

From: cosyne@confmaster.net
Subject: [Cosyne2026] Instructions for Reviewers
Date: 28 October 2025 at 19:45
To: alexander.shakeel.bates@gmail.com
Cc: cosyne@confmaster.net



Dear Alexander,

Thank you very much for serving as a Cosyne reviewer! We cannot put on a scientific program without you, and we are so grateful for your work providing input so that we can select high-quality abstracts for the meeting this year.

This year we received 1,219 abstracts, a record-breaking number, and we are expecting that every reviewer will be assigned 3-10 abstracts.

This email contains instructions for next steps, including information about how to use the Cosyne 2026 conference management system (Confmaster). A few things require your immediate attention, and your reviews should be submitted no later than 25 November 2025.

Please be aware that all Cosyne submissions and reviews are strictly confidential, and neither the submissions nor the reviews can be circulated publicly.

The first step that requires your immediate attention is to identify abstracts that are not sufficiently anonymized for double-blind review. In other words, if you can very easily determine identifying information of the authors (i.e.- author names or citations of past work "We have previously shown...[citation]."), you should immediately inform tomas.hromadka@cosyne.org.

Step 1: Verify you can handle your assigned abstracts.

Log in to confmaster (<http://cosyne.confmaster.net>) and identify insufficiently anonymized abstracts. Please do this today and notify tomas.hromadka@cosyne.org of any problems or questions as soon as possible.

* To access the Cosyne 2026 conference management system go to <http://cosyne.confmaster.net> and log in using the login and password you chose when you replied to the invitation email.

* In the menu on the top, navigate to Reviewer -> View assigned Papers.

* Verify that you feel you are able to handle all your abstracts objectively, based on their title. If you feel you also want to view the full submission to determine this, just click on the pdf file icon at the right of each submission in your list of assignments.

* If you feel you might have a conflict of interest, let the Program Committee member who recruited you as a Cosyne reviewer know right away and they will reassign the abstract.

Step 2: Read abstracts.

* To download the two-page submission file, click on the pdf file icon on the right side of each submission.

Step 3: Evaluate abstracts and submit your reviews in Confmaster by 25 November 2025.

* For each paper, you will be asked to give a score (1–10) and confidence (1–5). The higher the score the better. As a rough metric, think of 6 and higher as a vote for acceptance (with the higher the score the more enthusiastic the vote for acceptance). Likewise, think of 5 or lower as a vote for rejection (with lower scores being an indication of a strong rejection). In addition to the score, please provide substantive comments. These comments are very helpful for both the authors and the selection process.

* **IMPORTANT:** Please read the evaluation criteria, which are posted here: <https://www.cosyne.org/abstracts-submission>. It is also worth noting that the criterion "Relevance to the Cosyne audience" should not be interpreted overly strictly. Cosyne is a "big tent" conference, and the principal goal is to bring together theoreticians and experimentalists who study neural systems. This tent can (and should!) include work that is not traditionally considered "systems" or "computational" neuroscience, such as modeling of behavior, analysis of genetic data, or neuroscience-inspired artificial intelligence, etc. The goal of the relevance criterion is to ensure that the work is potentially of interest to both theoreticians and experimentalists, not to gate-keep against certain topics.

* To review your assigned abstracts, click on 'View assigned Papers', which you will see under the menu 'Reviewer' on the top of your screen. A list of abstracts will appear. When you are ready to enter your review, click on the red button 'Enter Review' at the far right of a given submission. Scroll down to fill in the review information. When you are finished, click 'Submit' at the bottom.

* Please note that you will be also able to modify your review, until 25 November 2025, when all reviews should have been submitted. To modify your review, simply select 'Modify Review' (blue button) at the right of each of your assigned and previously reviewed submissions.

* Note that you must place something in the comment box for each abstract before you will be allowed to submit it.

* We ask that you write your comments to be substantive, since the comments, and not just the scores, will be used to select talks and rejections.

* Based on the number of submissions, we are aiming for an acceptance rate of approximately 50%. Thus, if you have an assigned stack of 10 abstracts, you should expect (a priori) to assign 0–1 scores of 9 or 10, and 4-5 scores below 5 although individual samples may vary.

Have more questions? Here's what to do:

* Technical questions regarding the confmaster site should be directed to Tomas Hromadka (tomas.hromadka@cosyne.org).

* If you are uncertain about conflicts, anonymization for double-blind review, or want to discuss any part of the review and evaluation process, contact your nominating PC member. They will consult with us if they need additional input.

* And of course, we are here to help with this process! Please contact us at:

Program Committee Chairs: pc-chairs@cosyne.org (we both monitor this email)

Kim Stachenfeld: tatiana.engel@princeton.edu

Mark Histed: mhisted@gmail.com

Gratefully yours,

Kim & Mark

COSYNE 2026 Program Co-Chairs