Suggested roles and responsibilities for GCTS topic leaders
10 Sept 2024

About the GCTS

Welcome topic leaders to the GCTS! On the About page of the website you can read more about the history, background and leadership structure. Most importantly, however, are the following principles: we enjoy collaborating, we collaborate respectfully with others from different cultural and scientific backgrounds around the world, and our collaborations aim to benefit trauma survivors. We welcome colleagues from all over the world, regardless of their religion, minority status, or political stance, and regardless of the political leadership of their country of origin or residence. Please read the aims described below carefully, as these are at the core of the GCTS and the responsibility of topic leaders.

Aims of the GCTS

To identify *topics* of global importance, facilitate development, and coordinate activities that benefit survivors of trauma or stressful events around the world.

To create a *community* of traumatic stress researchers, practitioners, policy makers and trauma survivors and develop collaborations, and ultimately structures, that enable us to optimally support trauma survivors.

We commit to
- *Open Science practices*: share the products we create for free, make the data we collect available, and enhance dissemination of evidence-based interventions.
- Consideration of *demographic diversity* of participants: we encourage consideration of *sex* and, if applicable, *gender* aspects across all projects, as well as representation of participants who differ in socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc.
- *Cross-cultural sensitivity* across all projects, e.g., in study design (including measures), implementation, evaluation, publications.
- Inclusivity across all practices.

Roles & responsibilities

Below please find some information that you may find helpful in assuming and fulfilling your role as a GCTS topic leader. Please consider the below as suggestions.

- As a GCTS topic leader you are overseeing projects related to your specific topic or subject. You are invited to shape the content for **your GCTS page** and regularly provide updates of the content.

- Consider whether **new project** ideas are suitable for your topic. Project criteria include global collaboration (i.e., involvement of several countries, and/or

translations or adaptions for global use). We try to be inclusive and help less established researchers become involved.

New projects may be submitted through the [Register](#) page, or may be actively invited by the leader(s).

You may or may not be involved in the projects yourself.

- Create a **network** of persons who are interested in this specific topic. All project leaders and project members are invited to be part of your topic's network. Anyone who registers on the GCTS website can join.
  The network meets (online) on a regular basis (i.e., once or twice a year). During those meetings, you may jointly develop new project ideas around the topic, work on a position paper, or simply present progress / developments on the topic. These meetings are usually very much appreciated by participants.
  All network members are expected to [register](#) as GCTS or project member.

- Every three months, the **GCTS Newsletter** comes out. Please ask the project leaders if there are any updates both for the webpage and, if interesting enough for a wider audience, for the Newsletter.
  Newsletter content is to be submitted through a form in the email that will be sent out by the Newsletter editor.

- Once a year, you have an **online meeting with the GCTS chairs** to discuss needs/ ideas/progress/cross-topic collaborations, etc..

- Topic leaders are encouraged to maintain communication and coordination with GCTS's partner **traumatic stress societies**, in terms of being responsive to specific needs or wishes or with regard to implementation of outcomes.

- Topic leaders are encouraged to facilitate the engagement of **student members** of GCTS, e.g., through the student representative.

- Topic leaders are invited to join a **GCTS steering committee** meeting to introduce themselves and to get to know the steering committee.

- You are very welcome to **GCTS events,** e.g., as an invited speaker if the program allows.