

Frequently Asked Questions – Changes in the Paper Processing Procedure

Do the authors or the chairs choose whether a submission will be OPP or PPP? If the authors decide and submit an OPP paper, can the chairs move it to PPP?

- The authors may indicate their preference of OPP or PPP when the paper is submitted. A committee made up of senior members of The Combustion Institute along with colloquia chairs will review the papers based on the **criteria** that have been established and make a recommendation to the Program Co-Chairs (PCCs). The PCCs (José Torero and Bassam Dally) will decide, and the authors will then be informed of the formal presentation style assigned to their paper.

What is the distinction in the review process between OPP and PPP and the relative timing?

- Once the paper is received, it will be reviewed by a committee who will determine if the submission is an OPP or PPP. OPPs will be reviewed in the traditional Symposium process, and there will be an accept or reject decision. Those that are accepted will then be considered for publication by the *Proceedings* editors as per the usual procedures. Selected papers for the PPP track will automatically be transferred to the *Proceedings* editors for review and consideration for publication. An accept or reject ruling will be made. This is to be decided no later than 5 May 2024.

The reviewer pool is basically the same for all submitted papers. How does the new process work with two categories of papers?

- Historically, the problem has been that there are numerous papers to review in a condensed period of time which may result in overwhelming reviewers or weakening the quality of the reviews received. By having two categories, some papers will no longer need to be reviewed in that condensed period but will instead be reviewed over a longer period. Reviewers will work for five months instead of one month which will result in a more rigorous and high-quality review process for both types of papers.

Will the reviewers know if they are reviewing the journal paper as PPP or OPP?

- Yes. If they are OPP, they will be interacting with the Colloquium Chairs. If they are PPP, they will be interacting with the *Proceedings* editors.

In the PPP process, will there be a possibility for the authors to submit revised papers and have a second round in the review process (in contrast to the 1-page rebuttal of the OPP)?

- Yes. PPPs will be treated as a journal paper. The author may respond, then the editors may request more information.

Besides the publication in the *Proceedings*, what is the difference between WiPP and PPP formats?

- The presentation formats for the two are fundamentally the same. The presentation period for the PPPs will not be competing with other sessions. They will be displayed in a more prominent place, and they will have a more significant and dedicated period of time. Authors of accepted PPPs will submit a 20-minute video of their presentation (for online viewing), and PPP student presenters will be eligible for complimentary Symposium registration. These things do not apply to WiPP submissions.

Will there be a way for rejected oral papers to access the poster paper track?

- No. The PPP selection will be at the onset. Fundamentally, the quality standards of OPPs and the PPPs will be the same. PPPs and OPPs are on a parallel track, and they do not intersect. Therefore, one cannot go from one to the other. As it has been in the past, a rejected paper can be submitted for consideration as a Work in Progress Poster (WiPP) or to another journal.

If an OPP submission does not get high enough rankings to get accepted for an OPP, but its rankings are still higher than those in the PPP pool, is there a chance to move the OPP to the PPP list?

- No. An OPP cannot change to PPP and vice versa. One is not of higher quality than the other, the quality threshold is the same for both.

When submitting the paper, should the author state if they prefer OPP or PPP?

- Yes. Authors will be asked for their preference. Hopefully, the value of the PPP will be recognized, and some authors will choose this route. The final decision is made by program co-chairs with support from a committee.

What is the deadline for submission?

- 4 December 2023

How many reviewers will assess each submission?

- Each submission will receive at least 3 peer-scientist reviews. This is the typical review process.

What is the timeline for the PPP track? (The timeline for revision and rebuttal)

- The PPPs are to be treated as a journal article. The PCCs and PROCI Editors have committed to have all papers processed by 5 May 2024. In any case, the author will always know where their paper is in the process.

The call says, "a group of poster papers will be presented." Will all accepted poster papers be presented in the poster sessions, or just a selected group?

- All accepted poster papers will be presented. There will be 2 – 3 sessions depending on necessity. The posters will appear in a designated, separate location. The location will be clearly indicated in the program and venue for interested parties to view the posters and interact with the authors. As much time as possible will be allotted for PPPs to maximize interaction.

The OPP criteria suggest that novel or unconventional approaches will be encouraged in the OPP category, but such papers can be controversial and may get rejected without passivity of a second round of review. OPP seems to be a riskier process for novel work. How will this issue be addressed?

- The new criteria are intended to promote novel work and exciting discussions at the Symposium. For a paper to be considered for OPP, it must be complete. This is not a quality measure when choosing between OPP and PPP. It is determining which mode will best benefit the paper. The expectation is that improving the review process will lead to a better and more fair review. Authors will be asked to highlight in dot-points the novelty, significance, and contribution of the paper to help in the review process.

Symposium topics have changed. Where should a paper be submitted if the author is unsure to which category the paper belongs?

- The four themes under which the colloquia are organized were intentionally and carefully chosen. We want to communicate that we are part of the solution, not just part of the problem. Choose what most closely matches the paper. Some may fall on the border between two categories. Ultimately, it does not matter much as attendees will be made aware of what the session is about, and they will be grouped together in the program. If in doubt, include both and the decision will be made.

Where can the links that were shown earlier be found?

- All the links can be found on The Combustion Institute [website](#).

Should every OPP or PPP author submit a 20-minute video recording at the initial submission time?

- No. The video recording is only submitted once the paper is accepted.

Can the same person submit multiple first author papers?

- Yes. There has never been a restriction.

Should authors with accepted papers attend the Symposium?

- A registered author for every accepted paper – whether OPP or PPP – must attend and present at the Symposium. Authors will be asked for their commitment to attend and present their paper if accepted, at the submission stage.