ResilienceCon Hot Topics Panel Guidelines

ResilienceCon sessions are all designed to be more interactive, impactful, and meaningful than the rather staid sessions at most conferences, which after hundreds of years and major advances in all kinds of communication technology, still usually focus on one-way communication from a "sage on a stage." Our face-to-face time with other professionals is more precious than that and we have developed several alternative session formats to transform the conference experience.

All ResilienceCon panels are interview-based. This is the "secret sauce" of ResilienceCon. They vary in the first segment (see the guidelines for 20X20 and Perspectives presentations to learn more about those formats.).

Opening Segment. The Hot Topics panels begin with each panelist providing a brief introduction and remarks to frame their perspective on the issue that is being discussed. Most often, panelists do not use slides, but sometimes they do discuss the results of a research study or studies, depending on the issue. This section should take no more than 5 to 7 minutes per panelists, and the Session Host will be asked to help speakers stick to this time, because the goal is to use these brief presentations as a foundation for the key segment, the moderated interview.

As you plan your Hot Topics presentation, keep in mind what other panelists will be saying and what the similarities and differences are. The hope is that the panel as a whole will add up to more than the sum of its parts.

As can also be seen in the Guidelines for Moderators, the final 2 segments of a Hot Topics Panel are the Moderated Interview and Audience Q&A.

Moderated interview. The session hosts at ResCon are not just timekeepers but true facilitators. You will have the opportunity to provide suggestions and input on the questions that your host will ask the panelists. It is sort of like being on Oprah and this session does a great job of going deeper into a topic, with behind-the-scenes insights about what it really takes to make a project happen and delving into implications. This segment, more than any other, really helps bring out the passion that all of us have for this important work.

Session hosts, working with session presenters, can choose 3 to 6 questions. You can either have every person answer every question (then will probably only need 3 or 4), or different people can weigh in on different questions, as agreed upon.

Audience Q&A. This is usually transformed by the 2nd segment, so that people continue with the discussion of "big" issues and avoid the minutiae that can sometimes eat up a lot of the Q&A time at traditional conferences.