Attending conferences allows you to become actively involved in your discipline's debates and to build relationships with other scholars. Whether you are presenting a poster or paper, or simply attending a conference, taking these actions will help you become part of your field’s network.

**BEFORE THE CONFERENCE**

- Reserve a room in the main conference hotel whenever possible.
- E-mail scholars you know you want to meet. Ask them about a recent publication or their interest in your current research. Sometimes they'll ask to meet you at the conference.
- Prepare a question for someone important who will attend the conference.
- Stay in the main conference hotel whenever possible.

**DURING THE CONFERENCE**

- Take the initiative and introduce yourself. Be a good host; introduce others around you.
- Be socially generous. Invite others along, introduce them to colleagues, connect them to someone with common interests.
- Remember, young scholars are important to a conference. They bring cutting-edge research to the field.
- Accept any invitation to eat with a group, especially gatherings of "more important people."

**AFTER THE CONFERENCE**

- Email new acquaintances to let them know you enjoyed chatting with them.
- Send emails to possible contacts for publications or panel presentations.
- If you were part of a panel presentation, email thanks to panel participants.