



**Call for Proposals 56th Annual Conference October 22-24, 2025
Trumbull Marriott Shelton, 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, and 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.

Theme: Illuminating the Margins: Education for Every Mind

Rather than focusing solely on impairments or deficits, we recognize that disability is shaped by social structures. The barriers are not within individuals but in systems that fail to accommodate diversity. Using this lens, we can see those who are typically marginalized as providing unique gifts to be celebrated rather than limitations to be accommodated. We must be cognizant of how social norms dictate what is typical and what is not. Instead of viewing our job as providing accommodations to those that are atypical, we instead can focus on removing socially-constructed barriers and creating a reality that is more universally accessible regardless of our particular unique qualities.

During this conference we look to explore questions such as:

- Who is served (and ignored) by the field of educational research?
- How can we move from a deficit-focused view of disabilities to a view of maximizing unique strengths and abilities?
- How can accommodations be mitigated by practices of universal design?
- How can we rethink our methods to allow for diverse perspectives in performance and achievement? Can we broaden our definitions and change our criteria?
- How can we shift the focus? Instead of solely teaching individuals with differences to adapt to the mainstream, how can we empower "typical" students to understand, appreciate, and engage with diverse ways of thinking, learning, and experiencing the world?

We encourage proposals that go beyond the status quo, and look instead at how we move things forward. How can we broaden and reconceptualize what we do to accommodate different perspectives, different ways of performing, and different ways of expressing who we are? How can AI help in this quest to add new innovation to how we view education and assessment? Although we encourage proposals related to the conference theme, this is not a requirement for submission. In-progress research proposals are welcomed, including research resulting from internships.

The 2025 content strands for submission are:

1. Celebrating Diverse Strengths
2. Educational Research Methods
3. Educational Systems and Policies
4. Higher Education Research and Practice
5. Measurement and Psychometrics
6. PK-12 Education Research and Practice
7. Applications of AI
8. Miscellaneous

Submission Requirements

- Complete information for author(s) including affiliation(s). This information is required in the submission system, but should NOT appear in the proposal document itself as all proposals undergo blind peer review.
- Descriptive title (maximum: 15 words)
- Selection of up to three content strands
- Description of paper to appear in conference program (maximum: 50 words)
- Proposal, NOT including tables, figures, and references (maximum: 1,000 words)
- Your proposal should include study purpose, theoretical framework, methodology, research questions, results, conclusions, and educational implications. Please note consideration will be given for in-progress research not containing all of these elements.
- You will be asked to indicate if your proposal reflects in-progress research. Warning: Proposals with more than 1,000 words will not be accepted.

Submission Review Process

- Proposals must be submitted electronically by **Friday, June 13, 2025 at 11:59 pm EDT**.
- 2 to 3 NERA volunteers will conduct blind reviews of 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 early August.

Details about session dates and times will follow after the program has been finalized.

Session-Specific Guidelines

When submitting your proposal, you will be asked to indicate which of the following session formats you prefer for your research. We encourage everyone 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 go through 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 conference attendees.

1. Individual Presentations

- a. Individual Paper: Proposals should describe completed or nearly completed research to be presented in approximately 10-15 minutes. Sessions will be organized so that 3-5 individual presentations will be grouped according to similar research areas with prescribed time limits for presentations. In most paper sessions, a discussant will be assigned to read the set of papers in advance and lead a discussion of the set of papers.
- b. Roundtable: Roundtable sessions allow maximum interaction among presenters and attendees, emphasizing discussion of completed or in-progress research. Each table will have 3-5 researchers with accepted papers organized around shared interests. In addition, each session will have a designated chair knowledgeable in the research area to facilitate interaction and participation.
- c. Individual Poster: 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. Posters brought to the conference should be no larger than 36 x 48 inches.

2. Theme-Based Paper Session/Symposium

- a. Proposals for this format should describe a set of 3-5 presentations organized around a common theme. The proposal should include a description of how the presentations are related to each other, as well as a short description of each of the presentations that are included in the session. The chair and discussant for this session format must be identified in the proposal system (not in the proposal document itself). The format and procedure for these sessions are identical to the Individual Paper Presentation sessions.

The chairs are particularly interested in organizing coordinated sessions around the following topics. Submissions for these areas are highly encouraged, and a slot in the program will be reserved:

Translanguaging in Education and Assessment
Quantitative critical theory
Ethical use of AI in Evaluation and Assessment
Supporting Equity and Inclusion in the Classroom

Proposal Submission System The proposal submission system is available on the NERA website and through this link: [NERA 2025 Proposal System](#)

Call for conference volunteers and reviewers! NERA is a volunteer-based organization. We need your help to ensure a high-quality conference in October. Volunteer to be a proposal reviewer through this [link](#)!

Volunteer to be a session chair or discussant through this [link](#)!

If you have any questions, please contact the conference co-chairs at NERA.CoChairs@gmail.com.

Thank you,

Lisa Keller
NERA President

Eduardo Crespo-Cruz, Hongyu Diao, Nate Smith, and Dongwei Wang
NERA 2025 Conference Co-Chairs