

Change to conference papers – refereed papers restricted to postgraduate students

The role of refereed full papers for conferences has been under debate in many universities in light of the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) exercise. The ERA system disadvantages disciplines within a university that have a high proportion of conference papers among their outputs. The TASA executive has been receiving reports that universities are now actively instructing academics to *not* publish in conference proceedings and universities are no longer requiring a refereed paper to access travel funding. The refereeing process is also an additional responsibility on TASA Thematic Group leaders and make a time demand on members asked to review. This time can be used in other ways to support TASA and the activities of the thematic groups. In light of this the TASA Executive agreed that from the 2015 conference onward, full papers would only be accepted from postgraduate (and honours) students, who will benefit most from going through the review process.

TASA contacted all sociology departments around Australia to check whether a paper remained a requirement. Of the departments that responded, only one appears to still require a submitted paper. As a transition measure, conference papers for refereeing will be accepted from non-students if a TASA member cannot access support/funding to attend otherwise. Please contact the conference organisers to discuss if this applies to you. For other queries about this change, please contact Dan Woodman: dan.woodman@unimelb.edu.au