



How to attend NAACL 2021

How to get the most of the conference?

Welcome!



It is a pleasure to have your assistance in this online version of NAACL 2021. We have prepared this document to help you have the best experience during the conference, enjoy the talks, tutorials, workshops, and the most recent advances in the premier annual computational linguistics event!

Happy NAACL :)



NAACL 2021



NAACL 2021



The annual conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL) is one of the most important conferences in computational linguistics and natural language processing. The event comprises the main conference and several co-located workshops and short courses. NAACL features high quality, providing exceptional value for students, academics, and industry researchers.

For more information visit:

<https://2021.naacl.org/>



Association for
Computational Linguistics



LatinX in AI

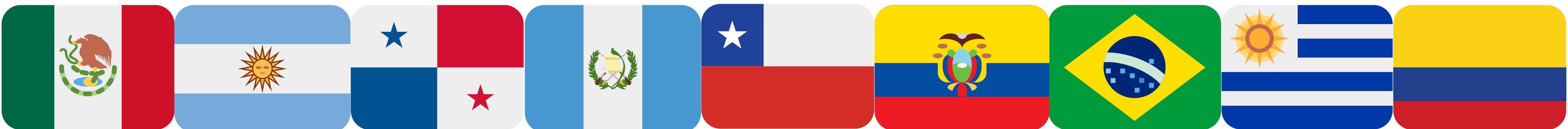
This year LXAI is hosting socials to connect LatinX identifying AI researchers and Engineers around NAACL 2021. NAACL registration is not required to attend the social.



They will be hosted virtually on Monday, June 7th, and Thursday, June 10th, 2021.

More information at:

<https://www.latinxinai.org/naacl-2021>



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Before the Conference

Registration

- In the following link, you can find information about the registration and fees:

- <https://2021.naacl.org/registration/>

Check the **Reduced Rate ACL Memberships** for members from developing countries!

- You can register [here](#):



Registrations start on **May 21st** and will remain open throughout the conference.

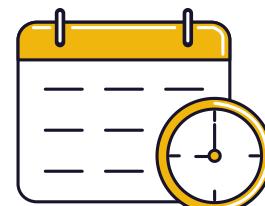


Note: All underlined words are links. Click on them to get access.

Before the Conference

Login

- To access the virtual platform, you need to use the email address you previously registered.
 - You can update your registration or make a substitution - select already registered when following the registration link and log into your account.
- The NAACL website will update the link to access the virtual platform.
- We highly recommend reading the code of conduct at:
 - <https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics>



The conference will take place virtually from June 6th to June 11th

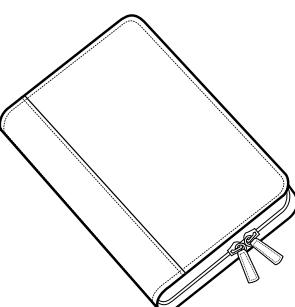
Before the Conference

Planning your time

As this is an international conference, be sure to set your time in the same timeline as the conference → Pacific Daylight Time (PDT), UTC-7

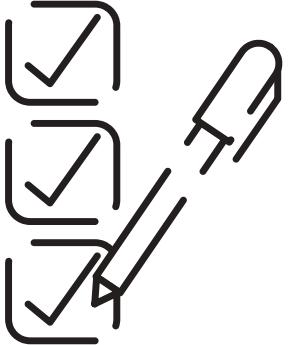


Organize yourself, your time, and space to receive this conference week. Open your mind and prepare to be amazed!



Before the Conference

Planning your time



Do not try to attend every single talk. In six days, you will have access to a lot of information! Unfortunately, time (and energy) is not enough for attending all of them:

- Take a look at the program (tutorials, workshops, and accepted papers) and start filtering the works of your interest.



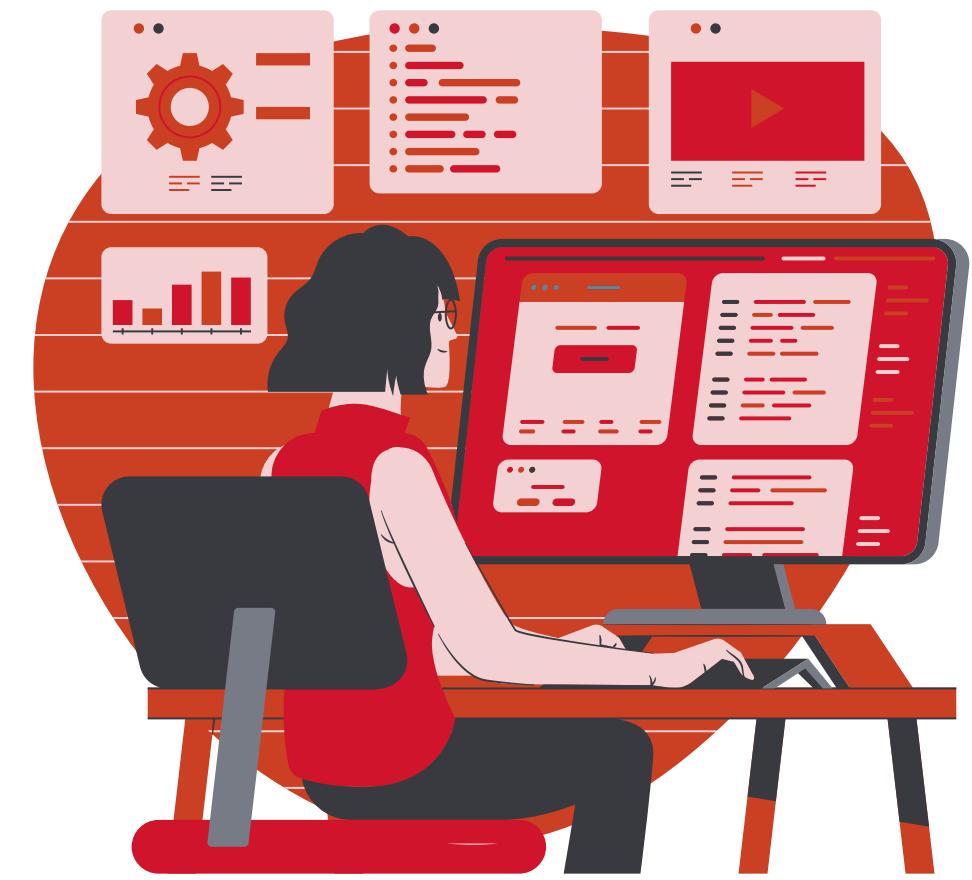
The following slides will give you some tips to choose from among these events.

During the Conference

How to choose which talks to attend?

We have compiled from different sources a list of tips that may help you choose the talks you will attend, facilitating your schedule organization. In this way, you will have a fascinating, learning, productive, and achievable day/week!

- You don't need to go to all the talks.
- Balance between interests and energy:
 - It is important to set priorities. For example, on Wednesday Synced decided to follow the "RL and Neuroscience" track, which included 10 talks in the morning and 14 talks in the afternoon.



During the Conference

How to choose which talks to attend?

- The 'rule of five':
 - You won't be able to absorb more than five talks in a day, don't force yourself to sit through more.
- Do smart scheduling:
 - Know yourself and include your patterns. E.g. Ph.D. student Jesse Bettencourt was "too keen to do all the things... waking up to go the very first talk every day, and very quickly got burned out".



During the Conference

How to choose the talks?

- Choosing what to pay attention to is key in such a dense landscape:
 - Have a theme in mind and use the program schedule to then plan your week.
 - Look for papers related to your research projects or interests.



During the Conference

How to choose the talks?

- Don't just attend the talks you think you should:
 - Be encouraged to use some of your time exploring one or two topics that are entirely new to you, topics that sound really exciting.
 - You might find interesting connections to your work that you would never have expected!

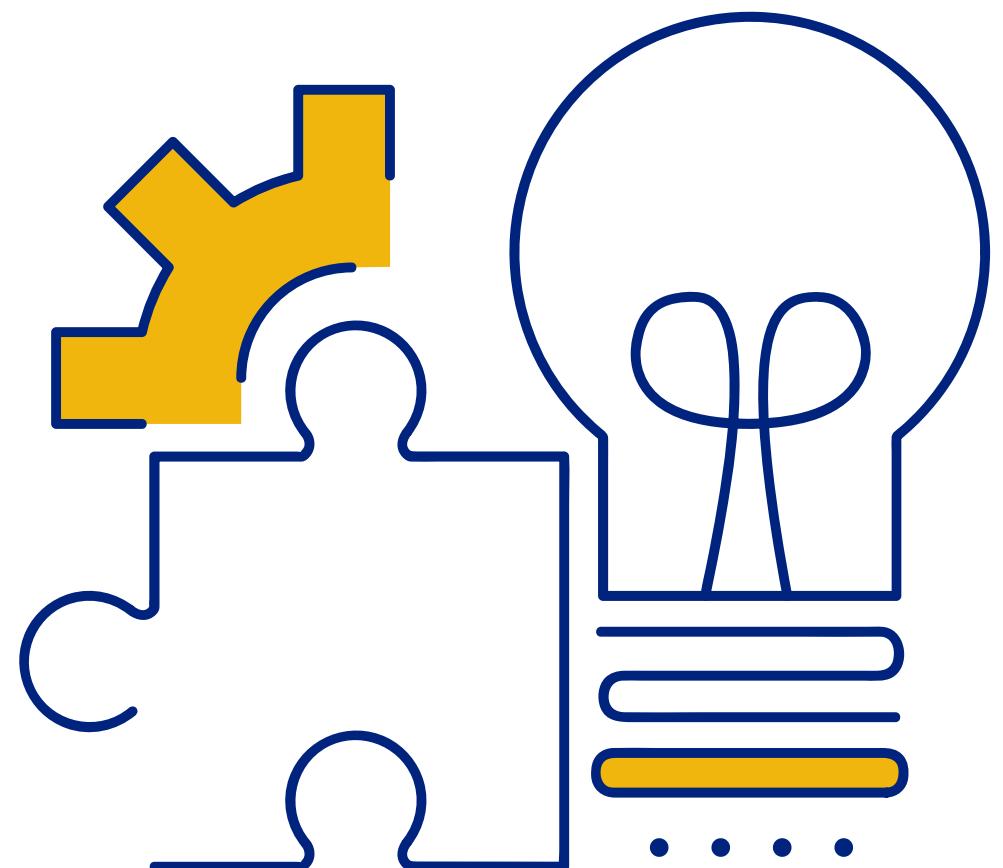


During the Conference

Workshops

The workshops and tutorials are particularly good for exploring new topics since you can fully immerse yourself in something new for a day.

- “A tutorial is typically a crash course on a topic, an opportunity for non-experts in that area to learn from experts. A workshop is a set of talks and papers with a shared focus, generally original research, a chance for experts to share with fellow experts (and motivated non-experts).” - Chris Hardin
- You can explore workshops at NAACL at:
 - <https://2021.naacl.org/program/workshops/>



During the Conference

AmericasNLP workshop

The First Workshop on NLP for Indigenous Languages of the Americas aims to encourage research on NLP, computational linguistics, corpus linguistics and speech for indigenous languages.



- It will be hosted virtually on Friday, June 11th, 2021.
- Find more information about the event at:
 - <http://turing.iimas.unam.mx/americasnlp/>
- Don't miss the oral presentations and keynote speakers!
 - **Kyunghyun Cho** from New York University
 - **Tajëëw Díaz Robles**, mixe from Tlahuitoltepec
 - **Benita Mijarez**, a Wixarika language activist

During the Conference

Birds of a Feather sessions

BoF sessions are meant to facilitate networking, discussions, and other informal interactions around topics related to computational linguistics and natural language processing. Past BoF sessions targeted topics such as Cognitive Science, Model Interpretability, and Language Generation.

- In principle, BoF sessions are for NAACL participants only. However, some are open to everyone!
- Stay tuned on [NAACL's twitter account](#) and keep an eye on the **#NAACL2021** hashtag!

During the Conference

Affinity groups

An affinity group is a collective of researchers formed around a shared interest or common goal. For NAACL 2021, the D&I committee has taken several steps to strengthen the presence and bolster the visibility of affinity groups in NLP.

- Like LXAI, other affinity groups will host virtual social events. Learn more about them at:
 - <https://2021.naacl.org/blog/affinity-groups/>



During the Conference

Diversity & Inclusion sessions

The goal of D&I sessions is to help create a constructive environment for addressing concerns relating to current Diversity and Inclusion practices, and to help to promote the importance of spreading awareness as well as making progress to understand and address special needs.

Many people showed interest in organizing D&I sessions at NAACL! You can check the program details [here](#).

In the following, we suggest some interesting events!



During the Conference

Queer in AI Undergraduate Mentorship Program

An initiative to offer queer undergraduate students around the world help and support to pursue their academic and industry career in machine learning.



- If you identify as queer or **ally** undergrad or master's student, you are welcome to join! Sign up [here](#)
- It will be hosted virtually on Sunday, June 6th, 2021.
- Find more information about the event at:
 - <https://2021.naacl.org/blog/queer-mentorship/>

During the Conference

Getting into NLP research and grad school applications

NAACL D&I and SRW (Student Research Workshop) team is conducting an event for getting into NLP research and graduate school applications, specifically targeting pre-doctoral students and NLP enthusiasts.



- This event is accessible to everyone! Even to non-NAACL participants.
- It will be hosted virtually on Monday, June 7th, and Tuesday, June 8th, 2021
- Find more information about the event at:
 - <https://2021.naacl.org/blog/grad-school-panel/>

During the Conference

Inclusivity in Conferences

This panel brings together representatives from different affinity groups (Queer in AI, Black in AI, LXAI, and the disability community) to discuss how NLP conferences can be made more accessible and welcoming.



- This event is accessible to everyone! Even to non-NAACL participants.
- It will be hosted virtually on Monday, June 7th, 2021
- Find more information about the event at:
 - <https://2021.naacl.org/blog/inclusivity-panel/>

During the Conference

How to go through the day?

- If you feel you are not focusing, just change the activity. Attending the conference is something you do for yourself, don't force yourself to follow something you are not interested in.
- Read a book, go for a walk, get some exercise, whatever you need to do. Be aware of your own needs and don't feel guilty about them.

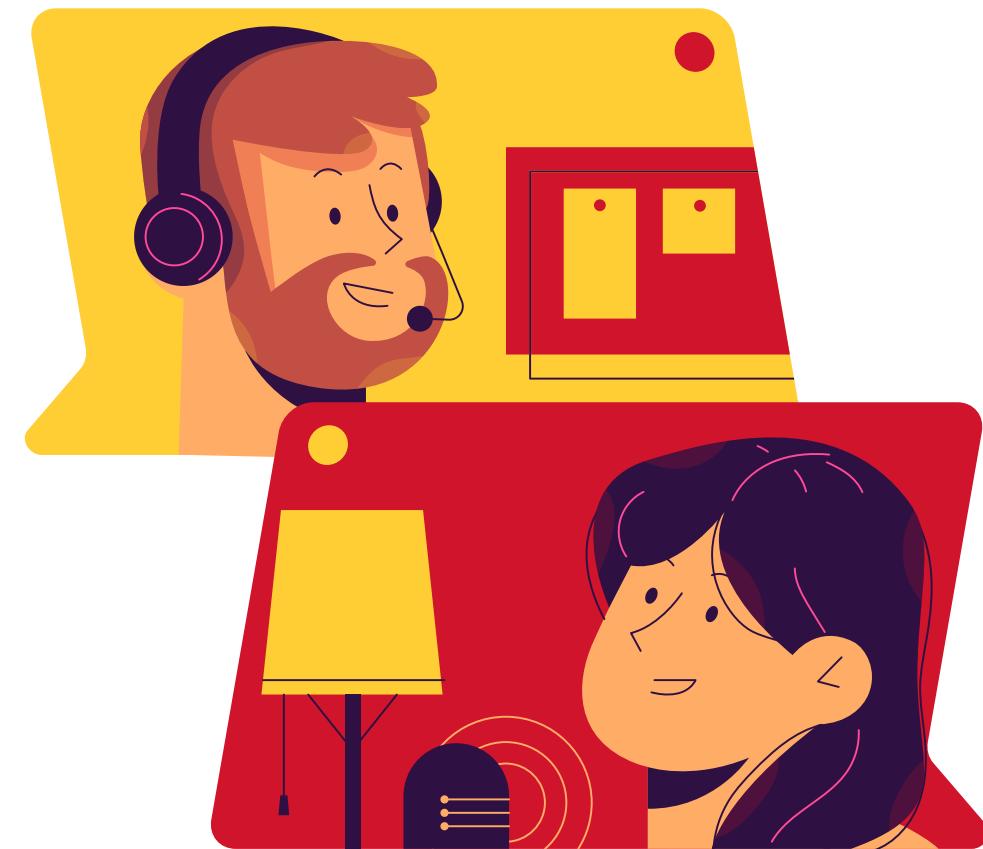


During the Conference

Are you involved in an oral presentation?

You should have been required to be present at two live Q&A sessions at different times. Before those days arrive, here are some points to keep in mind!

- Make sure your Zoom client is up to date.
- Practice your research pitch.
 - Though people are likely to watch your pre-recorded talk beforehand, others might drop by the Q&A session without having watched it. You will have to summarize what your work is about!
- Keep an eye on the questions/comments posted in the chat.



During the Conference

Are you involved in an oral presentation?

Spread THE message.

Twitter has become the preferred medium for various authors to promote their work. Here are some tips to reach out to a wider audience:

- Create a thread summarizing your work
- In the first tweet, include the title of your paper and a relevant figure/table
- Mention the day and time (PDT) of your Q&A sessions
- Post an URL to your article rather than the link to the Q&A session (find your paper in [NAACL 2021 proceedings](#))
 - Non-NAACL participants won't be able to access the session even if you share the URL!



During the Conference Sponsors

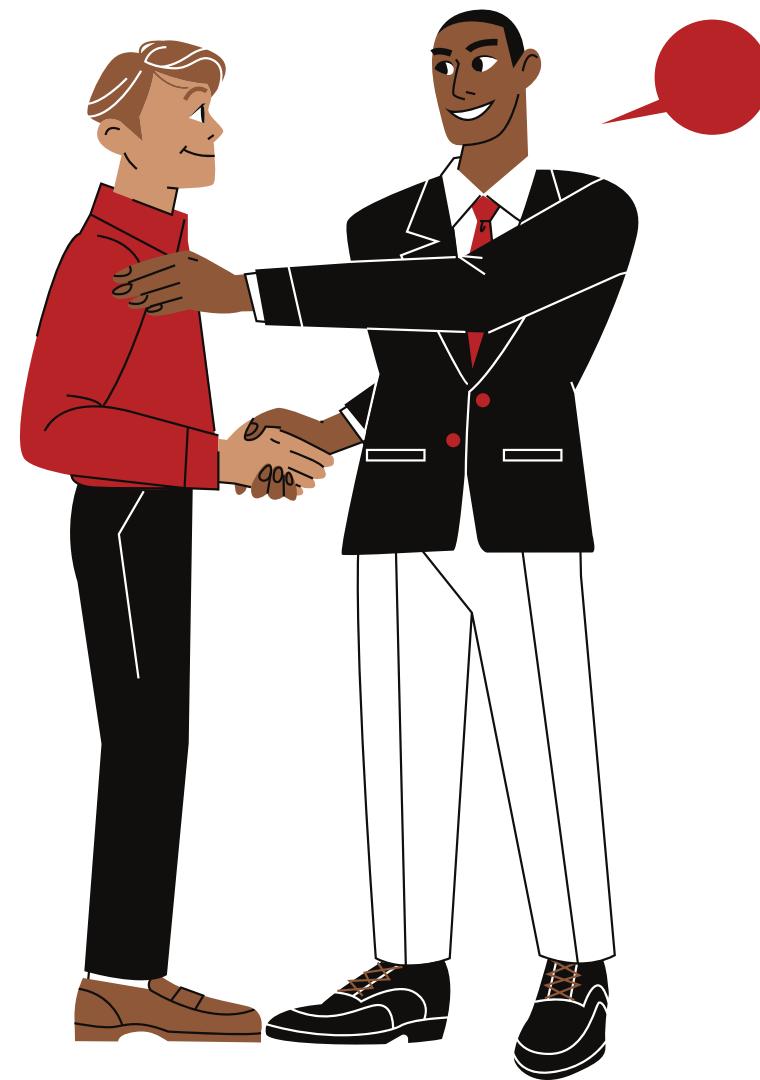
NAACL has a lot of companies interested to hire people:

- You can look for this year's NAACL sponsors at:
 - <https://2021.naacl.org/sponsors/>
- If you are interested in a job, stop by the sponsor booths! The [NAACL website](#) will update the link to access their virtual booths.



During the Conference

Networking



Attending NAACL gives you the opportunity of meeting interesting and potential allies. Here are some tips for making these connections, even through virtuality.

- **Identify your Networking Goals**

- Do your research and identify who are and where you can find the most important people (or company) you want to connect with.
- Set a realistic number of people to connect and focus on having great conversation. Share these goals with your team!

During the Conference

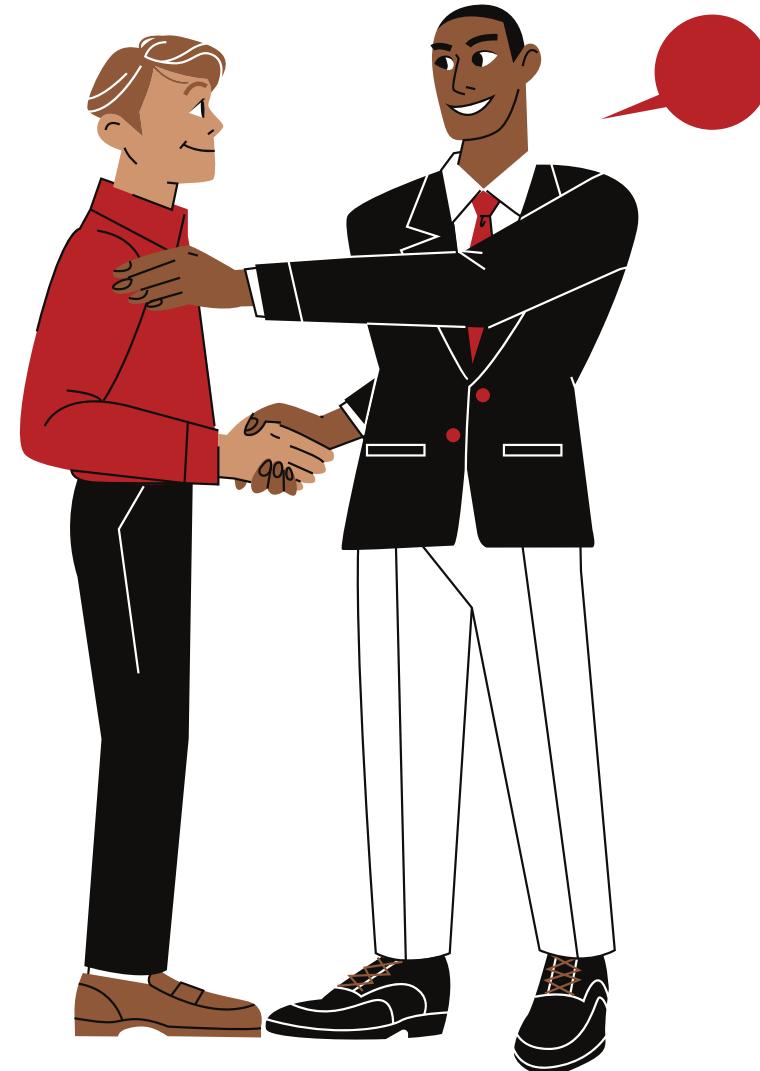
Networking



- The most important connections you'll make are with your peers.
 - Focus on meeting people who might have significant impact on your career trajectory. E.g., focus on chatting with PhD students who are working in your field of interest as well as professors who you might want to work with.
- One new friend will often lead to many.
- When asked, provide your full contact information and bio.

During the Conference

Networking



- **Practice your research pitch:**
 - People you meet are going to ask what you work on. Be prepared!
 - Keep it high level. Focus on your goals, not the details. Think about why you got excited about this line of work in the first place.
- **Stay active during the virtual events.**
 - Take care not to appear spammy. Let others contribute, too.

During the Conference

Networking

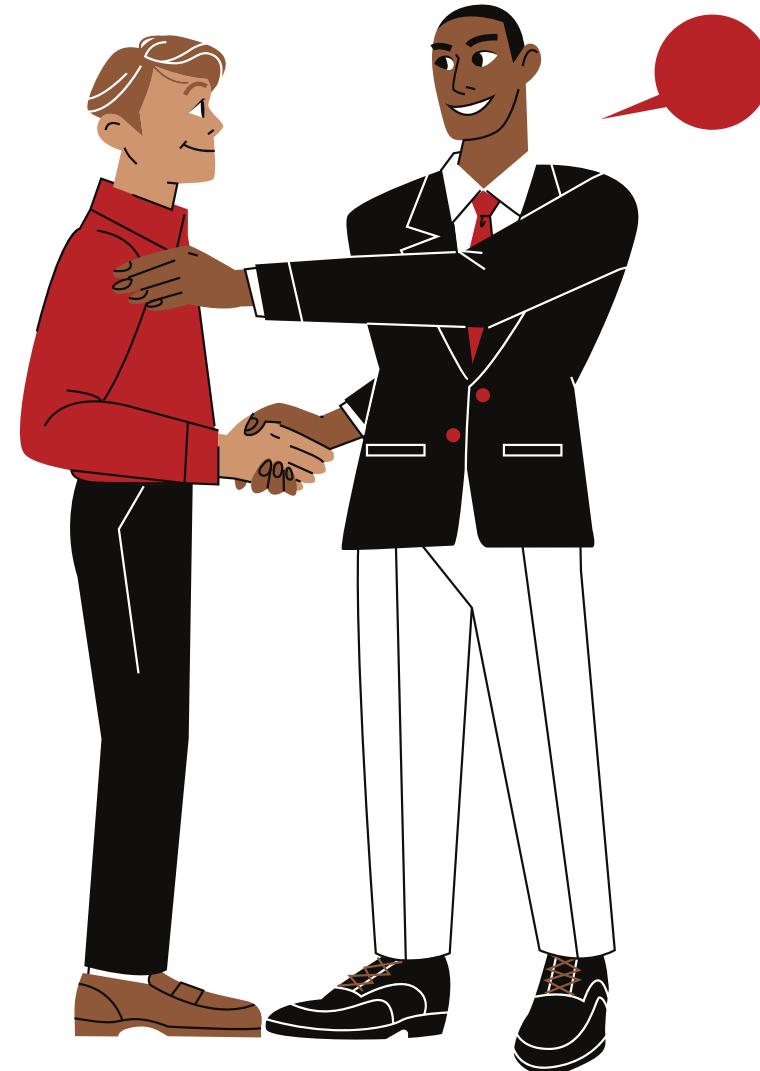


- Asking a question is a good excuse to start a conversation.
 - Ask speakers questions after their talks. Zoom rooms allow these connections and for sure you will have a chance to ask, even via chat.
 - Prepare key questions.
- Interact with the panelists and connect in Q&A sessions.
- Avoid casual abbreviations in your texts.

Source: Anna Lena Lich. "Virtual Events: Tips for Successful Networking". <https://www.bright.global/en/blog/virtual-events-tips-for-successful-networking>
Jennifer Wortman. "Nine things I wish I had known the first time I came to NIPS". <https://medium.com/@jennwv/nine-things-i-wish-i-had-known- the-first-time-i-came-to-nips-b939330661ed>
Brazen. "8 Tips for Making Meaningful Connections at Virtual Networking Events and Online Career Fairs". <https://www.brazen.com/blog/archive/career-growth/8-tips-for-making-meaningful-connections-at-virtual-networking-events-and-online-career-fairs>

During the Conference

Networking



- Bring a good attitude, keep positive and optimistic.
 - Avoid complaining about your job or work.
- Don't forget to go to the meetings and social events!

After the Conference

Networking

- Prioritize each contact based on the quality of conversation you had with them.
 - Give each group the required attention.
- Follow up after the event:
 - Be sure to connect with the people you met.
 - Keep that relationship alive (e.g., via LinkedIn).
 - Email them:
 - The rule of thumb for the first follow-up is to say something nice in the message.
 - You could thank them for the conversation and insights they shared.
 - You can send links to articles, whitepapers, or research that are relevant to the topic you discussed or related to the project you know they are working on.

After the Conference

Retrieving

NAACL is a large community of volunteers across a spectrum of service and leadership roles. Take a moment to thank these people for the enormous amount of time they have invested in the conference.

Only if everyone “gives back” some of their time to the community, we will be able to meet the challenge of our explosive growth.

Is this your first time?

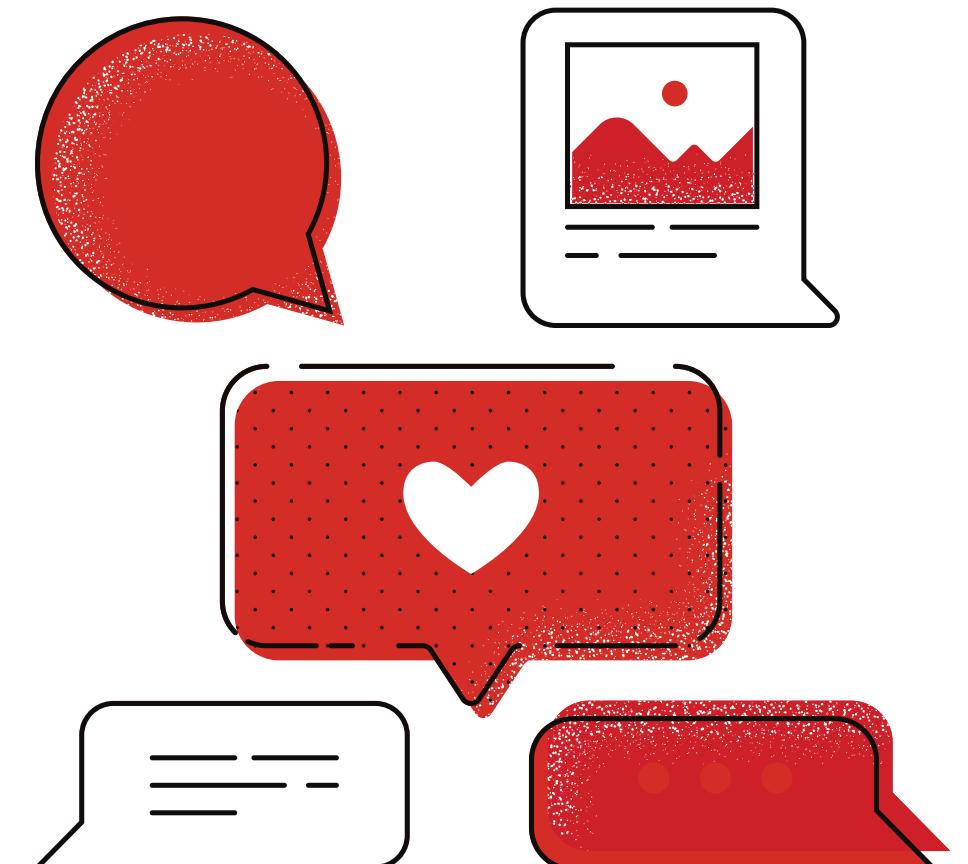
First times are always hard, but take it easy, everyone at NAACL had a first time, too.

- It's OK to feel out of your depth:
 - Ask!
 - That's the reason authors are there. For sure they will be available and happy to share with you their knowledge.
 - The worst question is the one you don't ask.



Is this your first time?

- Use time efficiently by establishing a realistic balance between interests and energy.
- It is normal to experience the imposter syndrome.
 - Do not doubt your capabilities!
- If you don't know anyone, start a conversation!
 - Our community is pretty kind and approachable, don't be scared to randomly talk to someone.



Tips for a Virtual Conference

We know virtuality has not been easy. Here are some tips to get the best of this experience.

- **Create a mindset to learn:**

- Treat virtual conferences like in-person events.
- Clear your schedule for the day to get the best possible experience.

- **Focus is the key:**

- Take out time exclusively to attend the sessions.
 - Turn off your phone, close emails, cut all distractions.



Tips for a Virtual Conference

- **Keep your devices & networks ready:**

- Familiarize with the platform and ensure it works properly on your computer.
- Make sure to check your connection, camera, microphone, and anything that you will be using during the sessions.



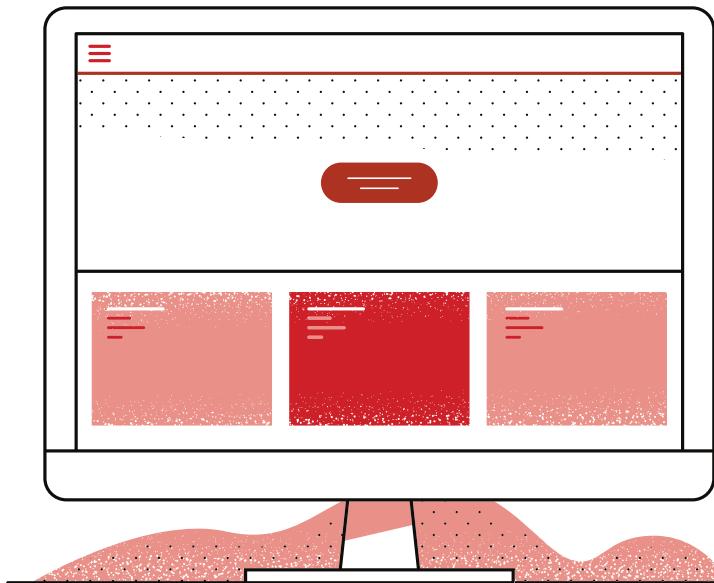
- **Replicate your conference routine:**

- Picking up breakfast anywhere you wouldn't normally go when at home.

- **Focus on the benefits:**

- Think of it as an opportunity to do things you couldn't do before.

Tips for a Virtual Conference



- **Involve Your peers:**

- Having your colleagues involved can boost motivation, and can help in understanding complex concepts.
- It also increases your attention span and provides opportunities to share critical takeaways.

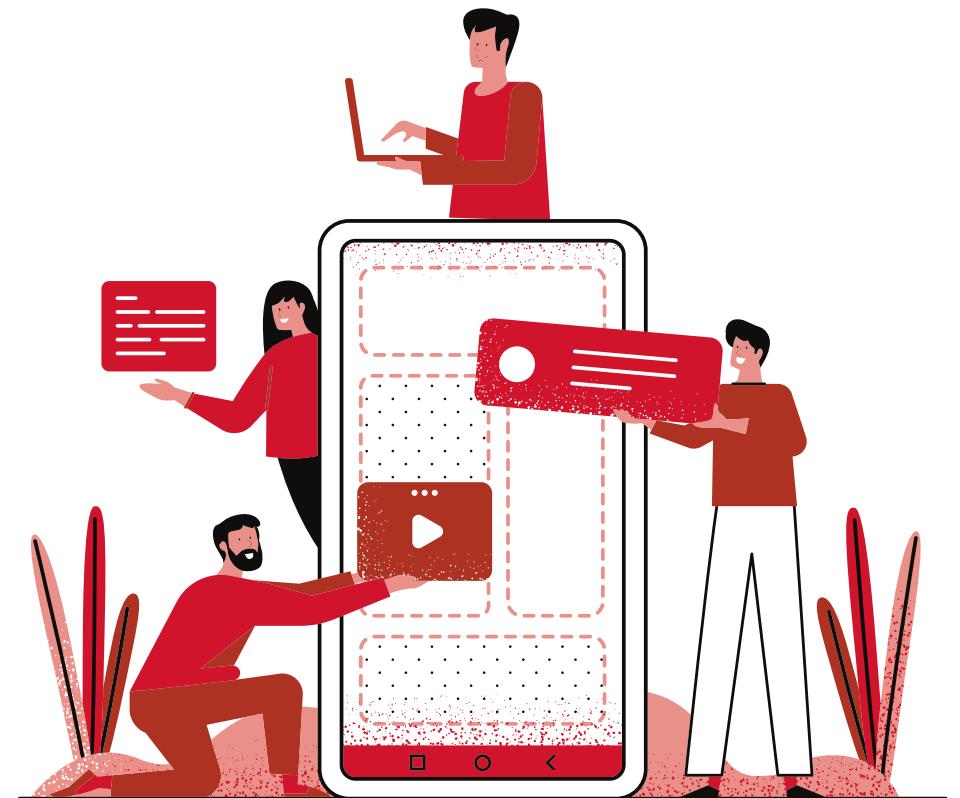
- **Set up the meeting space:**

- Don't sit in the space that reminds you of the work that you are passing on for a few days!

Tips for a Virtual Conference

- **Engage virtually:**

- Use the chat and Q&A boxes.
 - Don't hesitate to introduce yourself to someone by chatting with them directly and providing your contact information.
 - Often, someone is monitoring the chatbox and will respond in real-time to something that you raise to the presenter.
- **Download the Zoom app and set your profile.**
 - Don't forget to put your name and a photo of yourself!
- Turn on your camera!



Additional Tips



- Find ways of making everyone in our community feel more welcome, and treat them with respect.
- Maintain research humility and listen to what other communities have to say.
- Find reasons to accept each other's papers and celebrate good ideas!
- Track social media of the event through:
 - Twitter

Most importantly: Enjoy the conference!!!

Contact Information



- Do you have any questions or comments? Don't hesitate to email us.
 - Thiago Castro Ferreira
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 - Diana Galván Sosa
 - dianags@latinxinai.org
- Follow LXAI!
 - [Facebook](#)
 - [Twitter](#)
 - [LinkedIn](#)

Acknowledgements

This guide was adapted from "**How to attend CVPR 2021**", created by:

- Nils Murrugarra Llerena
- Gilberto Ochoa Ruiz
- Natalia Valderrama Barrera

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