Appendices

There were 20 questions in the questionnaire. We finally got an 18-questions scale in the analysis for bigger variance explanation. Table A1 shows the five factors and 18 question items after conducting the EFA. We concluded the factor name based on the focus of these question items. (Final version of questionnaire is available [here](https://github.com/yangyunhan/Comparison_of_Two_Academic_Conference_Formats/tree/main/Questionnaire).)

Table A1: Factors and their question items

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Factor name** | **Question items** |
| SN-Q1 | Social opportunity and network | I easily meet acquaintances in this format of conferences (I know that he/she attends and meets or communicate with them). |
| SN-Q2 | This format of conference provides me with additional social opportunities (Such as a dinner after an offline conference, a break, or group communication in an online conference). |
| SN-Q3 | The environment provided by this format of conferences helps me meet other scholars or new friends and expand my social circle. |
| SN-Q4 | In this format of conferences, seeing the name card and the person at the same time increases my chances of meeting new people. |
| P-Q5 | Psychology | I maintain confidence in this format of the conference. |
| P-Q6 | I don’t feel stressed or anxious, even if I sometimes need to communicate in a non-native language. |
| P-Q7 | This format of the conference has a relaxed atmosphere and helps me bring up any topics of interest. |
| P-Q8 | In this format of the conference, I dare to speak and ask questions, without being affected by social status and academic authority. |
| PD-Q9 | Professional development | I can get inspiration for research problems or ideas for solving problems in the discussions during this format of the conference. |
| PD-Q10 | Participating in this format of the conference can improve my skills and increase my knowledge. |
| PD-Q11 | Participating in this format of the conference allows me to understand or enter the relevant academic community. |
| PW-Q12 | Preparing work | It’s convenient for me to attend this format of the conference, so I don’t need to make a special schedule arrangement. |
| PW-Q13 | There is no financial problem for me to participate in this format of the conference. Travel expenses and registration fees can be reimbursed by the relevant departments, or I am fully capable of paying. |
| PW-Q14 | Time management is simple; I can easily arrange activities such as listening to lectures and communicating with other scholars. |
| CE-Q15 | Communication efficiency and effectiveness | If classmates/colleagues participate in the same conference as me, we will share our experience about participation during or after the conference. |
| CE-Q16 | I can fully interact with other scholars in this format of the conference. |
| CE-Q17 | I think it is more efficient to communicate with people in this format of the conference (I can answer or ask more questions, get or give more answers). |
| CE-Q18 | When I share knowledge in this format of the conference, I can get ample responses or feedback. |

Table A2 shows the results of examination on normal distribution of the five factors on two formats of academic conferences. We conducted through the Kolmogorov-Smirnov (K-S) Test in SPSS. The null hypothesis is the score distribution of them follow the normal distribution. We need to reject the null hypothesis if the value of Sig. small than 0.05. So, from the Table A2, we can conclude that only the score distribution of FC-P and OC-P follow the normal distribution. It means that only the score of FC-P and OC-P can use the T-test and ANOVA to conduct the following comparison analysis. Other factors need to use the non-parameter test method, like Mann-Whitney U test and Kruskal-Wallis 1-way ANOVA.

Table A2: Kolmogorov-Smirnov (K-S) Test

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Factors** | **Means** | **Std.** | **Value** | **Sig. (Double tails)** |
| FC-SN | 5.7050 | 1.165 | 0.158 | 0.000 |
| OC-SN | 3.6650 | 1.428 | 0.068 | 0.001 |
| FC-P | 4.3000 | 1.412 | 0.080 | 0.119 |
| OC-P | 4.7475 | 1.318 | 0.087 | 0.059 |
| FC-PD | 5.6368 | 0.977 | 0.123 | 0.001 |
| OC-PD | 4.8300 | 1.494 | 0.178 | 0.000 |
| FC-PW | 4.1998 | 1.796 | 0.095 | 0.027 |
| OC-PW | 5.7599 | 1.116 | 0.150 | 0.000 |
| FC-CE | 5.4350 | 1.117 | 0.120 | 0.001 |
| OC-CE | 4.3775 | 1.367 | 0.075 | 0.183 |

Table A3 shows some of the original texts we got from participants when we asked, “*If you think the epidemic will bring about changes, what kind of changes do you think it might bring?*”, and the aspects we labelled these texts with. We concluded these aspects based on the focus of the original texts.

Table A3: The tag classification on changes brought by pandemic

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Aspects | Original texts |
| Communications | More convenient exchanges in academic activities. |
| Cannot communicate face-to-face, some questions are not clear in the interview, and the communication is not smooth enough. |
| Online is better for meeting and talking with everyone. |
| Content | Academic sharing content is more diversified. |
| May be more difficult to demonstrate actual objects online. |
| More variety of academic contents could be shared online. |
| Location | No longer limited by spatial constraints. |
| No longer restricted by region. |
| Atmosphere & Psychology | Less on-site experience. |
| Less ritualistic things. |
| People’s social fear of offline communication is gradually decreasing. |
| Deep participants with various disciplines. |
| Resource | Screen recordings can be watched repeatedly to facilitate learning. |
| More variety of academic contents could be shared online. |
| Time | Time is more flexible. |
| The meeting time is getting shorter and shorter. |
| Saving in travel time and expenses encourages more online events. |
| Culture | Lack of cultural experience. |
| Technology & Operation | You can quickly listen to what you are interested in. |
| No longer restricted by visa processing and the degree of participation is higher. |
| Open video conferences through the Internet to improve the technical level and standardization of online conferences. |
| Finance (Register fee) | The important aspect is that online conferences do not have much demand for various expenses. |
| From the perspective of cost-saving, the organization will encourage online participation and save travel and accommodation expenses. |
| Organization | Organizing academic activities may be more flexible. |
| Open video conferences through the Internet to improve the technical level and standardization of online conferences. |
| May adopt a more flexible way (mix mode) to organize meetings. |
| Scholar & Participant | It is possible that the exposure of scholars will increase, and the participation of other cross-disciplines and the industry may increase. |
| Fewer restrictions on those who can participate in academic conferences. |
| On Zoom is convenient for international scholars to meet. |
| Form | Online conferences will be more formal. |
| Some conferences are replaced by online formats. |
| More events may be held in dual mode (both online and offline for the same event). |
| Social network | Not conductive to the expansion and integration of the circle. |
| Less opportunities to know more relevant scholars. |

Table A4 shows some of the original texts we got from participants when we asked, “*So far (as of this moment), which is the most impressive online conference you have participated in, and what are its characteristics?*”, and the aspects we label these texts with. We concluded these aspects based on the focus of the original texts.

Table A4: The tag classiﬁcation on features of the impressive conferences

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Aspects | Original texts |
| Communications | The level of communication is relatively deep. |
| Global, heat and full communication. |
| There is little communication in the meeting, and some venues basically only have speakers and moderators. |
| Content | Interdisciplinary, new and rich content. |
| I have heard a lot of reports I want to hear. |
| Interested in research questions and topics. |
| Location | The venue arrangement is reasonable. |
| Well landscape in Beijing. |
| Well accommodation and large venue. |
| Atmosphere & Psychology | Everyone is very active. |
| The experience is not very good, there is no atmosphere for discussion and questioning. |
| I remember the heated discussions with several scholars. |
| A sense of ceremony on face-to-face conferences. |
| Resource | There are complete ppt and electronic version materials. |
| All the speakers of the accepted articles have recorded videos in advance and can be viewed publicly until October 2021. |
| A review of the essence after the meeting. |
| Time | Well time control. |
| Due to technical limitations and time difference, volunteers are required to be on duty 24 hours a day. |
| Happened in the early stage of the pandemic. |
| Culture | Cultural experience. |
| Technology & Operation | Convenient to participate. |
| You can quickly and easily switch the reports of interest to each venue according to the conference manual. |
| Online communication needs to wait in line. |
| Register fee | I remember to charge the registration fee, and I still feel bad about it. |
| Organization | The host is very nice and helps the presenter prepare the presentation. |
| Email keynote and other group lecture information in advance. |
| The arrangement is reasonable. |
| Scholar & Participant | The famous scholars in the field gathered, you can meet the researchers you like. |
| Principal Ye`s combination of his own work experience resonated with me. |
| Large number of participants. |
| Form | Online and face-to-face synchronization. |
| Each participant uses the same device to both attend the workshop and contribute ideas on online platform. |
| There is a kind of youth forum. |
| Social network | I meet many new people. |
| Interaction | The online interactive system is interesting and practical. |
| There is no sense of interaction. |
| Richer user interaction content and form. |