

Social and Affective Neuroscience Society (SANS): Code of Conduct

As a scientific community, SANS aims to provide a supportive space for scientific dialogue. We believe that scientific progress depends on the free exchange of ideas in an environment in which all participants are treated equitably and with respect. To this end, we are committed to fostering a safe and supportive community in which all scientists are able to contribute fully regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, political orientation, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability or any other applicable basis proscribed by law. Harassment of any form has no place in a healthy scientific enterprise. We expect all of our members as well as other attendees at SANS-organized events to behave in ways that promote the supportive and productive exchange of ideas. This code of conduct outlines the expectations of the society for all conference attendees and participants, including all members, speakers, vendors, media representatives, commentators, exhibitors, sponsors and volunteers.

Expected Behavior

SANS expects event participants to communicate professionally and constructively, whether in person or over electronic media, handling dissent or disagreement with an open mind that is respectful towards alternate points of view. Likewise, when sharing information about the organization or any attendees, SANS expects participants to share responsibly and clearly distinguish individual opinion from fact.

SANS does not tolerate harassment in any form. Harassment includes offensive verbal or written comments or actions, either in real or electronic space, including those which are related to or are based upon age, gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, political orientation, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability or other applicable basis proscribed by law. Attendees at SANS events are expected to not engage in harassment of any person, including faculty, post-docs, students, employees or other attendees. Harassment can consist of a single intense and severe act or of multiple persistent or pervasive acts that are demeaning, abusive, offensive, or create a hostile professional environment. Sexual harassment may include asking to engage in sexual activity, physical advance, or verbal or non-verbal conduct that is sexual in nature. Other forms of harassment may include unnecessary, exaggerated, or unwarranted attention or attack, whether verbal or non-verbal, because of a person's group identity.

Consequences of Unacceptable Behavior

The event organizers and SANS leadership will determine the appropriate course of action in the case of inappropriate, harassing, abusive or destructive behavior or language at the conference. Possible actions include warning the offender, expulsion from the conference with no refund and/or banning the offender from future SANS events and activities. All participants are expected to observe these rules and behaviors in all SANS-sponsored venues, including online and social events.

What to do

If you are being harassed, notice that someone else is being harassed, or have any other concerns about an individual's conduct, please contact the event organizers and/or a member of the SANS executive committee. SANS strongly supports an individual's interest in confidentiality. If an individual requests anonymity, honoring that request may limit SANS ability to respond fully to the reported behavior. SANS will carefully consider whether it can honor an individual's request for anonymity while still providing a safe and nondiscriminatory environment for all.