

MPSA CONFERENCE OMBUDS

What is the Conference Ombuds? The MPSA Conference Ombuds serve as **impartial, confidential, and independent** resources, offering **informal** support to all conference participants in addressing a wide range of challenges and concerns that may arise during the event.

What kind of concerns can you bring to the Ombuds?

- **General Guidance:** If you're unsure of how to proceed with a situation or what resources are available, the Ombuds can help clarify your goals and options.
- **Conflict Management:** Assistance with interpersonal conflicts/challenges, whether between individuals or groups at the conference.
- **Conference-related Issues:** Challenges related to the logistics, scheduling, accessibility, or organization of the conference itself, including concerns about sessions, speakers, or conference materials.
- **Discrimination & Harassment:** Concerns regarding unequal treatment or behaviors that make you feel uncomfortable, unsafe, or disrespected at the conference.
- **Ethical Concerns:** Situations involving unethical behavior or perceived violations of MPSA's Code of Conduct.

How can an Ombuds help? Whether you need support in addressing a specific concern, are uncertain about whether to formally report an issue, need assistance navigating the MPSA complaint process, or simply seek an impartial, non-judgmental space to talk through an issue and explore your options, the Ombuds are here to help.

How can I schedule a meeting with an Ombuds? *Sarah Klaper* will be available to meet with attendees on Thursday, April 23rd and Friday, April 24th, from 1:00–5:00 p.m., and Saturday, April 25th from 12:00–4:00 p.m. in Clark 2 on the 7th floor. *Tyler Smith* will be available by virtual appointment (phone or Zoom). You can easily schedule a meeting during the conference with either Sarah or Tyler by using their scheduling links below.

- **Tyler Smith (virtual/phone):** calendly.com/tsmithombuds
- **Sarah Klaper (in-person):** calendly.com/sarah-klaper

Sarah will also be available for walk-in appointments, so long as she does not have another appointment already scheduled.

Questions? Contact us at mpsaombuds2026@gmail.com