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

2016 Conference Theme: *"Making an Impact – Effectively Communicating the Results of Educational Research"*

Does my research project have to be complete to be accepted to NERA?
Not necessarily. In progress or nearly completed research will be considered for the conference, but the research should show potential of being ready for presentation by the date of the conference. We strongly encourage individuals to submit their in-progress work as roundtable presentations. This format facilitates greater discussion between participants and the audience, allowing you to receive input and feedback that could inform your research or help to overcome potential hurdles.

How are the proposal descriptive keywords used?
These terms are used in several ways. Specifically, they will be used to match the proposals to the appropriate reviewers, to place the proposal in the best-fitting session, and to assign an appropriate discussant to the session. Please select the descriptor that is the best match to your proposal as your first-choice and two additional descriptors as next-best options.

What is the review process like?
Reviewers are NERA member volunteers, who have self-identified as being willing to review proposals in the same topic area as the proposal keyword. The conference chairs makes final decisions, based on both the reviews and availability in the conference program.

When will my research paper need to be ready?
Discussants must be able to review research papers prior to the session in order to properly prepare for discussion. You will be asked to email your research paper to the discussant by October 1st.

Will a projector and laptop be available in my session?
Institutional sponsors will be supplying LCD projectors for each session. Arrangements only need to be made to have a laptop present at the session. The chair of the session will arrange the laptop and file transfers to the laptop by email before the session. Presenters are expected to cooperate with chair requests.

What if I am accepted to NERA but I am unable to attend NERA when the time comes?
Submitting to NERA is a sign that you intend to attend the conference if accepted. If something prevents you from being able to attend, and co-authors or colleagues cannot present in your place, you must withdraw your presentation *before* the session by emailing NERAConferenceChairs@gmail.com.

What size should my poster be?
Easels with foam display boards will be available for poster presentations. Poster size should be no larger than 36" x 48". The display should be easily read and clear from a distance of at least 3 feet from the board. The title, author, and affiliation should be at least 36 point font. The rest of your lettering should be at **least 28 point font**. Be sure to include diagrams, figures, photos, bulleted text, or other visuals that describe your research. More information regarding posters will be posted on the NERA website.

Presenters should also prepare four PowerPoint slides (maximum) which will be shared electronically prior to the poster session to give attendees a short preview/overview of each study.

You have several session options for submitting proposals. Are any considered more rigorous than others?
No. All formats are peer-reviewed methods for disseminating your research. The rigor of the peer review process is the same for **all** proposals submitted to the conference. Peer review allows NERA to maintain an appropriate level quality for the experience of those presenting their research, as well as those receiving the research.

What is an Information Blitz session?
Information Blitzes have become a popular format to allow a large group of researchers to present the highlights of their research in one session, while the audience has the opportunity to hear many diverse research topics. There could be as many as 15 presenters in one Information Blitz, where each presenter has 5 minutes and a maximum of 4 PowerPoint slides to provide an overview of their research.

All presenters must send their slides to the organizer of the session ahead of time so that no time is wasted between presenters. Each presenter will make a brief presentation, moving quickly from one presentation to the next. When all presentations are completed, audience members will be able to engage in extended discussions with individual presenters. We expect this to be a fun and informative session for the presenters and their colleagues in the audience!

What are the submission parameters for theme-based paper sessions/symposia?
Those presenting theme-based paper sessions or symposia are only required to submit one proposal for all papers in the session, with a maximum of 1,000 words. The submission should include a description of how the papers are related to each other, as well as a short description of each of the papers that are included in the session. Lastly, during submission, proposers can indicate that they are submitting a theme-based paper session/symposia.

What is the role of the Chair?
The role of the chair is to facilitate the organization of the presentation session. Duties may include collecting the papers, communicating with authors, managing audio/visual equipment, and ensuring the timeliness of the session. In some cases, the chair would assist in facilitating discussion among the audience members and authors.

What is the role of the Discussant?
Discussants are responsible for drawing from their expertise to comment on papers and presentations. The goal is to provide professional and constructive criticism and raise issues for broader consideration that connect to these works.

How do round table sessions work?
Roundtable sessions offer the most opportunity for interactions among presenters and participants. Three to five researchers with similar interests are assigned to a table, along with a moderator with some expertise in the topic area. Individual researchers do not make a formal presentation as in a paper session,

but may provide a brief overview of their work and specific issues that they would like to discuss. The majority of the time during a roundtable session should be devoted to discussion among the assigned researchers and other participants.

What are the conference registration fees?
Registration fees will be posted on the NERA website later this spring. For planning purposes, we anticipate that the conference registration fees will be Professionals: $150-$160; Retirees: $50; Students: $50. Late fees will be instituted after October 1. In a shift from previous years, 2016 registration fees include all meals during the conference. All registrants must also be NERA members. Information about membership and dues can be found on the NERA website (www.nera-education.org).

Are my registration fees adjusted if I just come for one day or part of a day?
NERA makes a great effort to keep registration fees as low as possible for all attendees; therefore, it is not possible to provide adjusted registration fees for partial attendance.

What is the room rate at the Conference Hotel?
The Conference will be held in the Marriott in Trumbull, CT. Room rates for the 2016 conference are $137 per room per night (not per person). Note that meal costs are no longer incorporated into the hotel room rate.

How will I submit my NERA proposal?
An online submission system to submit proposals will open on May 2, 2016.

You may contact the conference co-chairs with further questions at NERAConferenceChairs@gmail.com.

Thank you,
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NERA 2016 Conference Chairs

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