

ICCP 2026 – Symposia Session Guidelines

90-Minute Thematic Symposium

Three to four papers on a shared theme. One presenter may serve as Chair.

Purpose of a Symposium

Symposia offer a coherent, multi-perspective exploration of a focused theme in counselling and psychotherapy. Rather than isolated papers, presenters contribute to a unified conversation that deepens understanding and fosters meaningful academic dialogue.

Session Structure (90 Minutes)

1. Chair's Opening (5 minutes)

(Chair may be one of the presenters)

- Welcome participants
- Introduce the theme and session structure
- Briefly introduce presenters
- Outline expectations for timing and discussion

2. Paper Presentations (60 minutes)

Timing:

- **3 presenters:** ~18 minutes each
- **4 presenters:** ~15 minutes each
(Recommended: 12–15 minutes presentation + 3 minutes brief clarification Q&A)

Presenter responsibilities:

- Stay strictly within time
- Present key arguments, findings, and implications clearly
- Use slides sparingly and purposefully
- Focus on what advances the session's shared theme

Suggested content:

- Why this issue matters
- Brief theoretical/empirical basis
- Key findings/insights
- Implications for practice, research, or policy

3. Integrated Discussion (20 minutes)

Facilitated by the Chair.

- Highlight links, contrasts, and shared insights across papers

- Pose 2–4 integrative questions to all presenters
- Invite presenters to respond to each other
- Open the floor to audience questions
- Keep the discussion focused, inclusive, and thematic

Presenter role:

- Respond concisely
- Refer to one another's work
- Expand insights without dominating

4. Chair's Closing Summary (5 minutes)

- Synthesize key insights
- Reinforce contributions to the broader field
- Thank presenters and audience

Presenter Expectations

- Coordinate briefly beforehand for thematic coherence
- Share slides with the Chair in advance
- Respect time limits strictly
- Ensure clarity and accessibility
- Contribute to a shared scholarly dialogue

Chair Expectations

- Prepare integrative questions
- Maintain time and flow
- Balance contributions equitably
- Foster a collegial, reflective atmosphere

Avoid

- Overlong presentations
- Highly technical content inaccessible to practitioners
- Disconnected papers with no thematic integration
- One presenter dominating discussion
- Fragmented Q&A that loses the central theme