How to present a poster at an international conference

Sue Duraikan
‘As a graduate student preparing for a career in research, you have 2 jobs: (1) do some good research and (2) build a community around your research topic.’

*Phil Agre, Networking on the Network* (2005)

‘A research talk gives you access to the world’s most priceless commodity: the time and attention of people.’

*Simon Peyton Jones* (2014)

‘Ditto a poster presentation.’

*Sue Duraikan* (2014)
1. A poster that stands out

- Know your audience
- Follow instructions
- Big picture/context
- Balance text/visuals
- Strong first impression
- Check accuracy
- Get third party opinion
2. The right mindset

What if no-one’s interested?

90 minutes stuck in this corner. What a nightmare!

If I’m lucky they’ll just read the poster and leave me alone.

I’ve really got to make the most of this opportunity.

If I’m excited about it, maybe they will be too.

This is a great chance to learn from others.
3. A successful start

- Manage your space
- Positive body language

- Careful timing
- Start with a question

Would you like me to explain…?
What experience do you have of…?
What’s your background?
4. A satisfying CONVERSATION

- Allow tune-in time
- Slow down!
- Distance
- Eye contact
- Use your hands
4. A satisfying CONVERSATION

- Be flexible
- Big picture/context
- Objective
- Signposts

- Take care with jargon/abbreviations
- Prepare examples
- Listen and look
- Questions/comments
5. Final impressions.....

- End confidently
- ‘It’s been a pleasure’  
  ‘Thank you for stopping’ ‘You’ve given me food for thought.’

- Take-away: business card, handout, freebie

- Exchange contact details