NERA
NORTHEASTERN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

Call for Proposals
48TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
October 18-20, 2017
Trumbull Marriott Merritt Parkway, 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: *"Using Technology to Advance Education: Challenges and Opportunities"*

The rapid expansion and accessibility of innovative technology has altered the way we conduct standard activities and interact with the world around us. For example, some of you may be reading this on your smart phone or tablet, a feat scarcely imaginable two decades ago. Education, as we have seen, has also not been immune to the influence of technology. Perhaps the most noticeable example is how the internet has transformed the accessibility and dissemination of knowledge. In the classroom, tablets have begun to replace textbooks; smartboards have challenged the traditional whiteboard; and social media has been utilized to expand communication beyond classroom walls. Educational assessments have also evolved with those technological developments. Computer and web-based testing have largely supplanted paper and pencil exams. The wide ranging impacts of technology have provided educational researchers and professionals a plethora of new opportunities and challenges. However, the speeds at which these developments have evolved make it difficult for the research to keep up. For the 2017 conference, we encourage NERA members and affiliates to be innovative and bring greater focus to how technology is evolving education and the challenges experienced during this process. **Although we encourage session proposals related to the conference theme, this is not a requirement for submissions.**

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.
    - *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 will not be accepted.

Submission Format
The proposal submission form will be online and accessible from the NERA website by May 1st, 2017. 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 2nd, 2017 (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 – 2017 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. *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.

   c. *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!*)
We would like to encourage individuals submitting proposals to indicate on the proposal form how their research directly touches upon our conference theme of *Using Technology to Advance Education: Challenges and Opportunities* 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,
Whitney Smiley, American Board of Internal Medicine
Daniel Jurich, National Board of Medical Examiners
Jason Kopp, American Board of Surgery
NERA 2017 Conference Chairs

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