

FAQs about the Media Research Social Justice Conference (MRSJ)

Q. What is the history of MRSJ?

A. MRSJ (formerly SRSJ) began in 2003 as collaboration between faculty and students in the Department of Media and Communication at Muhlenberg College, with the goal to create a forum outside of their classes to discuss issues of social justice in a democratic society. The Conference, continuing this initial vision, has a strong and consistent faculty, student and community representation from across the Lehigh Valley region that now, as of 2018, focuses on critical media scholarship and media activism within a social justice framework.

Q. What types of student projects are typically presented at the conference?

A. Students projects represent a range of colleges and universities, at the undergraduate level, as well as community advocacy organizations.

Q. How do I apply to participate in the MRSJ Conference?

A. To participate in the MRSJ Conference you must submit a proposal, which includes your title, institutional affiliation, faculty mentor, email address, title of the work to be presented, and an abstract of 200-350-words describing your project and how it connects to social justice. The MRSJ Call for Papers offers all pertinent information about the application process.

Q. The MRSJ Call for Papers asks that students identify a faculty mentor. What is the role of the faculty mentor?

A. The faculty mentor provides tutelage to students through the application and conference preparation process. S/he may oversee edits and revisions to the paper that will be presented, offer suggestions on the organization of a PowerPoint presentation or dance performance, give students guidance on the nature and organization of academic conferences, and/or provide expectations of professionalism.

Q. What should I do after I submit my proposal?

A. After you have submitted your proposal, your first step is to save the date of the conference. Once your proposal is accepted, it is expected that you will attend the conference, at least the panel to which you have been assigned, if not the entire conference.

Q. When will the conference program be available?

A. We offer students a preliminary program along with their acceptance letter to the conference by late March. The programs feature details on all conference events, including the plenary event and panel discussions (i.e. times, room locations, student participants and titles of their presentations, moderators).

Q. What is the organization of the panels?

A. Student projects are organized into panels according to common themes, with approximately three student presenters per panel. Students will have approximately 10-12 minutes, depending on the number of panelists, to present their project, with time remaining at the end of presentations for a question and answer session.

Q. What is the role of the moderator for research sessions and roundtables?

A. The moderator has a three-fold role, introducing the panel and panelists, making sure that student presentations do not exceed the allotted time in the research sessions, and facilitating the question and answer session. The moderator should be prepared to offer connections from across the panel, ask questions to engage conversations, and facilitate the questions and answers. Moderators are selected for specific panels based on their professional expertise and interests.

Q. Where is the MRSJ Conference being held?

A. MRSJ Conference is held at Muhlenberg College in Moyer Hall. The program provides specific room numbers for each panel discussion. Below is a map of the College showing where Moyer Hall is located.

<http://www.muhlenberg.edu/muhinfo/map.html>

Q. How do I get to Muhlenberg College?

A. Muhlenberg College is located in West Allentown, and is easily accessible from Route 22. Below are car directions to the College.

<http://www.muhlenberg.edu/muhinfo/directions.html>

Q. Where do I park at Muhlenberg College?

A. Most of the parking lots at Muhlenberg College require a parking permit. There is ample street parking around the College where you may park your car. We will also send a one-day temporary permit, as a pdf attachment, in the email that includes the preliminary conference program. This permit allows you to park in any campus lot except the northeast back lot.

Q. What type of technology is available in the classrooms?

A. All classrooms are equipped with “technology walls” featuring a computer (Windows 2000, CD-ROM, internet), laptop connection, VCR and/or DVD, TV tuner, and Document Camera/Overhead. The media is projected to a large screen from an LCD projector. Panelists are encouraged to bring their own laptop but must provide their own laptop specific AC power adapter and for MAC users, their computer specific VGA adapter.

Q. How should I prepare for the technology needs of my presentation?

A. It is always a good idea to have a back up plan by printing out your presentation, emailing to yourself, saving it on a jump drive and/or knowing your material well enough to speak extemporaneously. We also encourage you to arrive early (approximately 15 minutes) to set up technology for your presentation.

Q. What is the dress style for the conference?

A. We encourage you to dress in professional attire, which may include a suit, shirt/tie, dress, skirt, chinos or slacks.

Q. Is there a registration fee to participate or attend the conference?

A. There is no registration fee to attend the conference, but you are strongly encouraged to register in the lobby of Moyer Hall. Only registered participants will receive a name badge, which serves as a meal “ticket” for our continental breakfast and buffet lunch. Conference panelists will automatically be registered for the conference.

Q. Will food be available at the conference?

A. There is a continental breakfast and buffet lunch available to registered attendees, in Moyer Hall. There are also dining facilities available at the Seegers Union for all guests of the College at your own expense, including the Ilene and Robert Woods Dining Commons, Generals Quarters Food Court, and Java Joe Coffee Kiosk.

Q. What if I cannot stay for the entire conference?

A. We encourage participants to attend all Conference events and panel discussions, to learn from your colleagues from across the Lehigh Valley. You may attend selected panels and events as your schedule allows. We ask that you do your best to arrive to each panel discussion on time, and to remain there for the duration of the panel discussion.

Q. Who is sponsoring the MRSJ Conference?

A. MRSJ is sponsored by the Department of Media and Communication/Film Studies at Muhlenberg College.