

MARE Conference People and the Sea XII

Invitation and inspiration for alternative panel formats

We encourage panel proposals with innovative formats that stimulate interaction and dynamism such as roundtables, workshops, brainstorm sessions, debates, artistic interventions, exhibitions, virtual excursions, documentary screenings with discussion, photo essays, meet the author sessions, book presentations etcetera. The conference organizers may prioritize panel proposals that take into account these considerations.

We have listed various ideas below, and as we come across additional innovative session types, we will make these available. Should you have come across particularly useful formats which you would like others to know about, please do send your suggestion to info@marecentre.nl and we will add it to the list. Please note that sessions are by default 1.5 hours long.

- **Roundtables.** Select a group of panelists (possibly including scholars, stakeholders groups and/or policy makers) to discuss a cutting-edge theme or rather a pressing question that requires collective brainstorming.
- **Topic-specific discussion groups.** Identify a central problem or methodology which, after adequate introduction(s), invites for an open discussion.
- **Workshops or trainings.** Organize your panel in the form of a workshop or training allowing participants to learn about new methodologies, ideas, or relevant research skills.
- **Interviews.** Set up your panel in such a way that scholars/practitioners interview each other to invoke reflexive discussion on recent papers/achievements/projects.
- **Visual-** with photo presentations or short documentary films and time for discussion.
- **“Come prepared”-** where there’s a short video or something to watch in advance, which then allows more time for discussion.

- **PechaKucha**- a storytelling format in which presenters use a very strict and concise presentation format (i.e. 20 slides for 20 seconds of commentary each), allowing for more time for discussion.
- **Debate**- organize a debate on a controversial topic that may benefit from reflective scrutiny of different positions.