstracts should describe the proposed research in as much detail as is necessary to convey the contributions of the paper. This includes:
  1. a clear statement of the objective(s) of the paper;
  2. when appropriate to the topic, a description of the methods used to develop the paper’s thesis or test its hypotheses;
  3. a short explanation as to why the research is novel; and
  4. a description of the data assembled to support these insights or perform these tests, where relevant.
  5. if the paper is substantially complete, the abstract should also summarize its results.
- While the proposed research need not involve empirical methods, the work should significantly advance information policy, theory or related research methods.
- The abstract should state clearly if you **DO NOT** wish to have the proposal considered for presentation in the poster session (see below).
Call for Posters

Overview: Our highly interactive poster session is a perfect opportunity for both established and junior scholars to present their work in a different and less formal structure. The format allows all to share their expertise, and to intermingle with others with similar research interests.

In a typical poster session, participants display materials that show the highlights of their research. Printed poster boards or sheets of paper with a title, abstract, core results, graphs, charts, etc. that are attached in a meaningful sequence to a poster board are equally acceptable. A poster is intended to present research in a manner that the topic, data/information, and main results are immediately identifiable, and so as to ensure that the empirical questions and hypotheses guiding the work are noted. Poster presenters are encouraged to make a reasonable quantity of color copies of their posters available for distribution to interested attendees.

Details: During TPRC44, posters will be displayed prominently in the lobby throughout the conference period, and a formal poster session (with accompanying refreshments and hors d’oeuvres) will take place on Friday evening.

Quick Facts:
• All proposals must be submitted between March 1, 2016 and March 31, 2016, at http://www.tprc.org.
• The same research topics and criteria for selection as explained in the general call for papers will apply to posters.
• After double-blind review, notice of decisions will be provided to the submitting author by May 31, 2016.

Submission Criteria: To aid the Program Committee in selecting the most appropriate papers for presentation, abstracts must adhere to the following guidelines:
• The proposal SHOULD NOT CONTAIN the author’s name or identifying information.
• Proposals should be 300 to 500 words in length.
• Proposals should not contain a detailed literature review as the reviewers are likely to be familiar with the topic of the paper and will require at most a short paragraph of background.
• Proposals should describe the intended research in as much detail as is necessary to convey the contributions of the paper. This includes:
  (a) a clear statement of the objective(s) of the research;
  (b) when appropriate to the topic, a description of the methods used to develop the thesis or test its hypotheses;
  (c) a short explanation as to why the research is novel; and
  (d) a description of the data assembled to support these insights or perform these tests, where relevant.
  (e) if the research is substantially complete, the proposal should summarize the results.
• While the proposed research need not involve empirical methods, the work should significantly advance information policy, theory or related research methods.

If you have any questions concerning the poster session please contact Laura.verinder@gmail.com.
**Call for Panel Proposals**

Panels typically convene a slate of scholars, regulators, lawyers, and industry experts to address current topics of interest to the TPRC community. Panels often are conducted as roundtable discussions with a chair and three or four discussants.

**Quick Facts:**
- Abstracts can be submitted from **March 1, 2016** through **March 31, 2016**, at [http://www.tprc.org](http://www.tprc.org).
- After a double-blind-review process, notice of decisions will be provided to the submitting author by May 31, 2016.
- Panels are scheduled for 90 minutes, of which at least 30 minutes must be reserved for questions. The submitter of a successful panel submission is responsible for organizing the presenters and their presentations.

**Submission Criteria for Panels:** To aid the Program Committee in their selection, proposals should adhere to the following guidelines:
- The proposal **SHOULD NOT CONTAIN** participants’ names or identifying information.
- Submissions for panels should be no more than 500 words in length.
- Proposals should not contain a detailed literature review as the reviewers are likely to be familiar with the topic of the panel and will require at most a short paragraph of background.
- Panel proposals should
  (a) outline the objective(s) of the panel and topics to covered;
  (b) justify its relevance to the TPRC community; and
  (c) explain the proposed composition of the panel, including the perspectives and contributions that participants will bring to the topic.

**Note:** Submitters must ensure availability of all participants (e.g., moderator, panelists or presenter as applicable), and briefly explain the content that will be covered by the various panel participants.

If you have any questions concerning a panel please contact Laura.verinder@gmail.com.
For Students!

As a student, you are welcome to apply to three specific opportunities:

1. You may submit an abstract to the general conference following the instructions for paper and poster submissions.
2. You may submit a full paper to the Student Paper Contest following the instructions. (Student paper submitters are urged to apply also for the Graduate Student Consortium.)
3. You may submit an application for the Graduate Student Consortium.

Note: These three opportunities stand alone. Application to one does not automatically submit your work to any of the others (and acceptance to one does not imply acceptance to the others). You may apply for all three or any subset, following the submission criteria for each as stated in the calls. For example, to submit to both the main conference and the student paper competition, you must create a separate submission in compliance with the Call for Conference Papers by the conference paper deadline of March 31, 2016.

Call for Student Papers

Overview: If you are a student working on your own research we welcome your participation! Unlike the standard process where submissions are abstracts, the student paper competition requires full papers. Once you submit your full paper to TPRC for consideration for the program and awards, a double-blind review process will be used to select three student papers as part of the TPRC44 conference program. Because full papers are required, the deadline for submission is later than the primary call for papers deadline (students’ full papers must be submitted by April 30, 2016).

Prizes! TPRC strives to reward new research of young scholars and as such, the student paper competition offers three cash awards:

- First Prize: $1,000
- Second Prize: $500
- Third Prize: $300

In addition, student paper award winners receive complementary conference registration!

As a Student Paper Award winner you will be offered the option of presenting a paper or presenting a poster. If a student paper winner has been accepted already as a paper or poster presenter, the student still only gets one spot (either paper or poster). Authors are permitted to present only one paper at TPRC.

TPRC also will offer authors of the next three highest-rated papers the opportunity to present their research during the Poster Session.

Details: The student paper competition is open to all graduate and law students enrolled during the 2015-2016 school year regardless of their status at the time of the 2016 conference. Papers may be based on research undertaken for a Master’s thesis, a Ph.D. dissertation, or other supervised analytical writing. Papers with multiple student authors all meeting these requirements are eligible. Submissions that are co-authored with faculty or other non-students are not eligible.
As with the general session papers, a student paper that has been accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal or conference proceeding, in a law review, or as a chapter in a published book will not be accepted for TPRC. Material that has been published or presented in other venues (e.g., dissertations, working papers, position papers, documents in repositories like SSRN, and other conferences) is acceptable.

**Quick Facts:**
- Deadline for full student papers, with an accompanying abstract is April 30, 2016.
- Submission must be endorsed by a faculty member at the student’s institution, and an annotation to that effect with the faculty member’s name must appear in the abstract.
- The full paper must not contain the author’s or faculty member’s name or identifying information.
- The paper page limit is 30 pages (including references).
- Review process is double-blind.
- Authors will be notified of decision by June 30, 2016.
- Students pay the discounted student registration rate for the conference.

Please address inquiries to Laura.verinder@gmail.com.

**For Students!**

As a student, you are welcome to apply to three specific opportunities:

1. You may submit an abstract to the general conference following the instructions for paper and poster submissions.
2. You may submit a full paper to the Student Paper Contest following the instructions. (Student paper submitters are urged to apply also for the Graduate Student Consortium.)
3. You may submit an application for the Graduate Student Consortium.

**Note:** These three opportunities stand alone. Application to one does not automatically submit your work to any of the others (and acceptance to one does not imply acceptance to the others). You may apply for all three or any subset, following the submission criteria for each as stated in the calls. For example, to submit to both the main conference and the student paper competition, you must create a separate submission in compliance with the Call for Conference Papers by the conference paper deadline of March 31, 2016.

**Call for the Graduate Student Consortium**

**Overview:** The Graduate Student Consortium (GSC) is designed to provide graduate students with opportunities for mentoring by academics, industry, and government leaders, as well as the opportunity to network with other graduate students. GSC participants will gain insights on research strategies and topics of interest from members of the TPRC community representing various industry sectors.

**Details:** The day prior to the main conference, GSC participants will participate in a short research seminar and then present their proposed research topics. They then will have the opportunity to discuss their proposed research topics with mentors, receive feedback on their work, and interact with fellow graduate students and GSC mentors. Mentors are leaders from academia, industry, government,
and the non-profit sectors, chosen to ensure balance among these multiple perspectives and to match areas of interest with GSC students.

**Quick Facts:**
- The Graduate Student Consortium is open to all graduate and law students enrolled during the 2015-2016 school year regardless of their status at the time of the 2016 conference.
- Abstracts and summary can be submitted from **March 1, 2016** through **March 31, 2016**, at [http://www.tprc.org/consortium](http://www.tprc.org/consortium)
- The submission **must not** include student or faculty members’ names or institutions.
- GSC takes place on **Thursday, September 29th**, 2016, from 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm, at a location (to be announced) in the Washington, D.C. area.
- Accepted applicants will be invited to participate in the GCS by May 31, 2016.
- Applicants must submit a statement of endorsement from a faculty member at their institution. (The endorsement form is online and available on the TPRC website).
- Conference **registration** and **conference meals** are **complimentary** for accepted applicants.
- Students are responsible for their own travel and lodging.

**Submission Criteria for GSC:** Applicants must submit a 150 word abstract. Additionally, each must submit a statement of approximately 1,500 words outlining their proposed research topic. The statement should briefly describe the objectives, methods of the study, and the study’s implications to industry or policymakers. The topic can be a new area of exploration chosen specifically for the GSC, or it can be an area of ongoing research that will benefit from the varied expertise of GSC mentors.

**Review Criteria for GSC:**
- Clear articulation of the proposed research topic.
- Relevance of the selected topic to the TPRC community.
- Faculty endorsement.

**Graduate Student Consortium Mentors**
Those interested in serving as a GSC mentor should email Laura.verinder@gmail.com to express their interest.

For questions regarding the GSC, please contact Prof. Martha Garcia-Murillo at mgarciam@syr.edu.