

With the experience of two hybrid Annual Meetings behind us, the 2025 Annual Meeting is coming together nicely. The number of registered attendees is ahead of where it was last year at this time by nearly 100.

Approximately 80% of current registrations are from those planning to present on the academic program.

643 paper and workshop presentation proposals have been submitted by 615 people. 67 of these presenters are planning to participate online via Zoom. We estimate that approximately 18-20% of presentations will be delivered online as there is typically a shift from in-person to virtual format in the months leading up to the Annual Meeting. A positive trend that we are seeing with the hybrid option is lower cancellation rates on the academic program.

The peer-review process is currently underway, and decision notifications will be issued by the ASOR office on May 15 (or earlier if possible).

There are several ways that ASOR is working to deliver a smooth hybrid experience for attendees:

- Negotiating favorable audiovisual rates and terms from the in-house provider as part of the initial hotel contract negotiations. This ensures that we have locked in competitive rates early and saves time in the long run.
- Utilizing scholarships and hotel concessions to help offset the costs of having trained session assistants in each room handling the Zoom logistics.
- Training the assistants ahead of the meeting and on-site prior to the first session
- Providing trainings online for session chairs ahead of the Annual Meeting so they know what to expect and how to prepare.
- Investing in laptops that are dedicated to each meeting room. All the presentation files are pre-loaded to each laptop and tested prior to the meeting. This prevents delays and technical problems during the meeting.

Some factors that we are keeping an eye on in 2025:

1. Travel advisories for the US and experiences entering the country that could deter attendance.

So far, we are not seeing signs that members from outside the US are deterred from participating in the Annual Meeting. Presenters who have submitted abstracts represent 36 countries. As we did during the previous Trump administration, ASOR will provide phone numbers for attendees to call should they encounter any trouble entering the country. ASOR will ask our pro-bono law firm to provide guidance on this as we get closer to the meeting date.

2. Program Participants Affiliated with Institutions in Occupied Territories

At their February meeting, the Executive Committee discussed the matter of scholars affiliated with institutions in occupied territories and provided the following guidance for the Program Committee:

If ASOR accepts (based on its scholarly review) sessions, papers, posters, or other presentation formats for the Annual Meeting from scholars associated with these institutions, it will not publish in the program those institutional affiliation(s) of the presenters or organizers whose proposals it accepts. Presenters may not include any such references to those institutional affiliation(s) in their visual, oral, or written materials.

As of this report one person has told us that they would not submit an abstract and will discontinue their membership. To the best of our knowledge there are only two authors from an institution in occupied territory that will be impacted should their proposals be accepted to the academic program.

3. Exhibit numbers are still not where they were pre-pandemic. Many publishers have cut back on conferences. We are expanding our Call for Exhibitors and Sponsors and developing our prospective distribution list. We are working to identify new types of businesses and organizations that may be well positioned to exhibit and sponsor at the Annual Meeting. If you have suggestions, please let Andy or Arlene know.

The Hilton Boston Park Plaza has been an excellent partner for two previous meetings. They are working with us to ensure that our 2025 meeting and our 125th Anniversary Celebration are a success. We hope that you are all planning to join us in Boston this November and will sponsor a table at the 125th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, November 22nd. More information will be announced soon. ASOR has negotiated an excellent rate (\$189 plus tax) and we encourage you to make your reservations early if you haven't already: <https://www.asor.org/am/2025/hotel-city-2025>