

Checklist Predatory Conferences

With the advent of fraudulent behavior in the publishing industry, many dubious publishers have expanded their business models to generate additional profits from fake conferencing.

At first glance, these dubious conferences can appear to be serious and scientifically based events. Note that these conferences are actually organized by companies that not only exploit moderators and participants, but whose sole goal is to make money. The organizers of these pseudo-conferences do not provide the adequate services expected from scientific conferences. Many scientists come to these events only to find that there are very few participants, an unexpectedly low number of actual presentations, or that several sessions on many different topics are combined into a single session.

The following checklist is intended to help you determine whether this is a dubious conference. If you answered "Yes" to any of the following questions, you should become suspicious. If you answer "Yes" to two or more questions, you should refrain from attending this conference.

	Yes	No	?
<p>Do the organizers spam me with lots of flattering e-mails? If event organizers are laying on the flattery, be suspicious. Credible conferences are about sharing (even critiquing) ideas, not stroking your ego.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Is this the first time I've heard of this conference? If you have never heard of a conference before, be cautious about signing up.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Am I unfamiliar with the organizer of the conference? If the conference is not organized by a professional, scholarly or technical association or society you know and trust, be wary.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Is the conference unknown to my professors or colleagues I respect? If people you know and respect have never presented at this conference, think twice before you attend.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Does the conference use mail addresses from providers such as Google or Yahoo? If the email originates from a free account (e.g. Gmail, Yahoo or Hotmail) or if the URL of the website is part of a subdomain (e.g. .konferenz.com), it may be questionable.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Do the conference organizers insist this is a prestigious event? Credible conferences don't have to justify their credibility.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do organizers guarantee acceptance quickly? Questionable conferences often guarantee a very short decision time for your abstract.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do organizers guarantee to publish your conference paper as an article in their journal? Credible conferences almost never guarantee publication of papers without peer review.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is this conference held at a resort or tourist destination? If a conference is marketed as a holiday rather than a scholarly event, it may be predatory.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does this conference look too good to be true? If an opportunity looks too good to be true, it probably is. Consult with a trusted advisor.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Further Information

There are additional criteria that allow the seriousness of a conference to be assessed, e.g. on the page of <https://thinkcheckattend.org/>

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Source:

Eaton, S. E. (2018). Avoiding Predatory Journals and Questionable Conferences: A Resource Guide. Calgary, Canada: University of Calgary. Retrieved from <http://dx.doi.org/10.11575/PRISM/20> on 19.11.2019

Last update: August 2020