

Call for Proposals
46TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
October 21-23, 2015
Marriott Hotel, Trumbull, Connecticut

Conference Theme: *“Interdisciplinary Approaches, Collaborating Minds”*

Education today is marked by numerous challenges, as recent years have brought a re-imagining of curriculum and a redefinition of what students should know and be able to do, under the glare of a renewed (and highly concentrated) focus on accountability. For educational researchers, the questions are many but the issues cannot be compartmentalized and considered in isolation. As we, a community of researchers, look to take on these complexities in education through our research activities, it is critical that collaboration be encouraged and facilitated across specialties, institutions, professional status, and roles, to promote the connections and conversations that lead to new knowledge.

As a regional affiliate of the American Educational Research Association, NERA invites proposals for our annual meeting spanning all areas of educational research. We welcome proposals from new and experienced researchers and will consider both completed and in-progress research. Below you will find the general requirements for NERA proposals as well as specific guidelines corresponding to the four session formats. For more information about the conference, including FAQs about NERA proposals, visit NERA at www.nera-education.org.

Submission Requirements

- Complete information for author(s) including affiliation(s)
- Descriptive title (**maximum: 15 words**)
- Three keywords
- Description of paper to appear in conference program (**maximum: 50 words**).
- Proposal, NOT including tables, figures, and references (**maximum: 1000 words**).
 - Proposal should include: study purpose, theoretical framework, methodology, results, conclusions, and educational implications.
 - Warning: Proposals with more than 1000 words will not be accepted.

Submission Format

The proposal submission form will be online and accessible from the NERA website by May 1st, 2015. At the time of submission, authors will be required to select from a list of descriptive keywords to categorize the proposal.

Submission Review Process

- Proposals *must* be submitted electronically by **Friday, June 5th, 2015 (11:59pm EST)**.
- 2 to 3 NERA members will blindly review each proposal.
- Each proposal will be judged according to the following criteria: educational or scholarly significance, perspective or theoretical framework, appropriateness of methodology, clarity of expression, and appeal to NERA membership.
- Proposal decisions will be emailed to first authors in mid-August. Details about session dates and times will follow when the program is finalized.

SESSION-SPECIFIC GUIDELINES – 2015 NERA CONFERENCE

When submitting your proposal, you will be asked to indicate which of the following session formats you prefer for your research. We encourage submitters to select more than one possible option, as selecting multiple options increases your likelihood of acceptance. Regardless of the session you choose, your paper will be subjected to rigorous peer review by NERA volunteers. As each format provides a medium for contributing your research to the field, all session formats are equally important. We hope to maintain a variety of sessions this year to maximize the educational experience for NERA members.

1. *Individual Presentations*

a. *Individual Paper:*

Proposals should describe completed or nearly completed research to be presented in 10-15 minutes. Sessions will be organized so that 3-5 other individual presentations will be grouped according to similar research areas. In most paper sessions, a discussant will be assigned to read the set of papers in advance and present a 10-15 minute synthesis, critique, or analysis of the set of papers to spur discussion.

b. *Data Blitz (NEW!):*

A Data Blitz session is a fast-paced session with short presentations each providing highlights of a study. Presenters will have 5 minutes and a maximum of 4 Power Point slides to describe their study. It's an opportunity for presenters to offer a preview of their research and highlight their findings to a large group. Proposals should follow the same format as an individual paper and describe a research project, either completed or nearly completed.

c. *Roundtable:*

Roundtable sessions allow maximum interaction among presenters and with attendees. There is greater emphasis on discussion between the authors and participants during a roundtable session. Each table will have 3-5 researchers of accepted papers clustered around shared interests. Each session will have a designated chair knowledgeable about the research area, to facilitate interaction and participation, and when appropriate a discussant will be assigned to a roundtable session as well.

d. *Individual Poster:*

Proposals should describe a research project, either completed or nearly completed, that lends itself to a visual display and would benefit from informal individualized discussion and feedback. Similar to the individual paper presentations, each poster will have a discussant. Specific directions for the size of the poster will be posted on the NERA Conference website.

2. *Theme-Based Paper Session/Symposium*

Proposals should describe a set of 3-5 presentations organized around a common theme. The chair and discussant for this session must be identified in the proposal. The format and procedure for these sessions are identical to the *Individual Paper Presentation* sessions.

Link your proposals to the conference theme (NEW!)

This year we would like to encourage individuals submitting proposals to indicate on the proposal form how their research directly touches upon our conference theme of *Interdisciplinary Approaches, Collaborating Minds* for possible inclusion in a spotlight session centered on the theme. Note that this is not a requirement for proposals.

Special call for teacher researchers!

Click the following link for more information about the special call for teacher researchers to attend NERA and present their research: http://www.nera-education.org/award_nominations.php

Call for conference volunteers and reviewers!

We will be sending out a survey asking for NERA members to volunteer as proposal reviewers, session chairs, or discussants. Keep an eye out for the survey!

If you have any questions, please contact the conference chairs at NERAConferenceChairs@gmail.com.

Thank you,
Amanda Clauser, National Board of Medical Examiners
Kimberly Colvin, University at Albany, SUNY
Katrina Crotts Roohr, Educational Testing Service
NERA 2015 Conference Chairs

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