

## CONFERENCE 2024 – CALL FOR PAPERS

### Research and developments in aviation communications

#### *Practical applications in training and assessment*

**Date:** 16-18 May 2024  
**Location:** Hong Kong, PR China  
**Host:** The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

#### BACKGROUND

The introduction of the ICAO LPRs over 20 years ago has increased awareness of the role of language proficiency for safe and efficient operations. Although the LPRs focus on developing language proficiency, and have shaped curricula, assessment and training programmes, there is still scope to look at skills beyond individuals' language proficiency and consider the role of communicative competence, taking account of interactive skills and the dialogic aspects involved in two-way communication in aviation.

As we look ahead, research and developments in the wider fields of language and communication can also shape how we develop and deliver aviation English training and assessment. In addition, the advent of technological developments is already changing modes of training and testing delivery. Taking on board how skills associated with communicative competence could be incorporated into training and testing and developments in technology, what aspects of the LPR policies and guidance material could be expanded upon and updated to ensure training and assessment practices are effective?

As the demand for aviation personnel grows, and with Asia Pacific leading the growth in aviation, we are seeing a rapid change in personnel demographics. We will continue to see more aviation personnel who need to use English to communicate in their jobs, but for whom English is not their first or primary language. In the coming decade, these changes will require developing skills beyond those associated with the ICAO LPRs, including communication skills to equip personnel to limit, identify, and repair misunderstandings and communication breakdowns.

The conference aims to address these issues through the following questions:

- What is communicative competence in aviation and what communication strategies can trainers develop among both highly proficient (English L1) and less proficient (English L2) personnel?
- With the ICAO LPR assessment criteria focusing on the individual's language proficiency, how can we expand the notion of proficiency to include other communication-related competencies?
- How can research provide insights into: how communication breakdowns occur; the role of language proficiency; workload effects on communication and other communication related factors?
- How can developing communicative skills help to provide a means of preventing aviation incidents?
- What is the role of communications training alongside language training?
- What role does technology, including Generative AI, play in developing and delivering communications and language training in the future?
- What needs to be considered in designing and delivering LPR assessment for online delivery?
- What lessons have we learned after 20 years of the ICAO LPRs and what policies would be worth reviewing?

## CONFERENCE TOPICS

### 1. Linguistic strategies and communicative competence

- Recognising factors that determine communicative competence.
- Identifying training needs to develop communication strategies.
- Developments from other domains and applications to aviation.
- Research methods and tools to explore what communication involves and its application in aviation.
- Developments in assessment methods (including test design and delivery).
- Developing awareness and training trainers in communications training.
- Defining a construct for aviation English testing.
- Washback effects of testing practice – the link between effective testing and training.
- Aspects of how the ICAO LPRs that could be reviewed, with recommendations.
- Preparing and delivering online assessments – considering the online test construct, task types and administration.

### 2. Training and assessment in communications

- Applying research findings to practice in training or assessment.
- Incorporating cross-cultural communicative needs for a multi-cultural aviation environment in training.
- Designing and developing curriculum materials to develop strategic skills.
- Adapting pedagogy, teacher roles and delivery to new technology.
- Professional development and teacher training needs to reflect current and future needs.

## INVITATION

Submissions are invited for either:

### 1. **Workshop** (90 minutes) + introductory presentation (10 minutes)

Workshops will be based on practical experience or research developments related to one of the conference topics (see above). Workshops will encourage participants to engage in interactive tasks that relate to the practical applications in training and assessment. Handouts, resources and other material for delegates are encouraged. Workshop groups may comprise 30-40 participants and will be delivered in separate workshop rooms.

Presenters will have 10 minutes to deliver a short introductory presentation prior to their workshop.

### 2. **Presentation** (30 minutes) + Q&A panel (10 minutes)

Individual presentations will share research or experience related to a current or future practice and/or theory related to one of the conference topics (see above). Presentations will be made in the main auditorium to all conference delegates.

Presenters will join a Q&A panel at the end of each session.

## SUBMISSIONS

Your proposal must include:

1. **Biography:** summarising your background, experience etc [max. 100 words]
2. **Video:** of you introducing your topic and proposal [duration: approximately 3 minutes ]

### IMPORTANT

Your video proposal should include all the following:

- **Workshop Proposals**

1. Introduce yourself (and any co-presenter).
2. Say your proposal is for a workshop and the title.
3. Explain how your workshop aligns with the conference theme (see above).
4. Explain what the introductory presentation will focus on.
5. Explain what the workshop will include (i.e. a description of the practical, hands-on activities that will engage participants).

- **Presentation Proposals**

1. Introduce yourself (and any co-presenter).
2. Say your proposal is for a presentation and the title.
3. Explain how your presentation aligns with the conference theme (see above).
4. Summarise the issue, challenge, concept, case study, research and conclusions you will present.

### NOTE

- Videos should be:
  - duration = approximately 3 minutes
  - accepted file types = mp4, wmv, mov, avi
  - maximum file size = 200 MB
- Actual workshop materials and presentations are not required as part of the submission.
- Submissions for more than one workshop or presentation will be considered.
- Presenters are **not permitted** to promote commercial products or training services.
- If co-presenting, one presenter is exempt from paying the conference registration fee.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Proposal submission deadline:	15 January 2024
Speaker acceptance notifications:	29 January 2024
Finalisation of speakers & programme:	12 February 2024
Release of provisional programme:	19 February 2024

## INTERESTED IN PRESENTING?

Submit your proposal online at: <https://www.icaea.aero/event/hong-kong-2024-cfp-proposals/>  
For questions, contact: [events@icaea.aero](mailto:events@icaea.aero)