

Taking advantage of attending IAIA events

Symposia and Annual Conferences



Joining **IAIA events** while connecting with the community in your field and building collaborations can be refreshing and inspiring.

Participating in sessions and meeting people is a great way not only to make new friends and listen about different perspectives, but also to test, discuss and develop ideas; get feedback and support; increase your visibility; and establish relationships that can lead to potential future employment opportunities.

Below are some suggestions that can help you make the most of your experience.

BEFORE THE EVENT

- Familiarize yourself with the program.
- Download IAIA's app of the event (if available) and explore the features that might be helpful for you.
- Make notes about attendees you may want to meet.
- Prepare a list of well-thought, interesting questions you might want to ask them if you meet them.
- Plan which activities and sessions to attend. Be selective while also taking into account presentations that are not within your area but might be stimulating and helpful.
- Pack your business cards.
- Make a goal sheet.

AFTER THE EVENT

- Keep in touch with your new and old colleagues by e-mail.
- Try to read their publications and learn about their research advances, when possible, to strengthen the connections.

DURING THE EVENT

- When sessions you want to attend are at the same time, follow the event on Twitter to keep up with other sessions.
- After each session, during breaks, write a brief paragraph of what you learned—applicable to your work or field—to revisit later.
- Presenters, keep in mind that an impressive presentation may result in future collaborations with participants in the audience.
- Within your list of sessions to attend, make sure you schedule time in between them to socialize.
- If you had planned to attend a session but you have the opportunity to meet somebody with whom you wanted to connect in that moment, be flexible with your agenda. Do not be afraid of accommodating last minute changes.
- Coffee breaks are a friendly and informal setting to interact. Ask questions about posters and sessions while chatting.
- Are you attending with friends and colleagues? Make it a priority to meet new people to grow your network.
- You may get to know people by Tweeting during the events, potentially resulting in face-to-face interactions.
- Try to participate in networking opportunities—they help building self-confidence and social skills. Find the events organized by IAIA in the program.
- While networking with other attendees, see them as potential future co-workers, collaborators, reviewers, etc. During social events nurture personal connections.
- Have fun while keeping your interactions professional.
- Balance social time to enjoy the company, and quiet time to rest and unwind.

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