
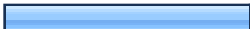












**1. The abstract submission system works well.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly agree		59.1%	172
Agree somewhat		36.8%	107
Disagree somewhat		2.7%	8
Strongly disagree		1.4%	4
<b>answered question</b>			<b>291</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>5</b>



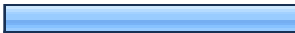

**2. The process for Open Sessions is clear.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly agree		30.9%	88
Agree somewhat		52.6%	150
Disagree somewhat		15.4%	44
Strongly disagree		1.1%	3
<b>answered question</b>			<b>285</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>11</b>

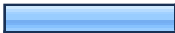



### 3. The online registration system works well.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly agree		62.7%	185
Agree somewhat		31.5%	93
Disagree somewhat		5.1%	15
Strongly disagree		0.7%	2
<b>answered question</b>			<b>295</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>1</b>

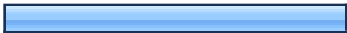



### 4. For the San Diego meeting, I used the online program . . .

		Response Percent	Response Count
prior to the conference only		52.9%	156
during the conference only		1.0%	3
prior to and during the conference		44.1%	130
never		2.0%	6
<b>answered question</b>			<b>295</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>1</b>

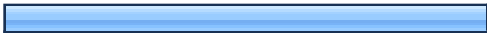


**5. The overall quality of presentations was high compared to similar conferences I have attended.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly agree		25.3%	73
<b>Agree somewhat</b>		<b>50.9%</b>	<b>147</b>
Disagree somewhat		21.8%	63
Strongly disagree		2.1%	6
<b>answered question</b>			<b>289</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>7</b>

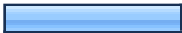



**6. Future submissions should continue to include films.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
<b>Strongly agree</b>		<b>51.1%</b>	<b>138</b>
Agree somewhat		41.9%	113
Disagree somewhat		5.9%	16
Strongly disagree		1.1%	3
<b>answered question</b>			<b>270</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>26</b>





**7. 4S customer service during the meeting (e.g., at the registration desk) was responsive, effective, and courteous.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly agree		72.7%	208
Agree somewhat		24.8%	71
Disagree somewhat		2.4%	7
Strongly disagree		0.0%	0
<b>answered question</b>			<b>286</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>10</b>





**8. The mentoring program is well organized and adds value.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly agree		26.1%	53
Agree somewhat		52.7%	107
Disagree somewhat		18.2%	37
Strongly disagree		3.0%	6
<b>answered question</b>			<b>203</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>93</b>

## 9. The audio/visual support system worked well

		Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly agree		40.4%	115
Agree somewhat		39.6%	113
Disagree somewhat		17.2%	49
Strongly disagree		2.8%	8
<b>answered question</b>			<b>285</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>11</b>

## 10. Approximately how many 4S meetings have you attended?

		Response Percent	Response Count
One		28.9%	83
Two to four		40.1%	115
Five to ten		20.6%	59
More than ten		10.5%	30
<b>answered question</b>			<b>287</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>9</b>





**11. The venue—considering meeting rooms, common areas, lodging, and location—was a good place for a 4S meeting.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly agree		13.2%	38
<b>Agree somewhat</b>		<b>33.7%</b>	<b>97</b>
Disagree somewhat		29.5%	85
Strongly disagree		23.6%	68
<b>answered question</b>			<b>288</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>8</b>

**12. How likely is it that you will attend the 2014 joint meeting with ESOCITE in Buenos Aires?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Very likely		23.7%	68
<b>Somewhat likely</b>		<b>28.2%</b>	<b>81</b>
Somewhat unlikely		22.3%	64
Very unlikely		25.8%	74
<b>answered question</b>			<b>287</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>9</b>

**13. How likely is it that you will attend the 2015 meeting in Denver?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Very likely		41.5%	118
Somewhat likely		36.3%	103
Somewhat unlikely		16.2%	46
Very unlikely		6.0%	17
answered question			284
skipped question			12

**14. Please use the space below to explain any answers further and offer feedback on any aspect of the meeting:**

	Response Count
	163
answered question	163
skipped question	133





**Page 3, Q14. Please use the space below to explain any answers further and offer feedback on any aspect of the meeting:**

1	I know that 4S and EASSST work differently but please, would you stop using services from lousy and expensive hotels ? Otherwise, as always, there is a way to find one's bread and butter among the huge number of sessions. I shall say that videoprojectors and wifi during the conference were perfect.	Nov 2, 2013 9:06 PM
2	I understand the need to keep costs down, but the venue was awful. The layout was awkward. The rooms were very dated, and some had pests. The location was also isolated, which meant that unless you had a car, you had to stay at the resort, and it was not the type of place you wanted to be stuck at.	Nov 1, 2013 3:29 PM
3	The hotel was too much of a holiday resort, not well suited for working. More expenses should have been included in the conference fee (lunch) and hotel reservation (breakfast and wifi), which could have been accordingly higher, to avoid all the numerous minor transactions and waiting time. The program was difficult to navigate, session titles were often unclear, and many sessions with similar topics overlapped which led to unnecessary low attendance in many sessions. Program changes between the preliminary and final program we're too drastic - moving whole sessions meant that several participants were unable to present their own paper. Last-minute changes and errata should have been posted much more visibly by the help desk, not just online and on the relevant room doors.	Nov 1, 2013 10:14 AM
4	The beach party was a disaster - but I guess this is recognized by the organizers already	Nov 1, 2013 5:33 AM
5	I appreciate that 4S attempts to be democratic and allowing everyone to present. I even like that participants can present their material at all stages - from the seed of a project to something very polished. But the incredible number of concurrent sessions and large number of participants per panel are frustrating aspects for attendees going to listen in on the panels, And the large number of participants in a panel is also problematic. 12 minutes for a talk? Furthermore, there should also be more effort to encourage those who must cancel their involvement to notify the moderator earlier. One suggestion is to encourage the moderator to take on a more leadership role in the organization and logistics of their panel.	Oct 31, 2013 11:31 PM
6	Disappointed by the Good Vibrations party, strongly.	Oct 31, 2013 6:00 PM
7	some meeting rooms are too small to hold enough audience who were eager to come in, while some seems vacant on session.	Oct 30, 2013 9:56 PM
8	I don't have an opinion on all of the questions, so I didn't answer them all ("no opinion" should have been given as an option). The main thing that troubled me about the conference was the high price of registration, and being required to pay for the banquet. I have dietary restrictions and couldn't necessarily eat at the banquet, plus I needed to use that time to catch up with a close colleague. So being required to pay for the banquet was a waste of my money and also a waste of whatever food was prepared but not consumed. I hope that 4S will adopt a more affordable/less wasteful strategy in the future. Otherwise, thanks to all who worked hard to make this a good conference.	Oct 30, 2013 7:18 PM
9	As STS scholars, we believe strongly in supporting small, local businesses, and	Oct 30, 2013 9:08 AM

**Page 3, Q14. Please use the space below to explain any answers further and offer feedback on any aspect of the meeting:**

in sustainable urban landscapes including mixed-use buildings. Why, then, was the conference held at an area that was nearly devoid of local businesses, where walking to anything was nearly impossible? The conference hotel and other area hotels were expensive, and the only food options within walking distance of the hotel were large chain restaurants and the mall food court. I would recommend, for future STS conferences, the following changes: 1) Choose an affordable hotel (or set of hotels) in a downtown area of a city nearby to local restaurants and businesses. 2) Include in the conference registration at least two meals, if not three, preferably catered by independent local restaurants. 3) Have coffee and tea service catered by an independent local coffeeshop, and ensure that coffee and tea are available all day, not just during designated coffee breaks. We have a real opportunity to put our collective money where our collective mouths are, and lend financial and organizational support to the kind of sustainable urban environments and business structures that we endorse, through careful choices made during conference planning and execution.

- |    |   |                      |
|----|---|----------------------|
| 10 | 1) Hotel are a very anonymous place for meetings. I prefer university venues. 2) « Welcome reception » and « Good vibration beach party » were very disappointing events. Please use the conference fees to organize truly « welcoming » events, i.e. events where you can socialize without queuing for paying everything and without starving because there is no food or no healthy food. 3) More or less same comment as (2), healthy food and eating together is important, Copenhagen meeting was wonderful for that, Cleveland and San Diego were rather critical.   | Oct 30, 2013 2:42 AM |
| 11 | We had 5 papers in our session. As chair, I sent an email relaying the instructions given by the program chair that presenters had 12 minutes to present. Most papers went over by 2 or 3 minutes, even those who clearly had prepared. One person, despite several polite interventions indicating that time had run out, read her whole paper, to the bitter end, taking at least 22 minutes! I strongly recommend that presenters have at least 15 minutes to present. This means either limiting sessions to a maximum of 4 papers, if sessions are to be limited to 1.5 hours as they were this year, or increasing the length of sessions so five 15 min sessions can be accommodated. Twelve minutes is just too short for presentations. People have interesting research, and with data, very few can hold their presentations to 12 minutes in the conference setting., esp since they consider 15 min the norm. The chair cannot physically remove someone who clearly has not prepared at all to present in 12 minutes, and this combined with almost everyone going over by 2-3 minutes can reduce the time for Q and A in some cases to 10-12 minutes, thereby reducing the value of the conference for presenters. | Oct 29, 2013 8:38 PM |
| 12 | The mentor program is important and I've met fantastic mentors through it. However, this year I wasn't assigned a mentee or a mentor. In the previous year, my mentee never responded to me to meet up.   | Oct 29, 2013 6:33 PM |
| 13 | I wasn't so impressed with the opening event. I would like more plenaries.  | Oct 29, 2013 7:54 AM |
| 14 | The programme was lacking key notes, plenary sessions or other high quality "prime time" sessions. Food availability in the conference area was poor.   | Oct 29, 2013 5:47 AM |
| 15 | The hotel was not very nice. It was next to a freeway, isolated from San Diego,   | Oct 28, 2013 4:44 PM |

**Page 3, Q14. Please use the space below to explain any answers further and offer feedback on any aspect of the meeting:**

and run down in parts.

16	The registration cost is extremely high considering that almost nothing is included (food, materials, etc.).	Oct 28, 2013 3:00 PM
17	The \$65 for a 'colorful Mexican banquet' was exceptionally expensive, especially since it gave the mistaken impression that Mexican cuisine is the same thing as 'Mexican' food served in southern Californian cities. The banquet should be optional. Otherwise the conference was interesting, well-organized and a good opportunity to meet scholars with cross-disciplinary interests.	Oct 28, 2013 1:51 PM
18	The hotel was quite terrible and disappointing. The sprawling nature was awkward for a meeting (hard to find people or just run into people). The food was expensive and not good. The rooms were barely average, and the hotel service (especially the front desk) was not good at all. I would be more likely to attend a future 4S meeting if the hotel were better. It doesn't have to be swanky, but this was barely a motel-quality hotel.	Oct 28, 2013 11:26 AM
19	Appropriate A-V aids were available in some rooms but not others (microphones, for example). Too much time is wasted fumbling with PC-Mac laptop switches, projector connections etc. Food options onsite for vegetarians were limited. Town and Country seems pretty run down (my room in the tower was very nice, however.) 4S is my very favorite meeting. With a PhD in mass communication (expertise: science and risk communication), I've given up on ICA and NCA and AEJMC and settled on 4S as my "home" group. It is difficult for me to figure out how to get more involved in 4S, however, as I have no academic affiliation. (I am affiliated with a nonprofit organization and am funded by federal money via cooperative agreement.)	Oct 28, 2013 9:53 AM
20	I would like to point out ther aspects of the congress. The first is related to the quality of presentations. They were very interesting, although I expected more discussion and critical debate over them, what almost didn't happened in some sessions I took place. The other problem was there wasn't audio support in some sessions where the presenters had good audio data to show. It could be better whether they have had this infrastructure. I also would like to suggest improvements in the coffee-break, it wasn't good.	Oct 28, 2013 9:06 AM
21	The opening reception was very disappointing and not really a welcome-- with no food at all and only one bartender. The beach-party was a confusing event-- searching for the party. We had been warned that there would be no alcohol but not that it would be deserts only. This was a particular problem because there was no time to get a meal before hand.	Oct 28, 2013 7:32 AM
22	- Conference programme was overstocked; too many parallel sessions at once. - Saw mostly poor quality presentations; very disappointed by level of academic engagement and discussion -- gave up and went on Seal Tour etc. etc. - Most delegates there to meet old friends and party -- fine by me -- but is this really what I paid to come to? - My sessions were reorganised without notification, leading to some embarrassment for everyone as they were mostly unrelated to the topic I'd refereed; felt as if we had been bunged together in the misc category. Over-stuffing of programme meant no-one attended other than fellow speakers. All my hard work was wasted! - Whilst I can understand the need to	Oct 28, 2013 5:38 AM

**Page 3, Q14. Please use the space below to explain any answers further and offer feedback on any aspect of the meeting:**

keep costs down, the 'Beach Party' - such that it was - could have done with a little more TLC spent on it... it was a drab-looking affair to say the least. - Hotel was okay but stuck in time-warp, as were staff attitudes... Overall, I would never wish to attend a 4 meeting again, based on what was mostly a really awful experience.

- |    |  |                       |
|----|--|-----------------------|
| 23 | I think the number of papers is now too large, which means that the time per speaker is now too small and the audience is distributed too thinly. A more radical re-think of the structure is needed and serious consideration given to poster sessions. These are used at other 'big' conferences and might have a role in 4S too. I understand that 'presenting a paper' often enables people to claim institutional support but perhaps this is now also available for posters. I certainly think some speakers would have interacted with a bigger audience and got more (and better) feedback with a poster than they did with the 12 minute talk format. I was also very disappointed with the poor turn-out for the prizes. I'm afraid I don't have a good answer for this one as the organisation and timing etc all seemed to be perfectly reasonable to me. I guess this is more a comment on the moral failure of my fellow 4S members to turn up and collectively affirm our Society. You'd think we'd know better than anyone that this stuff matters but it seems we don't.  | Oct 28, 2013 4:27 AM  |
| 24 | I enjoyed the meeting a lot, but for future meetings I would appreciate more plenary lectures, in particular discussing current trends and the future of STS research.   | Oct 28, 2013 3:48 AM  |
| 25 | There were quite a lot of first-year PhD presentations, and even several Master students thesis presentations. Although I believe it was very useful for these people to present in a conference such as this one, for colleagues in the audience it was often a disappointment that the research was not more elaborate (which was not explicit in the abstracts).  | Oct 28, 2013 2:55 AM  |
| 26 | I have left a few answers blank, which means I am not qualified to answer them. I have no knowledge about submitting/presenting films to the conference. I have no knowledge of how the mentoring system works. #11 I thought the meeting rooms were fine, the common areas were fine, but I thought the overall venue/hotel/resort was a little tacky.  | Oct 27, 2013 3:23 PM  |
| 27 | The meeting was great. However, there were two big issues: The main problem with the meeting space this year was there were very poor food choices around the meeting. In Copenhagen, the meeting was organized so that food was provided to participants, and very good food at that, with special needs (vegetarians) well taken care of. The food was a big magnet and draw between sessions; it ensured that people congregated in the open lobbies, so it was much easier to find people with whom we wanted to talk. There were many opportunities to interact around food. The lunch and break treats gave 4Sers a chance to mix and mingle and talk. So it was a shock in San Diego to find no food of any kind provided by the conference, which not only meant no food, but also made it more difficult to meet and greet others at the meeting. The hot water/coffee between sessions ran out after 15 minutes. After the first day, fewer and fewer came to the break, and the sparse crowd made it more difficult to accidentally bump into and find old friends and re-connect. The options on the resort campus were pricey tasteless and awful for vegetarians. The only | Oct 27, 2013 11:00 AM |

**Page 3, Q14. Please use the space below to explain any answers further and offer feedback on any aspect of the meeting:**

alternative was the mall, which was hardly better for nutrition, value and healthy eating. The resort was in an isolated area, hard to leave, no easy public transportation nearby, far from any kind of urban conveniences including the center of the city housing the good food options. I was surprised to see in the program so many folks who I didn't run into even once or get a chance to talk to during the entire conference. Food (or at least enough hot water/coffee and some snacks) constitutes an important part of a meeting, bringing people together, and the meeting should strive to use the break times productively to facilitate people meeting and running into each other. Copenhagen did this very effectively. Another major issue was the program. The program should ensure that different themes and interests are spread throughout the program, rather than being concentrated in one spot in the program. Several of the concurrent sessions had sessions at the same time on the \*same\* topic, meaning that attendees had to choose only one among 3-5 sessions/sets of colleagues presenting talks directly relevant to their work. The rest of the meeting, there would be almost nothing directly relevant to their work. Topics have to be spread out during the 3 days, not bunched all in one slot. This way someone interested in a particular topic will have sessions of interest spread out over several slots, and won't feel like they're missing out on many important sessions because they conflict with other important sessions. Every meeting program will involve some tough choices about which sessions to attend, but this program was particularly challenging with respect to these conflicts.

- |    |   |                       |
|----|---|-----------------------|
| 28 | During the awards and presidential plenary, they omitted the 4S Latin American STS group's important contribution (with the support of a 4S New Initiatives grant) to the conception and planning of the 2014 Buenos Aires joint conference. Very troubling that this was not mentioned and it should be corrected in a timely fashion to avoid further offending this sizeable group.  | Oct 27, 2013 9:28 AM  |
| 29 | The venue was not good for the meeting as it made the possibility to mix and mingle terrible - it was simply too large. The banquet and the Beach party were poorly arranged and there did not seem to be any central organisation of the conference and most people I talked to seemed disappointed about the venue and the format of the sessions which were in too big rooms for smaller crowds and did not have enough discussion and interaction with the audience. Definitely worse than Copenhagen, unfortunately!   | Oct 27, 2013 7:16 AM  |
| 30 | The social events were not well organized (especially not the bon fire on Pacific Beach)  | Oct 27, 2013 5:42 AM  |
| 31 | Beach party was a bit pity... more time to/from the beach should have been counted.   | Oct 26, 2013 11:12 PM |
| 32 | Dr. Coffee was wonderfully helpful at registration and in general; I am not sure he ever slept. I was not sure about the film sessions before attending, but went to two and found them fascinating and intellectually exciting. The papers varied greatly in quality, though I think that was due as much to the range of fields, and the inability to go into depth, as it was to the quality of the ideas themselves. The conversations between sessions were some of the best I've ever had at a conference, including other interdisciplinary conferences. The venue was perfectly nice in terms of rooms, but the cost was almost prohibitive, and what we got for the price was much less than I would expect (e.g. no breakfast, no | Oct 26, 2013 4:39 PM  |



**Page 3, Q14. Please use the space below to explain any answers further and offer feedback on any aspect of the meeting:**

WiFi in rooms, no hotel shuttle). If we are not going to have those kinds of amenities, that's fine, but not for that price. The organization of conference events -- especially the beach party -- was stunningly lacking. Again, this would not be a big deal except it left me wondering what, precisely, the higher than normal conference registration fee covered.

33 The space was confusing even after four days. I lost my coat and did not get it back, the hotel was not interested in offering help to find it. The meeting space was too far out of the city -- artificial setting. There were too few contributions from history. Sometimes, children were annoying (screaming)> could there be some sort of childcare facility so the children do not need to be in sessions? No lunchtime sessions: lunchtime is for lunch. FOR BUENOS AIRES: Take care to have interpreters EVERYWHERE. I attended the Oral History Congress in Buenos Aires one year ago and all the Americans were furious that they could not understand the Spanish and most of all Portuguese presentations. There has to be a text-translation or simultaneous translation through interpreters. Patience is useless when language fails.

Oct 26, 2013 3:24 PM

34 The chosen hotel resort was really out of date- shabby and old- food awful. It was good that there were options for salads on the location for lunch. The beach party was really badly organized- I never had an experience before in a conference where the buses drop off people and there is no guidance where to go. Having icecream and the bon fires at the lake- with no real food and something warm to drink - was really a bad choice. people should have been informed that they need to eat before the party. The idea of a beach party as it was thought of would have been ok for the summer brunch time- but not evening. So really a big minus for this.

Oct 26, 2013 3:18 PM

35 The 12 minute presentation format simply doesn't work. Most academics (I'm including myself here) do not know how to give an adequate presentation in 12 minutes. One solution is, I'm afraid, actually reviewing submitted papers for quality control and limiting the number of people who can speak and hence giving more time per paper (20 minutes I suggest) - perhaps with poster presentations to keep the numbers of attendees up. Another is giving strong guidance to speakers as to how many slides they should use (max 4.) in their talks. This is not a new problem; I felt the same about the last 4S I attended (Washington), but has reached the point where I can no longer seriously justify the cost of attending (I'm based in Europe) nor am I willing to sign off on my staff going to 4S (I run a research centre with a limited budget). To be clear, the best part of \$2,000 is too much just to give an unimpressive 12 minute presentation at a conference filled with unimpressive 12 minute presentations. I'm not naturally a moaner, and I have a huge respect for 4S and affection for the annual conference, which I have attended, on and off, since the vienna joint EASST conference (2000?). The problems with this year's conference are \_not\_ the fault of the organizing committee, but rather the result of a particular format that has been pushed and pushed to breaking point, in order to allow as many people as possible to attend (which is a perfectly legitimate goal).

Oct 26, 2013 1:35 PM

36 The hotel services were regular to bad. Booking a place where breakfast is not on the service hampers one of the best opportunities to meet other people. Instead, people were disbanded looking for food. The good vibration party was bad organized. No food, no drinks and no light. It is a shame that the organizers

Oct 26, 2013 1:32 PM

**Page 3, Q14. Please use the space below to explain any answers further and offer feedback on any aspect of the meeting:**

	did not put attentions to these details, since the conference was very good. But, this kind of details are the ones which can set a bad mood on a conference.	
37	The biggest problem with the conference (common in other conferences as well) is that there were too many papers crammed into the sessions. As a result, presentations were too short to allow people to say much of anything (a 20 minute presentation is much better than a 15 minute presentation) and most importantly there was hardly anytime for questions/ discussions in the sessions I attended.	Oct 26, 2013 10:22 AM
38	If 4S continues the movie submission process and I think they should this needs to be organized better. Movie submitters did not know if they went into panels or would have time to show a freestanding movie.	Oct 26, 2013 8:43 AM
39	service was good; spaces were terrible! too hot; too little possibilities for circulating air effectively; and where there was AC it was too noisy to have on and hear speakers. the site itself was nice; staff were very helpful indeed - but the setting made you feel like a prisoner! given that it's built so close to the freeway, you can really only pace around within the confines of the compound. that being said, the roses were scrumptious.	Oct 26, 2013 7:39 AM
40	Great venue and wonderful 4S conference...great job.	Oct 26, 2013 5:01 AM
41	12 and 13: Oversees travelling is demanding, timeconsuming and costly	Oct 26, 2013 4:40 AM
42	food should be free	Oct 26, 2013 3:49 AM
43	thank you!	Oct 25, 2013 9:45 PM
44	The hotel for the conference was really quite terrible. I was embarrassed as a US member to be hosting our international visitors there after quite splendid facilities in many other countries, and it became a burden on me to provide for the students and postdocs I brought to the meeting, since they couldn't provide well for themselves in that site. It was difficult to get to any off site restaurants, etc. w/out a car, which many did not have, and our experience w/ the hotel was just about the worst experience I've ever had anywhere (e.g., Sat night--loud broadcasting of a wedding party's activities until ~1:30 am right outside my hotel room, while lying to us at 30 min intervals until it was too late to check out and leave, which is what I should have done).	Oct 25, 2013 9:39 PM
45	Adding a set of refereed sessions, with papers reviewed in advance, would be worth considering.	Oct 25, 2013 9:15 PM
46	The venue was incredibly poor, especially the accommodations. I don't know why 4S continues to host events in horrible hotels/resorts. The mandatory banquet and beach party fees were entirely unfair, expensive, and coercive. No one I know attends these things, but we were all forced to pay for someone else's party.	Oct 25, 2013 9:13 PM
47	It would have been nice to have one central lobby so that attendees could meet new people or find speakers after a talk. There was very little serendipity at this meeting because it was so distributed across the hotel site.	Oct 25, 2013 5:45 PM

**Page 3, Q14. Please use the space below to explain any answers further and offer feedback on any aspect of the meeting:**

48	The hotel was not optimal, although it is probably hard to find one that is. Business-oriented lodging does often include services such as wi-fi and business center that are helpful for professional guests, and it is too bad that the resort saw fit to charge extra for them. Appreciated the conference wi-fi service -- thank you -- the feeling of being nickled-and-dimed over service by the hotel was clearly not 4S's fault.	Oct 25, 2013 5:07 PM
49	Any venue that subdivides ballrooms generally does it badly when they use curtains. The one session I attended in the ballroom (Saturday morning) also didn't have any microphone so it was a cavernous room. Eventually, a microphone was found, but the session was 1/3 over by then. Also, let me just add that though the abstract submission process was a disaster, Stephen Coffee was courteous, helpful, and did as much as he could to help. I was happy to put a face to the name at the conference. Lastly, content-wise, this was a superb 4S for me. The panels I attended were excellent as were the roundtable and author meets critic sessions I attended. Thanks to the committee for putting in the time and effort.	Oct 25, 2013 5:01 PM
50	I strongly disagreed with the questionnaire item about the mentoring program because I was unaware such a program existed.	Oct 25, 2013 4:35 PM
51	If there could be fewer concurrent sessions (extend the conference by a day), and particularly fewer concurrent sessions on the same topic, that would be ideal.	Oct 25, 2013 3:50 PM
52	For some of these survey questions, it would have been helpful to have "no opinion" and/or "not applicable" as an option. I like having this box to explain any answers further, but would have preferred to have this option at the bottom of each page, if not with each question. I didn't attend any of the films and don't want to judge whether or not that should continue. For the mentoring program ... I appreciate its presence and didn't use it, so not sure how to respond.	Oct 25, 2013 3:27 PM
53	offer lunch!	Oct 25, 2013 3:21 PM
54	4S registration fee should not fluctuate every year; other conferences tend to be more stable in registration fee, perhaps increasing registration slightly every year. Considering high registration, there should have been proper reception on Wednesday Beach party was poorly organized	Oct 25, 2013 2:52 PM
55	I'd like to see more graduate students and non EU/US scholars at the meeting; perhaps we can find some ways to adjust the conference rates? Thank you very much Roli, Wes and Trevor for your work on the meetings!	Oct 25, 2013 2:47 PM
56	Quality of talks relatively low; questionable grouping of talks into thematic sessions. Very poor organization of beach party and other social dimensions.	Oct 25, 2013 2:42 PM
57	The venue was unusual for it exhorbitant fees for printing and wifi.	Oct 25, 2013 2:34 PM
58	It would have been nice to have complimentary breakfast and lunch as part of the conference. It was a little strange to have to move away from the venue for those. Lunch and breakfast are good times to chat with colleagues without the added cost of having to think about traveling to a restaurant.	Oct 25, 2013 2:18 PM



**Page 3, Q14. Please use the space below to explain any answers further and offer feedback on any aspect of the meeting:**

59	I would welcome if 4S conferences would demand more environmental friendly caterings etc. from the next conference venues. The amount of rubbish produced during each coffee and lunch break was just unbelievable (styrofoam cups).	Oct 25, 2013 2:15 PM
60	Having two locations for the meeting venue was not the best outlet. Research suggests that proximity is important and I had been walking back and forth between the Golden Pacific and Garden Ballrooms with many people to catch up a session. Sometimes I got stuck in one place because I did not want to walk to the other place. It would have been much better if everything was in one single place.	Oct 25, 2013 1:53 PM
61	expensive registration for a major society to attend and present, and only receive a printed copy of the program - no pens, no notepads, no 'swag' as it were. It was also a bit distant from the downtown area and far from other attractions, even though there was public transit right there to take. While it was convenient that the conference venue also had rooms, it also felt dated in terms of decor and amenities.	Oct 25, 2013 1:49 PM
62	I proposed an open session and found the process quite unclear. I received no notification of the fact that there were abstracts submitted for me to review (a friend told me that he had some for his session, which he found out via another friend, so I logged in just in case), nor any instructions on what to do with them. As a result, I did not know, e.g. whether choosing "reject" would amount to an overall rejection of the abstract, or only a rejection of inclusion from my session. As for the venue, some meeting rooms were hard to find - additional signs and a better map would have been useful. The food on the premises was not great, and the lack of a nearby grocery store was inconvenient.	Oct 25, 2013 1:49 PM
63	the venue was strange and awkward, and the extra charges for things like internet and using the printer were inordinate. 4S admin and panels were great, my only real complaints concern the venue.	Oct 25, 2013 1:39 PM
64	Given the present interest in making as a form of critique in STS, it would be excellent to see more flexibility in session form to support alternative modes of presenting STS research like workshop and demo sessions that have a bit more time. The workshop this year was a great success.	Oct 25, 2013 1:32 PM
65	Had minor hiccup with registration online when also registering as student member. Felt there was not enough time to eat in between sessions, and too many concurrent sessions were held simultaneously. Would have liked to see more vegan options for food at the banquet, and more food provided in general.	Oct 25, 2013 1:31 PM
66	It should be a core priority for meeting planning to choose locations that are walkable and/or on good public transport routes that connect to downtown cores. This location was especially bad for sense of being isolated from anything interesting to do and being right next to a major freeway. Easy access to restaurants, bars, cafes, etc., is a key component of sociability and networking (malls don't count!). The banquet was nice, but the rest of the food options were pretty poor, which is usually true of hotel catering. Planners should assume that guests will want to see some of the city they are visiting and will not have a car. On the upside, I thought the overall quality of presentations at this 4S was much higher than in the past. The intellectual atmosphere was great, even if the venue	Oct 25, 2013 1:21 PM

**Page 3, Q14. Please use the space below to explain any answers further and offer feedback on any aspect of the meeting:**

left much to be desired.

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| 67 | Thank you for creating space for great conversation and reflections on the relevance of scientific study on communities in "real time." I am very impressed with the extremely diverse range of participants and presentations, and it's one of the best conferences I've attended in the past twenty years of my own academic work.   | Oct 25, 2013 1:12 PM  |
| 68 | The different talks of some sessions did not match and did not meet the expectations I had from the title of the session. The location was not very well equipped, some rooms were too hot, some too cold, some too large for small panels, some too small for prominent people. It was quite hard to find one's way around the location with all the different buildings and meeting rooms. I think that there should be at least snacks provided for the coffee breaks, even better would be meals. The food offered in the restaurants at the location was of very low quality. Luckily, the food court of the shopping mall was not too far away.  | Oct 25, 2013 12:56 PM |
| 69 | I have a few comments on varying aspects of the conference. The Open Sessions worked reasonably well and I was glad to be able to submit to an open panel on a topic related to my work. However, it wasn't actually clear when my proposal was accepted if I was on the panel to which I had submitted. My second larger concern was that there was no intermediate registration option for PhDs who are no longer students but are unemployed or underemployed. I paid the full professional fare, since I'm no longer a student, but it was very expensive compared to other conferences, especially since I do not yet have a job. Lastly, Town & Country was a bit of a strange conference venue -- it was difficult to find some of the conference rooms, and not easily accessible to other parts of San Diego without a car. Also, many of us were concerned that we were stuck there forever, à The Prisoner, but fortunately, that was not the case. | Oct 25, 2013 12:51 PM |
| 70 | My colleague and I are both vegans, and we were appalled at our inability, in Southern California, to get any even vegetarian lunches and dinners. Moreover, none of the chefs we talked to seemed to have any familiarity with either vegetarianism or veganism, and when I asked for a gluten-free meal, the chef offered to prepare me vegetable ravioli! As a result, both of us missed the beach party and the annual dinner, because we had to take cabs to go somewhere that we could eat.  | Oct 25, 2013 12:42 PM |
| 71 | I wish we had one more day, so we could spread out the talks. There was a problem with overlap of talks that were related to each other/similar topics. So I could not attend some of the talks that would have been most useful for my research. Is there a way that we could fix that for the Buenos Aires conference?   | Oct 25, 2013 12:39 PM |
| 72 | In the future it would be preferable to have meetings in neighborhoods with more affordable food and lodging options, particularly for grad students and other shoestring travelers.   | Oct 25, 2013 12:28 PM |
| 73 | The quality of presentations could be improved a great deal. Presenters should never sit and read a paper to the audience. They should prepare what they will say, stand, speak to the audience, and enunciate clearly. Also, the quality of food at the Town & Country left a lot to be desired.  | Oct 25, 2013 12:27 PM |

**Page 3, Q14. Please use the space below to explain any answers further and offer feedback on any aspect of the meeting:**

74	Hotel location and quality were subpar, particularly given the cost of conference registration. Allotting only 12 minutes per paper is inadequate. Better to accept fewer papers than make everyone rush through the work they've spent substantial time and money coming to present.	Oct 25, 2013 12:26 PM
75	The meeting space was a bit awkward to deal with, and the audio/visual logistics seemed difficult to deal with for presenters. I did not submit any work, so I can't speak to that process, and did not respond to those questions. I attended a panel that was organized by a person who also presented his work. He used very basic survey data and the overall quality of the work was very poor. In speaking to another attendant, it seems that low quality is not uncommon. I think having fewer panels, but higher quality papers, should be a goal. I did attend many talks that were very high quality with strong analyses, but the others should be filtered out in the admissions process.	Oct 25, 2013 12:24 PM
76	As someone who focuses on energy and environment, I was very disappointed in the program. All the relevant sessions were on Saturday - almost nothing of direct relevance to me during the first two days. Which meant that during the session that I presented at on Saturday morning - there were two other sessions that I would have liked to attend happening at the exact same time. So we had low attendance in our session and there was low attendance in the other two sessions too because the sessions were all overlapping. This was very disappointing because I ended up not being able to hear half the talks that I wanted to hear because they were scheduled at the same time as other talks that I wanted to hear. This made the conference very unproductive for me.... I had not enough options the first two days and then on the third day there was too much all at once and I was unable to attend the sessions I wanted because they conflicted with my own session. Very disappointing planning. Made me wonder whether it was worth coming.	Oct 25, 2013 12:18 PM
77	The San Diego meetings were some of the best that I have attended---I have been to at least 1/2 dozen meetings over the past 15 years. The program was very well organized and the submissions seemed stronger than in some prior meetings, where the quality of work presented had seemed lower. One problem was the number of sessions offered at the same time---there were often too many sessions with common themes and interests, meaning that one could not possibly attend all the sessions in that area. As the society continues to grow, adding a day or two to the meetings might be advisable, unless we decide to begin more rigorous review of submissions and refusing some access to the meetings for their work.	Oct 25, 2013 12:02 PM
78	The way some of the sessions were grouped was not very consistent. Some talks were completely out of place so many times the session becomes boring. Either you ask people to give good 'keywords' or develop a program to classify talks in a way that the sessions are more consistent. I don't like presenting the last day of the meeting. If next time I am at the end again, i won't attend the meeting.	Oct 25, 2013 12:01 PM
79	The quality of food was poor, as was the cost associated with pay lunches.	Oct 25, 2013 12:00 PM
80	I preferred the 2012 plenary session in Copenhagen for the original and performative format.	Oct 25, 2013 11:57 AM

**Page 3, Q14. Please use the space below to explain any answers further and offer feedback on any aspect of the meeting:**

81	The venue wasn't the most convenient at all; it may be the right space to host that amount of people but the hotel was huge, no indications on where to go, the map was utterly confusing, food services were terrible, coffee was really bad... I mean, it could have been in a much better venue.	Oct 25, 2013 11:55 AM
82	Some suggestions from experiences and conversations I had at the meeting. First, I've heard several people comment that they did not get a clear sense of the state and direction of the field from the meeting. To me this seems a serious problem for the only annual STS meeting. The solution that several people appeared to consider promising is to organise more plenary meetings that explicitly take stock of the state of the field. For the organisers, it should not be too difficult to identify themes (either substantive, theoretical or methodological) that are of concern to many in the field around which panels with some of the leading scholars in STS could be organised. That should help in getting a better sense of community and direction for STS. Second, it was baffling to me to see that there were four panels on STS and the state, one of which was the panel I was in. Three of these panels formed a collective stream, but the fourth one was programmed in parallel to one of these three. Frankly, this seemed quite ridiculous to me over a three day conference, since I would have liked to attend those other sessions - and I heard from others interested in other themes that they had a similar problem.	Oct 25, 2013 11:55 AM
83	Would be nice to have more time/opportunity to meet/talk with colleagues. The Friday night event was a disaster. Maybe a cocktail/drink event? Conference rooms too distant from each other. Overall quality of the papers was better than at recent 4S meetings, and the sessions were more focused. I would reduce the number of parallel sessions, even if this means to be more selective.	Oct 25, 2013 11:50 AM
84	The reasons for not attending the future meetings is purely based on availability of funding. However, this could change if I have a new research post by then!	Oct 25, 2013 11:42 AM
85	It would be highly convenient to have the abstracts of the presentations printed for reviewing during the conference.	Oct 25, 2013 11:41 AM
86	Spread out venues are VERY disabled unfriendly and I am mobility impaired. The bell desk carts helped but not during day. While the quality of the Presidential Plenary speakers was very high, the topic was obscure to most of us---not appropriate for that slot. Should have been an AMC, As 4S grows in popularity, the quality of the presentations seems to be declining. Few doctoral students seem prepared in terms of professional development to present well. Not sure anything can be done at this point.	Oct 25, 2013 11:25 AM
87	The venue was beyond horrible -- an ugly, poorly maintained, and freakishly expensive hotel for what you get (internet, gym, breakfast, and parking were not included in the room rate!), and so isolated from the rest of the city. Hotel food was mediocre and expensive. Please warn folks ahead of time if food will not be provided: as a graduate student, I found this venue really frustrating because it was not in an urban setting and there were so few options outside the hotel. (I ended up eating most of my meals at the food court at the nearby mall, but it's San Diego, so that wasn't cheap either.) Next year I will bring a suitcase full of snack food to cut down on costs.	Oct 25, 2013 11:20 AM

**Page 3, Q14. Please use the space below to explain any answers further and offer feedback on any aspect of the meeting:**

88	Overall it was a pleasant conference. Just two critical points: The time afforded for presentations was far too short - the average session with 5 papers allowed for 12 min speaking time + 5 minutes for questions. In this sense, less can be more. Maybe poster sessions can help to reduce the number of presentations as some participants feel the need to present to justify their presence at 4S to funding bodies. The venue, while perfect in theory, was sub-standard. The presentation rooms were not well insulated and one could often hear presentations going on in other rooms. The hotel was overpriced, which made it a particularly hard experience for students who cannot rely on full funding. There is a danger that people get priced out of attending conferences.	Oct 25, 2013 11:14 AM
89	Venue was attractive but isolating. We were in beautiful San Diego, but felt cut off from everything beyond the hotel grounds. Captive to the hotel's overpriced but so-so food choices. Conference itself was great.	Oct 25, 2013 11:08 AM
90	The venue, with its lack of good/affordable food options and highly spread out layout, meant that at any break all participants fled for the hills (or their cars, or the malls...) making it much more difficult to approach and get to know new people, and the general conviviality of the conference was lower than last year. The beach party was also a bit of a boondoggle.	Oct 25, 2013 11:05 AM
91	I attended but did not present and so I could not answer a number of the questions.	Oct 25, 2013 11:03 AM
92	The separation of the two main meeting room facilities was problematic, as was the complexity of the meeting space. It meant fewer opportunities for casual running-into-each-other encounters and a lot of hunting for the right rooms. The presidential award session was not well thought out. It was late in the day when people are tired, and since it was billed as an award ceremony a very large number of people skipped it. I don't like this format and despite the fact that award presentations at the banquet can be tiresome if poorly done, I'd rather have a snappy set of award presentations in front of the whole community than an optional ceremony that most people will skip. It's important esp. for junior people to see the awards. I do like the move toward more humor in the award presentations, and toward very short citations/awards. This could be pushed even further. The best option, I think, would be to print the award citations in a program, hand that out at the award ceremony, and direct presenters of awards to be funny and informal -- and NOT TO READ THE CITATIONS OUT LOUD. Let people read them in the program and save the presentation time for something more intimate and informal, and very quick. 2 minutes for most awards, maybe 4-5 minutes for the top awards, should be plenty and you could get through all of them in 20-25 minutes.	Oct 25, 2013 10:55 AM
93	It's incredible, given the high fee that we are required to pay for participating in the 4S conference, that no more things are included in the price: not lunches, not even a welcome drink at the reception! That made a striking difference (also in terms of venue) with the last year 4S. Keynote speeches were somewhat disappointing.	Oct 25, 2013 10:44 AM
94	A form of payment for registration other than credit cards would be nice.	Oct 25, 2013 10:43 AM
95	Beach event was a disaster. Future events in San Diego should take advantage	Oct 25, 2013 10:42 AM

**Page 3, Q14. Please use the space below to explain any answers further and offer feedback on any aspect of the meeting:**

of proximity to places of interest to 4S scholars - military based, animal attractions, social projects, urban development. Location was hard to access if not staying at hotel, which was too expensive. Would have preferred someplace more integrated with real restaurants and other places of interest.

96	While we were in San Diego, we really were not in San Diego. I understand the need to balance conference costs, but I really disliked the conference venue. On the positive everyone was so trapped in the location you had no choice but to stay on sight and attend the sessions.	Oct 25, 2013 10:40 AM
97	Common spaces around conference meeting rooms were extremely cramped, as were meeting rooms. Perhaps the number of participants exceeded expectations?	Oct 25, 2013 10:40 AM
98	It should have been made clear in advance that the opening reception does neither include beverages nor snacks. So I expected somewhat more similar to the 4S/EASST -conferences that I attend regularly and have been left hungry. Also the organisation of the beach party went wrong, concerning the location and the snacks offered, only sweets. I would prefer instead not to have such kind of "parties" but to have snacks at coffee breaks or provided meals for lunch in order that you do not have to organise your lunch on your own which is time-consuming.	Oct 25, 2013 10:40 AM
99	San Diego was expensive - flights, hotel, etc. The hotel was too expensive and too far from the city. As per the program, Similar topics were covered in parallel sessions, instead of spreading them so that people can attend them and not run from one room to another.	Oct 25, 2013 10:38 AM
100	The venue felt a little strange..very separate from the rest of San Diego. I was able to take advantage of the public transportation to take breaks. I stayed at a cheaper hotel across the way..the Days Inn. I wonder if you can offer an independent scholar rate for future 4S conferences. Not everyone is affiliated with a university that can cover expenses. Overall the experience was great. More film and media!	Oct 25, 2013 10:37 AM
101	continue the good work!	Oct 25, 2013 10:33 AM
102	There was no public transportation to the meeting site so locals without cars could not get there without finding rides. This was particularly problematic for grads or for people who could not afford the hotel. It also made it hard to get to evening events.	Oct 25, 2013 10:32 AM
103	I loved the conference. However, I thought there could be better organization of sessions in that many sessions on the same topic were overlapping. It seems like that could have been arranged differently. Thank you!!	Oct 25, 2013 10:31 AM
104	The overall organization of the event was good but the venue was only OK, especially when compared with Copenhagen last year. The food options were not to my liking. Some of the rooms were huge and others were very cramped. I appreciate it is a large event and not easy to organize.	Oct 25, 2013 10:31 AM
105	Conference cost has become ridiculously high. No categories for post-	Oct 25, 2013 10:29 AM



**Page 3, Q14. Please use the space below to explain any answers further and offer feedback on any aspect of the meeting:**

docs/adjuncts/unemployed. Lack of transparency. This survey is not very good, either.

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| 106 | I thought that there needed to be some way of anticipating expected numbers at some sessions. I attended two where there were so many people who were interested the small rooms allocated were far too small to handle the numbers. These were sessions which had 'big name' speakers. Surely careful scrutiny of the program by the organisers could anticipate the likelihood of the popularity of these sessions. I was pleased to see how the catering for lunch was handled, it worked well.   | Oct 25, 2013 10:29 AM |
| 107 | Although there were some great sessions, I found the venue to be excessively expensive (for what was provided) and essentially fenced off from most of the rest of San Diego. This left one the choice of either doing everything on the grounds, walking across the bridge to a high end shopping mall, or taking a taxi somewhere. In addition, the rooms were quite overpriced for what was provided. We have done much better than this in the past. On a related matter, I would suggest a rule against reading of papers verbatim. If that is all people wish to do, then they can simply make the paper available before the meeting. Surely we can do better than that.  | Oct 25, 2013 10:25 AM |
| 108 | On the whole, I thought this conference was poorly organized. My major complaint is that the conference failed encourage dialogue and networking for people new to the 4S meetings. It would have been nice to have more anchoring plenary panels/speeches to foster themes for discussion without conflicting with paper/abstract sessions (say at lunch time). In addition, some of the logistics were lousy. Many of us wandered around the boardwalk looking for the "beach party" for about half an hour, only to find a "party" that was scheduled during dinner but featured only marshmallows and a small fire. My paper session also conflicted with a session that featured whiskey-tasting. Perhaps the whiskey-tasting could have been organized as a more open, networking event rather than as a regular paper session. The food onsite was terrible. I don't mind paying for food, but it was lousy and I did begin to wonder what my registration fees went toward.... | Oct 25, 2013 10:22 AM |
| 109 | I was deeply disappointed in the mentoring system - I was paired up with someone who is really important to my work but they just didn't seem to care. Didn't respond to my introduction email and when I finally tracked them down at the meeting they were like "oh, hi. here's my cell phone. text me if you need to. see ya." Really disappointing. I understand that everyone is busy, but don't sign up for mentoring if you couldn't care less?   | Oct 25, 2013 10:19 AM |
| 110 | The meeting was a significant success for me. I met a number of people who are potential collaborators, and the sessions affirmed my sense that my work is part of a community of people considering related issues. The content and organization of the conference was good; the accommodations were shabby considering the price, but at least the weather was good! I doubt I'll travel to Argentina for the next meeting, but see you in Denver.   | Oct 25, 2013 10:18 AM |
| 111 | It was my first 4S meeting, and I appreciated many aspects of it. I like the long breaks, although I think 12 minutes to present a paper is VERY short. I really enjoyed hearing material outside my disciplinary training. I did find the program   | Oct 25, 2013 10:16 AM |

**Page 3, Q14. Please use the space below to explain any answers further and offer feedback on any aspect of the meeting:**

to be lumpy, at least for me personally - meaning that there were a few time slots where there were 2 or 3 sessions highly relevant to my research and then there were slots where there were none. My main criticism, though, and one that might me think twice about going to 4S again was the venue. I could live with the overall tackiness, but a) the food there was atrocious and b) it was not in walking distance of interesting areas (i.e., areas with good food). Nor were the more central spaces really conducive to meeting up with people to get drinks and such.

112 San Diego itself was a wonderful city, and a fantastic place to hold a conference. However, the resort hotel in which the conference was located was too isolated, making it hard find a decently priced meal, spend time enjoying the city, or search for more reasonably priced nearby accommodations. Using the San Diego conference center, which is an incredibly nice space, would have been far superior.

Oct 25, 2013 10:15 AM

113 The venue was pathetic, but if that's what necessary to keep prices down it is OK with me.

Oct 25, 2013 10:09 AM

114 Please note that I submit the following remarks as an ardent supporter of STS and 4S. My intention is to simply bring to light a series of frustrations and disappointments shared by myself and other graduate student colleagues, especially those of us who attended the recent meeting from overseas. My intention is that these remarks will be seen as constructive. The venue was absolutely horrible. I felt trapped and exploited for the duration of this conference. I arrived at the venue after a 14 hour trek of flights, layovers, and so forth, approached the front desk for food options, and am directed to "Charile's." Really? Charile's? Not only am I a vegetarian on a low sodium diet, I'm a grad student--which means I'm poor. I couldn't eat the overwhelming majority of food that was available for purchase. Even if could have eaten it, I wouldn't have been able to afford it. (The breakfast café, I'm told, even charged for glasses of water!) Nor was there anything within walking distance. Nor could I afford to take a shuttle to a grocery store, etc. Luckily there was an AM-PM gas station 2 miles away that sold apples and unsalted almonds. The banquet dinner was likewise a disappointment. Even in San Diego, \$65 per head can and will buy a good deal more than a mediocre Mexican buffet. Indeed, this banquet fell far from the mark set by those at previous 4S events I've attended. I raise this issue because to me, \$65 is a good deal of money. Finally, I didn't leave this conference feeling rewarded, i.e. consumed with thoughts about the interesting people I had met and what I had learned. No. In departing San Diego I was consumed by the feeling that I'd been ripped-off. Between my airfare, hotel, registration and membership fees, I had to front over \$1500 to attend this conference. As you select conference venues in the future, I ask is that you keep in mind the dietary restrictions of your members overall, and the fact that \$1500 approximates a (US) graduate student's monthly salary.

Oct 25, 2013 10:02 AM

115 The combination of a hotel "campus" that was very spread out - both in terms of lodging and meeting rooms - and simultaneously geographically isolated from any interesting commercial district with restaurants was very disappointing. I would strongly urge 4S to consider organizing a poster session format one year in order to reduce the number of concurrent sessions, which would also allow higher quality control on what is presented. It should be made clear whether

Oct 25, 2013 10:00 AM



**Page 3, Q14. Please use the space below to explain any answers further and offer feedback on any aspect of the meeting:**

food will be provided at receptions. Many attendees were shocked at the lack of food at the welcoming reception. Along those lines, the special events (like the bonfire) should take into account our need to eat dinner. It was bizarre and inconvenient to be transported by bus at 6pm to the beach for ice-cream sundaes and marshmallows when no one had had a chance to eat dinner. This cast a negative vibe over the whole event.

116	The main negative issues with regard to the San Diego conference were a) the social events (the beach event was a complete - and dark - disaster) b) the fact that many academics who were listed in the 4S programme did not attend the conference (and I mean many).	Oct 25, 2013 9:50 AM
117	Just to think about:: to encourage groups to manifest their conclusions in documents addressed directly to policy makers and the general public?	Oct 25, 2013 9:48 AM
118	It was fun, too.	Oct 25, 2013 9:42 AM
119	It would be great if there were more opportunities to engage in the development and focus of the society.	Oct 25, 2013 9:40 AM
120	the timing of the 2014 meeting makes it difficult for me to attend...transitions and start of the semester	Oct 25, 2013 9:38 AM
121	The venue was fine for the conference but overpriced, mediocre and isolated from the city by way of accommodation. With regret, I will probably have to miss 4S next year because of the conflict with ASA.	Oct 25, 2013 9:38 AM
122	The venue and location were horrible. Please do not locate us on big box suburbs. If we are traveling to a city, the hotel should be in the city. Otherwise why are we in that location? It would also be great if future conferences could include not only party themes related to the location, but papers (like Rotterdam 4S). Lastly, too expensive. How can this be mitigated?	Oct 25, 2013 9:36 AM
123	Great to see people and great atmosphere. The conference resort was very expensive -and isolated which just made the situation worse: It difficult to explore the local area and make use of alternatives for dining, hotels, and possibilities for going out with colleagues. Regarding video presentations I didn't get to see enough, but the one I did see was supposed to be self-explanatory by the presenter, but for me it wasn't. I think video is here to stay, and can work as a good alternative to talks, but it still has to be developed further in order to utilize its full potential in an academic context.	Oct 25, 2013 9:32 AM
124	The conference needs to work on its hospitality and welcoming. Right now it has gone for a minimalist approach. That means, bad coffee, receptions without food, bad food, and so on. At the opening plenary, there were no signs directing people where they needed to go, nor any volunteers to help. People are traveling from near and far and spending days at the conference. They need to be welcomed and supported by the conference infrastructure. If we are going to be stuck in a conference site as we were in San Diego, more effort needs to be made to make sure the conference can care for and welcome people. I think the minimalist approach has gone too far at this point and veers towards disrespecting people's time, work, energy and the field. We can do better.	Oct 25, 2013 9:30 AM

**Page 3, Q14. Please use the space below to explain any answers further and offer feedback on any aspect of the meeting:**

125	Keynote session was abysmal, and not because of topic: how was this a keynote? Where was support or representation of the theme in the program? Felt fractured and insincere. Venue was awful, though San Diego is ideal location. Presumably we were there because of money?	Oct 25, 2013 9:27 AM
126	First, the survey should include "don't know" as I didn't know much about the mentoring program. Second, great meeting. I have not attended for awhile and it was well worth it. Amazing networking and seeing old friends? Priceless. A few of the open sessions had a sad mix of excellence with somewhat weak papers, but that in itself is revealing and so I'm not against how it was done. My only big complaint is the opening reception needs more than one bar...and some stuff to snack on and, at the least, free nonalcoholic drinks. Everything else I took part in was very good. My thanks to the organizers.	Oct 25, 2013 9:27 AM
127	I would love to attend next year's meeting in Buenos Aires - my response that this is "somewhat unlikely" refers to my expected lack of sufficient funding as a grad student. However, I think that holding the conference in South America is a great idea and a wonderful opportunity for STS researchers who might not otherwise be able to travel to 4S meetings. There were a lot of tech issues in the sessions I attended. Several presenters were unable to use their prepared PowerPoint slides due to connectivity or projector issues. Having tech support people on hand during the conference might have helped resolve some of these problems. I found the two-hour lunches to be unnecessarily long. I did attend one of the lunchtime sessions, which was interesting and valuable, but overall I found that attending meetings and sessions all day without a break was exhausting. However, on the days when I did not attend a lunchtime session, the two-hour break felt overlong. I would propose either shortening the break to one hour or shortening the lunchtime sessions to one hour while keeping the longer break.	Oct 25, 2013 9:26 AM
128	I was surprised by the location. It is one of the ugliest parts of San Diego and far from more affordable accommodations.	Oct 25, 2013 9:25 AM
129	There were too many papers/presentations in each session, and too many sessions going on at the same time.	Oct 25, 2013 9:20 AM
130	My session was a collection of papers which did not have much connection to each other. There was on listener in the session. This kind of sessions should be avoided in the future.	Oct 25, 2013 9:20 AM
131	The venue in San Diego was - to put it bluntly - a disaster; the quality of rooms, service and food extremely poor; the location was inconvenient; the so-called "reception" was a joke; one person selling wine to hundreds of people? In the future, please don't include the banquet price in the registration fee. The need to save money for Buenos Aires does not justify the registration fee or the poor performance of this year's 4S organization.	Oct 25, 2013 9:20 AM
132	Perhaps, a more rigorous reviewing procedure would be good. High acceptance rate is good for generating income, but not good for quality of scholarship.	Oct 25, 2013 9:19 AM
133	It would be useful to have laptops in the room rather than expecting at least one of the panel members to have brought one that everybody can share (and, if it's	Oct 25, 2013 9:17 AM

**Page 3, Q14. Please use the space below to explain any answers further and offer feedback on any aspect of the meeting:**

a Mac, to supply the cord to connect to projector).

134	The biomedical emphasis has become very noticeable. Things may have reached the point that to avoid diluting the audience in the traditional STS sessions a subsection is called for that runs a conference within a conference and possibly adds a day to the event to deal with medical practice themes and patient -doctor relationships as opposed to technology development and diffusion themes that just happen to involve medical devices.	Oct 25, 2013 9:16 AM
135	The technology in Copenhagen was much more accessible and user friendly. I chaired panels at Copenhagen and San Diego, and the Copenhagen technology interface was flawless, while in SD the hook-ups were sketchy and I was unwilling to rely on the wireless because it was unpredictable. The SD venue was not conducive to collegiality because it was so spread out. I was at the previous SD 4S meeting at this venue and thought the same thing as a student participant.	Oct 25, 2013 9:15 AM
136	Thank you for all your hard work in organizing the meeting. It seemed to run very smoothly as usual. However, that resort was an over-priced dump! We've stayed at much nicer places in past meetings. The cottages were horrid. - Five papers per session is too much; if there are so many papers that can't be accommodated then add another day to the conference, or start it earlier and end it later on the wednesday and sunday. It was frustrating for both presenters and session participants. Thanks.	Oct 25, 2013 9:15 AM
137	4S Meetings organised in US ought be linked to a University. Going to a unfriendly-with-pedestrians country shouldn't mean to put to all the conference goers inside a hotel to discuss about Science, Technology and Society (without taking into consideration any local reality).	Oct 25, 2013 9:15 AM
138	The non-academic venue and all of the extra costs associated with it, e.g. parking and expensive food and drinks (there was no where else to go!), was very bad. Also, the organization of some of the activities, such as the beach party and the reception was poor compared to that of the Copenhagen conference. Many people that I spoke to felt that there should have been food available at the beach party - after a day of sessions and held at dinner time, to only offer marshmallows and lemonade makes it very difficult to sustain even a friendly conversation at the beach! I highly recommend a university-like academic event for future meetings. These offer academics more comfortable and well-equipped places to gather, with rooms of better size (not huge impersonal ballrooms with AC that makes it necessary to wear a jacket in the middle of San Diego early fall!). The content of the sessions themselves, however, was good, which is most important, however the social atmosphere and environment is also central to these meetings and should be improved.	Oct 25, 2013 9:14 AM
139	Somewhat disagreeable was the circumstance that there was no lunch included in the conference fees. Given the fact that my first 4S conference was the one in Copenhagen, I was expecting this amenity. Nevertheless, the Mexican buffet was very nice and somewhat made up for the missing lunch.	Oct 25, 2013 9:14 AM
140	Attendance depends on funding. If 4S continues to force its members to purchase a \$100 banquet dinner, I (and I suspect many others) may not be able	Oct 25, 2013 9:13 AM

**Page 3, Q14. Please use the space below to explain any answers further and offer feedback on any aspect of the meeting:**

to afford these meetings in the future. We also need to get to the conference venue, and departmental travel budgets are meager at most non-private institutions.

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| 141 | <p>The presentations at 4S were fantastic - very high quality, well prepared, and interesting. Town and Country had a nice set-up in terms of conference space on site for presentations. It was frustrating that there was no free internet in our rooms. The staff/volunteers of 4S were helpful and friendly, but the staff of Town and Country were difficult to work with and did not consistently have the same information for guests, in addition to treating guests poorly. Everything seemed expensive at Town and Country, which was made worse by the location being difficult to find alternatives (food or coffee, for example). It was not a space conducive to traveling outside of the conference venue or exploring the local scene. In terms of what 4S could have improved, the bonfire was poorly organized. About 100 people stood on the beach for an hour waiting for direction to know where to go, as there was no one from 4S directing anyone on where the bonfire was once we got off the buses. Many people had just arrived from international flights and were expecting dinner at the bonfire, and were disappointed there were only smores (no dinner food) especially as they had not eaten for most of the day. I was disappointed the bonfire was not on the beach as described, especially since it is legal to have fires on the beach. In the future, more information should be given about these events up front, and an organizer from 4S needs to be at the location ahead of time so that participants know where to go. Several people were dismayed that no one was taking tickets for the banquet - I do not know if this was a communication failure between the hotel and 4S or what. It was unclear what the red tickets were for as the bartenders were also clueless.</p> | Oct 25, 2013 9:12 AM |
| 142 | <p>I appreciate so much the sane spacing of sessions, with actual lunch and coffee breaks. I also love 4S practice of making reasonably sized paper programs; I consulted mine frequently since I could carry it around without inducing back pain.</p>  | Oct 25, 2013 9:11 AM |
| 143 | <p>I enjoyed aspects of the Town and Country conference center but it had big problems. Rooms on the west side were not very sound proof. Guests and staff walking by could be heard loudly. Since there was no climate control in the room, the door had to be opened for air but closed for noise. And with no amplification in some rooms, this made for an even more disruptive situation. The rooms were overpriced at the conference rate. Travelocity was offering the same rooms at \$99. Due to stupid university reimbursement requirements, I had to pay the conference rate. And internet was not included in the price. Internet would have been \$8 for some vague "login period." Restaurants on the premises were expensive. The coffee cart and cafe serving Starbucks charged twice as much as a regular Starbucks for lukewarm coffee. Lunch selections were slim. And most galling was the stingy coffee service. No coffee before the first session, then only present for exactly the half hour between sessions. And no snacks. This conference cost me almost as much as it cost to go to Copenhagen. Last, but still so crucial, the premises were not accessible, at least not truly. The elevator by the Golden Ballroom didn't work right. Through trial and error, I learned that I had to hold the button down until the elevator arrived and the doors opened. And the other second floor space where author-critic events were held involved using a non-automatic goods elevator, operated externally by a staff</p>  | Oct 25, 2013 9:11 AM |

**Page 3, Q14. Please use the space below to explain any answers further and offer feedback on any aspect of the meeting:**

member, to move between floors. It's scandalous that they think this is an acceptable accommodation--the equivalent of asking a person with a disability to enter through the back door. That room was terrible, by the way. Hot, stuffy, and hard to hear. OK, last thing--thanks tons for sending out this survey and asking for feedback! I didn't want to be a person who sent a cold complaint to the organizers, who I know worked very hard to put on the conference. The conference itself was a bounty, as usual.

144	place too expensive, the food was horrible not enough selection, heterogeneous quality	Oct 25, 2013 9:10 AM
145	The venue was horrible. Should never, ever be considered again. The lack of any food at all at the opening reception was very poor form. There is an increase in postcolonial topics every year, which is great!	Oct 25, 2013 9:10 AM
146	As a graduate student the cost of attending the 4S was very high. The registration and related costs were significantly higher than other professional conferences in my field and the travel bursaries did not help much. Travel is the only expense my university covers, so this wasn't a factor -- rather the prohibitively expensive registration costs and then the additional costs on top of that such as the hotel. Despite having a paper accepted, I had to think really hard about whether to attend because I was having trouble raising the roughly \$900 total that attendance cost me. To put this in perspective, that's a little more than I earn in a month from my teaching job. Because I'm on the job market this year I decided in the end that I *had* to come. So I took on another job this quarter to earn enough to pay for this conference. I'm glad I did, though mostly because of the mentorship program -- I was matched with a professor who was incredibly generous with her time and advice. But I wouldn't necessarily advise other grad students to attend in the future unless they are supported financially by more general universities or by independent means. And I am not certain I will be able to justify to myself spending that much on one conference either.	Oct 25, 2013 9:10 AM
147	For some reason the popular sessions were placed in small rooms while less popular sessions were in large halls. This could have been anticipated given the speakers in the sessions. Some attention should be given to the future.	Oct 25, 2013 9:09 AM
148	Opening lecture should be of more general interest; closing lecture would be fine (to get all participants together before leaving)	Oct 25, 2013 9:08 AM
149	expensive hotel with stains and holes in the sheets no decent coffee breaks (at any time and with symbolic snacks) compulsory "banquet" with no drink included = the material side of the event was suboptimal by far	Oct 25, 2013 9:07 AM
150	This year's venue wasn't good--the facility was too spread out, the buildings were old, and the conference rooms were miniscule and stuffy. The online program didn't download properly, so I couldn't print out the pages I needed beforehand (I didn't need all 300 pages) so I basically went into the conference blind. In the future, it would be good to provide each day's talks in a webpage, rather than one giant PDF, that way the page can be printed if the PDF doesn't download properly. Talks given by many international presenters were unintelligible, and it was impossible to provide feedback to them because I couldn't discern what their projects were about. It might be helpful to have	Oct 25, 2013 9:07 AM

**Page 3, Q14. Please use the space below to explain any answers further and offer feedback on any aspect of the meeting:**

presenters email conference papers (or at least a 1 or 2-page summary of their research or topic) to each other before the actual meeting, that way they can be prepared to ask pointed questions.

151	The venue was very expensive. The added cost of in-room wifi (for those with work commitments while travelling) and no provision of snacks or catering during breaks made it VERY expensive for students. The location of the hotel left no option to leave to get less expensive food options. A downtown location would have made it more accessible for students who could have used a hostel option and used grocery stores to eat.	Oct 25, 2013 9:05 AM
152	The Open Sessions, while a good idea, were unclear re: format and selection and what would ultimately happen. It's not at all clear how reviews are done for ANYTHING - who is doing these? Some very popular sessions ended up with tiny rooms, which was a problem.	Oct 25, 2013 9:05 AM
153	EASTS would like to thank Roli Varma for arranging the editorial meeting schedule and venue. Thank YOU!!	Oct 25, 2013 9:05 AM
154	We certainly need more whisky testing sessions!!!! The movie sessions were all good, but it would be better to have shorter movies (30 min Max) to save time for discussion with the movie-makers. I found some of them too distant from STS/SSS topics, yet I have learned A LOT from these sessions. Also, why not mixing movies with related papers? finally, why not inviting folks Lucien Castaing-Taylor and Verena presenting their ANT-type movies (like Leviathan)???? Thanks for the excellent conference...	Oct 25, 2013 9:05 AM
155	The venue was not very nice, a strange place indeed, and a shame considering how many nice venues there are in California. I really appreciate the efforts and the idea of a beach party, but it would have been nice to have a party on site so everyone can attend without getting lost/dispersed. The banquet dinner was nothing special and decorating with sombreros somewhat patronizing to Latinos in the room. It was also a disappointing that the book exhibit was so small.	Oct 25, 2013 9:03 AM
156	I thought the quality of some of the papers were poor. I would prefer a more selective conference with fewer, higher quality sessions.	Oct 25, 2013 9:02 AM
157	The fact that we had to purchase every food and drinks for lunch and pause, and for the reception was a bit annoying. What a difference with Copenhagen last year!!	Oct 25, 2013 9:02 AM
158	Can't afford to fly to south america myself, but I'm sure the meetings will be well attended by international participants, it's a great idea. Town and Country an odd place; glad we stayed in downtown San Diego.	Oct 25, 2013 9:02 AM
159	it was a packed conference--which is great! But having 5 papers and sometimes 10+ concurrent panels meant that there was not enough time to hear/see enough presentations. It's a catch 22, right? but I would rather see some panels on Sunday and Wed and have more time in each panel to discuss.	Oct 25, 2013 9:01 AM
160	I saw too many panels with 5+ people on them, meaning that there was no real discussion or interaction between any of the papers. I understand the need to try	Oct 25, 2013 9:01 AM



**Page 3, Q14. Please use the space below to explain any answers further and offer feedback on any aspect of the meeting:**

and accommodate all selected papers, but panelists not getting questions? Or having to answer them quickly so we could move on to the other panelists? It felt rushed and unprofessional. I wish the panels had fewer panelists and there were stricter time limits on presentations, so there could be real discussion of the concepts. I also thought walking around between buildings at the Town and Country was incredibly annoying and confusing.

161	Although a very nice idea, the beach party was unfortunately not very well organized -> people couldn't find the place. I really suggest that organizers skip the last session (4-5.30pm) on Saturday next time because almost noone was attending the session, that was sad.	Oct 25, 2013 9:01 AM
162	Thanks for organizing! I very much enjoyed the meeting.	Oct 25, 2013 8:58 AM
163	The San Diego venue felt like I was in exile in a distopia -- surrounded by freeways and malls, charges for every service by the hotel.	Oct 25, 2013 8:57 AM