

# Dear Participants of 'r-atics8,

With the conference approaching next week, here are a few updates.

## Getting around

### By public transport

First of all, as a reminder, getting around by bus is possible but can be stressful. Don't be surprised if a bus passes you because it is already full. If you plan to use the bus, it's helpful to buy a multi-day or multi-journey ticket right at the airport—either at the booth or one of the ticket machines. Information about ticket types can be found [HERE](#). If you plan to use the bus, it is also useful to install the tallinja

What is useful is the ferry to Valletta, available from both Sliema and Birgu, see [HERE](#) for the schedules. Trips are limited in the evening, since we are still on Winter schedule. (However, you can leave your winter jackets safely at home.)

### By cab

Cab-hailing services are relatively affordable (though not always in the mornings). We recommend downloading the apps for eCabs, Bolt, and Uber to your phone, even if just as a backup.

### By car

Getting around by rental car is not particularly practical for the conference, as parking near the conference site is extremely limited. You will need to park at the paid car park at the entrance to Valletta.

## Welcome Drinks

Thanks to the generosity of the Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences at the University of Malta, we are pleased to offer an informal (very informal!) pre-conference gathering on **Wednesday evening, 19:30–21:00**.

The event will take place in the space next to the Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences at the Msida Campus of the University of Malta (building 22 on this [map](#) If you're using Bolt or another cab service, set the destination to **“Car Park 1, University of Malta.”**).

Please note: this is a completely different location from the main conference venue!

To help us estimate numbers for catering, please let us know if you plan to attend by filling out this [Google form](#).

## Conference Dinner

Just a reminder: the conference dinner is included in your registration. If you would like to purchase an additional ticket for an accompanying person, please let us know by the **end of**

**this week.** To request an additional ticket, please fill out the google form [HERE](#). Additional tickets will be 47e and should be paid in cash at the registration desk.

The conference dinner will be held in Birgu. We will meet at the [three-city ferry](#) in Valletta at 19:00 on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> of May. This is in walking distance from the conference venue. Please note that the distance may look small on the map, but take into account that need to get down to the shoreline. You can consider taking the [Barraka Lift](#).

## Book of Abstracts

We have compiled a [Book of Abstracts](#). Some of these are still the basic versions generated from the Oxford Abstracts site, which are not ideal. If you would like to submit an updated abstract, you're still welcome to do so — the Book of Abstracts can easily be recompiled. In that case, please send me a PDF named “**Abstract\_XX.pdf**”, using your submission number in place of “XX.”

## Talks

Talks can be presented using either your own computer or a Windows computer with PowerPoint that we will provide. If you'd like to use our computer, please bring your presentation on a USB stick (both A and C connectors are fine). We'll ensure that sound playback is available.

Each talk slot is 25 minutes. Please aim to present for 15–20 minutes, allowing 5–10 minutes for discussion.

## Posters

Posters will be displayed on **50-inch screens in landscape format**. Please send me a JPG file named “**poster\_x.jpg**”, using the poster number found [HERE](#). PowerPoint allows you to export slides directly as JPGs. If you've already prepared a PDF based on my earlier email, feel free to send that instead — I can convert it.

**Please send your poster by next Tuesday.**