The Classical Association: POLICY ON SOCIAL MEDIA USE AT CONFERENCES

The Classical Association strives to be a community that welcomes and supports people of all backgrounds and identities. This includes, but is not limited to members of any race, ethnicity, culture, national origin, colour, immigration status, social and economic class, educational level, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, size, family status, political belief, religion, and mental and physical ability. We are committed to providing a welcoming and inspiring community for all.

We want every Classical Association conference to be a safe and productive environment, in which all delegates may participate equally, and may learn, network and converse with colleagues in an environment of mutual respect. We expect all participants—attendees, speakers, sponsors and volunteers—to demonstrate appropriate behaviour at Classical Association conferences, including Classical Association-related social events and in related online communities and social media.

The Classical Association uses social media as a complementary channel for conference communication. Ideally, this encourages and perpetuates the intellectual exchange inspired by keynotes, guest speakers and conference delegates. It facilitates virtual attendance at Classical Association events and helps resolve the dilemma of wanting to attend more than one panel at the same time.

In order to ensure that conference social media use is a positive and affirmative experience both for users, and for non-users who are quoted and referenced, throughout a Classical Association event, we request that social media users adhere to the following guidelines.

1. Think before you tweet. Use common sense and courtesy when tweeting. Remember, we are a community of professionals and we should conduct ourselves professionally.

2. Be generous with compliments and feel free to share interesting links to projects and materials, highlighting colleagues’ research in a positive way. The tone of tweets should always be polite and respectful, as if you were speaking to the presenter directly.

3. Questions, comments and constructive feedback should be made on social media in a courteous manner. When quoting or citing others’ work, we ask users of social
media to uphold our scholarly values of intellectual collegiality and accuracy, and to respect context at all times with a view to avoiding misrepresentation and appropriation.

4. Seek permission before tweeting unpublished research. Respect the presenter’s wishes. If a presenter says they would not like their paper to be tweeted, then this should be adhered to. If a presenter is comfortable with tweeting of comments but asks you to refrain from tweeting images of their slides, please adhere to this too. We ask that Panel Chairs check presenters’ wishes and inform the audience of them at the beginning of a panel.

5. If a presenter has a Twitter handle, mention it in the first of your tweets from the panel. Use the presenter’s initials or surname in subsequent tweets, and thread your tweets if possible. Also include the conference hashtag so others may find tweets relating to the conference and their work quickly. In some cases, it may be sensible to include any panel hashtag as well. When quoting directly, always include the name of the presenter or their Twitter handle.

6. Questions and comments should always relate to the presenter’s research and ideas only – not to their person or their mode of presentation. The strength of our community comes from its diversity.

We archive all tweets using the conference hashtag. We make them available via the Classical Association website.

Although we encourage responsible use of social media at conferences, we recognise that some delegates may prefer not to appear on social media. We respect this choice by enabling delegates to state whether they are willing to appear on social media by colour-coding conference badges.

These guidelines reflect our common understanding and goal of a collaborative, shared environment. We expect them to be followed in spirit as much as in the letter. In the case of inappropriate social media use, please inform a member of the conference team and please do not engage with tweets that may be in breach of these guidelines.

Adapted with kind permission of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing

CA Social Media Policy May 2019