

Call for Proposals

47TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
October 26-28, 2016
Marriott Hotel, Trumbull, Connecticut

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 conference theme, 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.

Conference Theme: *“Making an Impact – Effectively Communicating the Results of Educational Research”*

In some way, shape, or form the purpose of all educational research is to improve education. As defined by AERA, educational research examines “the human attributes, interactions, organizations, and institutions that shape educational outcomes” and “drives the development of new tools and methods.” Regardless of the quality of the research, however, the goal of improving educational policy, practice, and outcomes cannot be achieved without effective communication. Effective communication is a dynamic process that involves the interaction among the researcher, the research, and the intended audience. All too often in educational research, we limit our role as researchers to delivering a message, regardless of whether that message is received, understood, or applied. For the 2016 conference, we encourage NERA members and affiliates to bring greater focus to both the content of our research communications (i.e., how our findings and messages can be made useful for various stakeholders) as well as the methods and avenues by which such messages are shared (i.e., how we disseminate our findings in ways that are accessible, engaging, discursive, and useful for various stakeholders).

Submission Requirements

The proposal submission form will be online and accessible from the NERA website starting on May 2nd, 2016. Submissions must include the following information:

- Complete information for author(s) including affiliation(s)
- Descriptive title (**maximum: 15 words**)
- Three keywords
- Description of research to appear in conference program (**maximum: 50 words**).
- Proposal (**maximum: 1000 words**).
 - Proposal should include: study purpose, theoretical framework, methodology, results, conclusions, and educational implications.
 - *Note:* Refer to the Proposal FAQ for details about organization for proposals that may not lend themselves to each of the sections listed above
 - *Warning:* Proposals with more than 1000 words (NOT including tables, figure, and references) will not be accepted.

Submission Review Process

- Proposals *must* be submitted electronically by **Monday, June 6th, 2016 (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 in mid-August. Details about session dates and times will follow when the program is finalized.

SESSION-SPECIFIC GUIDELINES – 2016 NERA CONFERENCE

When submitting your proposal, you will be asked to indicate which of the following session formats you prefer. We encourage submitters to select more than one possible option, as selecting multiple options increases your likelihood of acceptance. Regardless of the format 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 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. A discussant will be assigned to read the papers in advance and offer a 10-15 minute presentation to spur discussion.

b. *Information Blitz:*

An Information 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. Opportunity for extended discussion will follow the full set of presentations.

c. *Roundtable:*

Roundtable sessions allow maximum interaction, with an emphasis on discussion between the authors and participants during. Each table will have 3-5 researchers of accepted papers clustered around shared interests, as well as a designated moderator to facilitate interaction and participation.

d. *Poster Forum (NEW!):*

For 2016 we are combining features of the traditional poster session with last year's successful new blitz format. Presenters should prepare traditional posters with detailed information about their study and results, and also 4 PowerPoint slides (maximum) which will be shared electronically prior to the poster session to give attendees a short preview/overview of each study.

2. *Theme-Based Paper Session/Symposium*

These sessions contain a set of 3-5 presentations organized around a common theme. Themes may range from a quantitative method to a broad policy topic, and should connect all papers in the session. In addition to submitting individual paper proposals for each presentation, the organizer must also provide a rationale for the relevance and importance of the theme itself. The chair and discussant for this session must be identified in the proposal submission.

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!

Keep an eye out for an e-mail seeking volunteer as proposal reviewers, session chairs, or discussants.

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

Thank you,

Molly Faulkner-Bond, UMass Amherst

Joshua Marland, Highlander Institute

Scott Monroe, UMass Amherst

NERA 2016 Conference Chairs

Follow us on Twitter! @NERAconference

“Like” NERA on Facebook! NERA—Northeastern Educational Research Association

Network with NERA members using our LinkedIn group page!