

HCOMP Doctoral Consortium 2017 Agenda

Beautiful Quebec City • October 23, 2017

A Few Logistics

The Belair Room • The Hilton Québec
Start time: 9:30am

Our Goals

1. Students leave with **new ideas** that will help take their thesis to the next level.
2. Students leave with **solutions** to stated problems.
3. That this be a place of **learning**, not of trying to impress the rest of the group with one's incredible brilliance. (Corollary: no judging, only helping).
4. That this be a "**brain on**" event and that there be as little passive consumption as possible.
5. That our work be **broken down** a bit and **built back up** stronger than before.
6. That we all build **connections** with each other.

Schedule

9:30am: Breakfast is served

10am: Welcome

- Welcome presentation by Brent
- A few getting-to-know-each-other / shyness reduction activities

10:30am: Student presentations

- Each student walks through her/his thesis (goal: 10min of prepared material)
 - Content is highly structured
 - 3-4 minutes on motivation for thesis
 - 3-4 minutes on what student has accomplished thus far
 - 3-4 minutes on the open problems that student has
 - These presentations are low key and are focused on beginning a discussion
 - Students have been told to not worry about impressing folks with their incredible presentation skills and beautiful slides
 - Three slides with a few short bullet points each is reasonable

12:30pm: Lunch!

- Lunch will be provided at the hotel

2:00pm: Small group work time

- Each mentor works with her/his students on a series of structured and unstructured tasks:
 - Task #1: Work through the student's stated questions and new questions that came up during the presentation
 - Task #2: "Mentor as R2": Brainstorm answers and fixes for the toughest possible questions about student's work
 - Task #3: "Mentor as General Audience": Brainstorm how to discuss one's work with the wider public
 - Task #4: Prepare answer to question: "If I gave you 2 million dollars to take the next step with your work, what would you do?"
 - Task #5: What are some of the negative implications of the student's research? How might these be allayed?
- Ideally focus 45-min on each student's work

4:00pm: Reporting back to the group

- Each student reports the outcomes of their discussions back to the group

4:30pm: Faculty AMA

- Students pepper the faculty with questions about the field, their careers, etc.
- We'll wrap up no later than 5:30p

(No later than) 5:30p: Declare victory

7pm: Dinner (on us!*)

- We're headed to [Les Trois Garçons](#), the closest place to find reasonable poutine (the national dish of Quebec) and that could seat us 😊
- * Well, everything but alcohol :-/