



The NERA Researcher

The President's Message



Rochelle Michel

One of the benefits of belonging to an organization like NERA is that our involvement can help to foster our life-long learning, but what does it really mean to be a life-long learner? Part of it is about being open to learning new things, but the other part is seeking out opportunities to increase one's knowledge. This summer I spent some time reflecting on NERA's 50th anniversary Annual Conference theme, *Transformation by Design* and challenged myself to find new ways to help with my transformation and growth as an educational researcher and professional within the assessment field. This summer I discovered and listened to some new podcasts (e.g., The EdTech Podcast, Chasing Excellence), read some new books (e.g., *Jobs to Be Done: A Roadmap for Customer-Centered Innovation*), as well as returned to books that I have read

in the past (e.g., *Getting Things Done*). In this day of open educational resources, there are many resources at our fingertips to continue our learning beyond our formal schooling. Whether you are currently a graduate student still engaging in coursework or a long-standing professional in the field with decades of experience, we should all be thinking about our individual transformations, as well as the transformations taking place within our respective fields and ask ourselves, what are we doing to contribute? It is not easy. In addition, transformation can be uncomfortable, but there is nothing comfortable about growth, development, and transformative change. So, let's get uncomfortable!

This year's conference co-chairs, Alejandra Garcia, Paola Heincke, and Bridget Thomas have spent the past year planning an awesome conference to commemorate the 50th anniversary Annual Conference. They will provide conference highlights later in the newsletter, so I don't want to steal their thunder. However, I want to let you know that *Unconference* is coming to NERA! Some of you may have had an opportunity to attend an unconference or an unconference session at a more structured conference. This year, we have set aside time for unconference sessions. For those of you who have never heard of or attended an unconference, an unconference is participant-driven (as opposed to driven by the meeting organizer). Typically, at an unconference, the attendees at the beginning of the meeting create the agenda for the session. Anyone who wants to initiate a discussion on a topic can claim a time and space. When you pick up your registration materials, you will have the opportunity to suggest a topic for the unconference session or endorse the convening of an already proposed topic. By coming together to

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The NERA Researcher

The *NERA Researcher* is the official newsletter for members of the Northeastern Educational Research Association.

Message from the Editors

Hello NERA Members,

It's hard to believe another summer has come and gone. Fall means cooler weather, falling leaves, pumpkins (and pumpkin-flavored everything), Halloween, and, of course the annual NERA Conference. This year marks a banner year for NERA – the 50th Anniversary Conference!

In this issue you will find important information about the 2019 conference, including registration and hotel information as well as some highlights about the planned sessions and speakers. You will also find the Call for the Woollatt Best Paper Award, and updates from the GSIC, nominations, membership, and infrastructure committees.

We would also like to give a special welcome to Kate Nolan from Curriculum Associates who will be joining the *NERA Researcher* in the role of production editor. A special thank you to Barbara Helms and Bo Bashkov for their assistance in editing this issue of the *NERA Researcher*.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Trumbull!

Katrina Roohr & Kate Nolan
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April Zenisky

University of Massachusetts Amherst

discuss a topic of interest, it can lead to collaborations on future projects. It also allows for discussion of topics that may not be represented in the formal program. After looking through the conference program (which will be released in September), think about whether there are any topics which you would like to discuss and bring your ideas with you to the conference. I am looking forward to these sessions and the ensuing discussions.

Whenever I attend a conference, I always wonder why the particular invited speakers were selected. In that spirit, I wanted to share my “why.” Each of the invited speakers for this year’s annual conference is a person whom I have personally found to be transformative in their respective fields, while also reflecting the backgrounds and interests of the NERA membership and the broader fields of educational research and measurement.

Each of our three keynote speakers has been leading transformation within their respective areas of specialization. On Wednesday, October 16th, Dr. Monika Williams Shealey will talk about the transformational work that she has done at Rowan University. I met Dr. Shealey when we were on the faculty in the College of Education at Florida International University. At that time, Dr. Shealey spoke about her goals to become the dean of a college of education and be a champion for change. Dr. Shealey’s accomplishments include establishing the Center for Access, Success, and Equity (CASE) in the College of Education at Rowan and founding Project IMPACT (Increasing Male Practitioners and Classroom Teachers), a program that aims to increase the representation of males from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds in the field of education. Dr. Shealey now leads Rowan’s newly created Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion that brings together departments and programs to develop initiatives designed to address issues of access, equity, and inclusion across all of the University’s campuses. This transformational work will only happen with a clear design and plan in place. I am looking forward to hearing all about it!

On Thursday, October 17th, we will have the pleasure of hearing from Dr. Alina von Davier, who is the Senior Vice President of ACTNext, which is an innovative multidisciplinary unit within ACT. She has brought together team members with diverse educational backgrounds and is applying a variety of theoretical and data-driven computational methods and statistical modeling of multimodal, large-scale assessment data. This has allowed her and her colleagues to not only develop innovative solutions to challenging problems, but to change the very ways in which we traditionally think of assessment. Creating a new area within the psychometrics field and bringing together researchers with broad backgrounds ranging from psychometrics, learning sciences, software development, artificial intelligence, and machine learning, takes a transformational vision for the field of educational measurement and assessment. When Alina was at the Educational Testing Service (ETS), I had an opportunity to work with her and see the beginning of her work within Computational Psychometrics. Dr. von Davier’s Center for Computation Psychometrics at ETS was a way of acknowledging that in order for the field of psychometrics to move forward, we needed some new and innovative thinking. In the spirit of collaborative problem solving, Dr. von Davier understood the importance of bringing new backgrounds and experiences to the table to engage in how to take advantage of the new types of assessment data available to the field. All of this was done from a position firmly grounded in the learning sciences. I also saw the way in which Dr. von Davier supported and advocated for her team in their projects, assisted them in getting funding to support their work, and collaborated with them on research projects. Again, these things do not happen on their own, and it is with transformational leaders like Dr. von Davier that these things are actualized. Part of this transformation is getting others to buy into the vision and give their support, which is not easy. I can’t wait to hear more about Dr. von Davier’s journey as she continues to be such a transformational leader within the field of psychometrics.

On Friday, our third keynote speaker will be Dr. Ezekiel Dixon-Román, associate professor of Social Policy & Practice at the University of Pennsylvania. Although

Member News

Dr. Cheryl C. Durwin co-authored the fourth edition of *EdPsych Modules* with Marla Reese-Weber. The book will be released in January 2020:

- Durwin, C. C., & Reese-Weber, M. (2021). *EdPsych Modules* (4th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.

Dr. Rebecca S. Natow co-authored two publications:

1. Natow, R. S., Reddy, V., & Grant, M. (2019). *Technology use in developmental education: Experiences, challenges, and rationales*. *Community College Journal of Research & Practice*. doi: 10.1080/10668926.2019.1642263
2. Natow, R. S., & Dougherty, K. J. (2019). *Performance funding as neoliberal policy*. *International Higher Education*, 98, 7-8. Retrieved from <https://ejournals.bc.edu/index.php/ihe/article/view/11181>

Dr. Mariola Moeyaert, Assistant Professor of Statistics at the University at Albany, received an Early Career Award from the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), part of the U.S. Department of Education.

- The Early Career Awards in Statistical and Research Methodology in Education are highly competitive, with only nine prior projects being funded since 2014. The project is titled, *Assessing Generalizability and Variability of Single-Case Design Effect Sizes using Multilevel Modeling Including Moderators*.
- The project will uncover innovative methods that can be used to quantitatively summarize small-N studies such as single-case experimental design (SCED) studies. The IES early career award will contribute significantly to evidence-based research, theory, and practice by accumulating this scientific knowledge using multilevel meta-analytic modeling.

Please consider submitting your professional accomplishments to The NERA Researcher for recognition! Submissions may be sent to theneraresearcher@nera-education.org.

Continued on next page

trained in the social sciences and psychometrics, Dr. Dixon-Román's program of research is on the cultural studies of quantification, education, and critical theories of difference. Combining theory with methodology, Dr. Dixon-Román asks us to push the envelope and question some of the foundational principles within the field of psychometrics; for example, notions of validity. Dr. Dixon-Román and I were in the same cohort in the psychometrics program at Fordham University. I have had an opportunity to witness his questioning of the status quo within our field and looking for ways in which he could move the field forward in our thinking about psychometrics, assessment, and the impact of how assessment-related decisions affect various populations of students who have been traditionally underrepresented and have different lived experiences. I invite us all to embrace this challenge as Dr. Dixon-Román shares some of his thinking on what kind of transformational changes are needed within the field of psychometrics to help us advance the field, and make sure that we are appropriately serving and providing opportunities to all learners.

We also have an exciting invited panel who will speak about their experiences as it relates to the conference theme. The invited panel includes Alina von Davier, Senior Vice President of ACTNext, Kristen Huff, Vice President of Assessment and Research at Curriculum Associates, and Rebecca Zwick, Distinguished Presidential Appointee in the Psychometrics, Statistics, and Data Sciences area at ETS and Professor Emerita at the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education at UC Santa Barbara. The panel will be moderated by Dr. Ellen Forte, CEO & Chief Scientist of edCount, LLC. They are each amazing in their own right, but you will have to come to the conference to hear more about them and all of the other engaging sessions that we have planned for this year's conference.

When these amazing individuals agreed to be invited speakers at this year's conference, I literally did a dance around my home, from room to room, hands in the air, shouting: Yes! Yes! I may have even shed a few tears of joy (you get the visual, I'm sure). I am looking forward to sharing the excitement that I felt with all of you at this year's 50th Annual Conference! See you in Trumbull, CT, October 16-18th!

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Our 50-Year Anniversary!

50th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

October 16-18, 2019

Trumbull Marriott Shelton, Trumbull, Connecticut

Fifty years of meeting and so much has changed as NERA has grown and matured; however, the core remains the same – educational research and measurement professionals, students, and enthusiasts meet to share their work and their knowledge. This year's conference theme, "Transformation by Design," aims at maintaining the core values of NERA, while strengthening it through a thought-out plan.

Given the positive feedback, we will continue the membership-driven conference workshops begun last year. We had more workshop proposals this year than in the past three years. As such, we will have five pre-conference workshops beginning Wednesday morning, and additional in-conference workshop options on Thursday and Friday. These workshops were all chosen by the members that elected to voice their preferences through voting — transforming [you] by [your own] design! Thank you for being an active part of growing and supporting NERA!

You asked for a PDF program option, and we will have one. The preliminary program will be available in September, and the finalized program will be available the first week of October. You already know there will be great roundtable discussions, paper, and poster presentations; until the program comes out, here are some highlights from this year's conference:

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

Pre-Conference Workshops:

- Using R to Automatically Generate Reports and Presentations with Office
- Using Stan for Bayesian Estimation of Item Response Theory Models
- Supporting Social Justice in STEM for Culturally-Diverse Learners
- An Introduction to Multilevel Structural Equation Modeling with R
- Pursue Smarter Pathways to Success: Transform Education through Predictive Analytics

Opening Dinner: Keynote speaker, Dr. Monika Williams Shealey, Senior Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Rowan University

The 3MT Competition! New this year, Bridget Thomas has been hard at work to bring the 3MT (Three-Minute Thesis) competition to NERA at our president's request. Many of you have been following the webinars and will be ready to compete either in the student or professional category. During the 3MT competition, conference participants will have three minutes to efficiently explain the breadth and significance of their research in a presentation aimed at a non-technical audience. Winners in each category will receive prizes!

Continued on next page

Thursday, October 17, 2019

In-Conference Workshops on various educational topics

Lunch: Keynote speaker, Dr. Alina von Davier, Senior Vice President of ACTNext

Panel: In addition to the speakers, we will have a panel discussion featuring Kristen Huff — Vice President of Assessment and Research at Curriculum Associates, Alina von Davier – Senior Vice President at ACTNext, and Rebecca Zwick – Distinguished Presidential Appointee at ETS. The panel will be moderated by Ellen Forte – CEO and Chief Scientist of edCount LLC and will focus on the experiences these thoughtful leaders have had transforming themselves, their organizations, and the education field.

Presidential Address: Dr. Rochelle S. Michel, Executive Director of Admission Programs at the Educational Records Bureau

President's Reception: A 1969 theme to commemorate our first conference – and, of course, a photo booth

Friday, October 18, 2019

More In-Conference Workshops!

Lunch: Keynote speaker, Dr. Ezekiel Dixon-Román, Director of the Social Policy Program and Chair of the Data Analytics for Social Policy Certificate Program (as well as professor) at the University of Pennsylvania

We look forward to seeing you in October as we celebrate this year's theme: *Transformation by Design*

There are still sponsorship opportunities available. To obtain a sponsor prospectus, please contact NERA co-chair Paola Heincke at pheincke@ets.org.

Alejandra Garcia
University of Massachusetts Amherst

Bridget Thomas
Quality Information Partners (QiP)

Paola Heincke
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Information about the 50th Annual Conference and Hotel Registration

Becoming a Member or Renewing Your NERA Membership

All attendees of the 2019 NERA Conference must be current NERA Members. **If you have not already done so, you must either join NERA or renew your membership before you can register for the conference.** To become a member or renew your membership, please go to the NERA website <http://www.nera-education.org/>. If you need to renew your membership, you may also use the link provided in the renewal invoice distributed several months ago.

Registering for the 2019 Conference

Once you have become a new member or renewed your membership, you can register for the event.

Click to [register for the 50th Annual NERA Conference](#)

Or type: https://www.viethconsulting.com/members/evr/reg_event.php?orgcode=NERA&evid=21774497

FYI, **conference registration covers your meals.** Because all meals are included in registration fees, we need accurate estimates of how many people will attend each meal at the hotel. So, during the registration process, you will be asked which meals you plan to attend at this time.

Similarly, we need estimates of how many people will attend the pre-conference workshops. During registration, you will be asked which workshops you plan to attend.

All online conference registration fees are processed through PayPal; however, you do not have to have a PayPal account to make a payment. You may pay by credit card on the secure PayPal site.

Please note that to receive the regular registration rate, **you must register for the conference by October 1st!** After this date, a late fee will be added to the regular rates. The following are the registration fees for this year: **2019 Conference Registration Fees – On or Before October 1st (after October 1st):**

Professional Member - \$185.00 (\$225.00)

Full-time Student - \$60.00 (\$100.00)

Retired Member - \$120.00 (\$120.00)



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Registering for the Trumbull Marriott

Book your hotel by **September 30th**, to ensure that you get the discounted rate of \$152 per night (\$152 + 15% tax = \$174.80 hotel per night).

Click to [Book your group rate for NERA 50th Annual Conference](#).

Or use the link:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1568153354837&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

It is a NERA-specific link that will ensure you get the discounted rate. You may also call the hotel at 1.800.682.4095 and tell them you are attending the NERA conference.

Alejandra Garcia
University of Massachusetts Amherst

Bridget Thomas
Quality Information Partners (QiP)

Paola Heincke
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Woollatt Distinguished Paper Award: Call for Best Paper Award Submissions

If you are presenting at the upcoming NERA conference, consider submitting your paper to be considered for NERA's "Best Paper" award – the Lorne H. Woollatt Award. This award is named in honor of Lorne H. Woollatt, a distinguished New York state educator who published *The Evolution of State-Local Governmental Relationships* in New York State in 1948 and was an active member of NERA.

Taking a moment to submit your paper if it is eligible could be well worth it. The first author of the award-winning paper receives a \$500 stipend to travel to AERA and present their work at the American Educational Research Association conference in San Francisco (April 17-21, 2019) during one of the Distinguished Paper sessions of the Consortium of State and Regional Educational Research Associations.

The recipient of the award is chosen by a committee of NERA members who review the papers that were entered into the competition. Each submitted paper is scored by award committee members on the importance of the topic and need for the study, the quality of the research design, data analysis, results reporting, and conclusions and the contribution the research findings make to the knowledge-base of the field. To be considered for the award, a paper must meet the eligibility criteria of being a 15-20 page, APA-style manuscript of educational research that was presented at the 2019 NERA conference.

The Lorne H. Woollatt Distinguished Paper Award Committee invites presenters at the 2019 NERA conference to enter their research papers into the competition by sending an email to Abby Cahill at lau.abigail@gmail.com no later than **November 15, 2019**. In the email, please indicate the 2019 NERA conference session in which the paper was presented and attach two copies of the paper as follows: one copy should include the names, affiliations, and email addresses of each author on the title page, and one copy should not include any author information on the title page.

At the upcoming NERA conference award ceremony, the committee looks forward to recognizing the 2018 winner, Katie Filling from Baltimore County Public Schools. Her paper entitled, *Ensuring Equity: Local School System's Policies and Practices Related to Supporting Homeless Students and Families*, was co-authored by Maria Finger-Elam, also of Baltimore County Public Schools.

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Updates from the NERA Board of Directors Meeting January 2019

The topics below were discussed at the January 2019 NERA Board of Directors meeting. The official meeting minutes will be reviewed by the Board of Directors at the upcoming October meeting. Upon approval, a more detailed summary of the meeting minutes will be shared via *The NERA Researcher*.

Review/Approve October 2018 Board Meeting Minutes

- The Board approved the minutes from the October meeting.

Treasurer's Report on 2018 Budget and 2019 Proposed Budget

- 2018 financials were presented including, but not limited to, the conference income, sponsorship income, conference budget and operations budget.
- 2019 financials were also presented.

Financial Goals for NERA

- Initial discussions were held regarding whether there is a need to develop a financial plan for NERA reserves.

Infrastructure Committee Report

- The Board reviewed a proposal to expand the roles of committee members. Additional conversations will be held during the spring/summer Board meeting.
- Issues/Improvements on Vieth platform were presented.

2018 Conference Debrief

- Conference registration, budget/attendance were presented.

2018 Conference Survey Results

- Results of the post-conference survey were presented, highlighting the most positive and negative comments from respondents.

2019 Conference Preview

- President Rochelle Michelle discussed the roles of the conference chairs and the additional Committee support members.
- Plans for conference webinars were shared.
- Proposed 2019 conference budget was shared.

State and Regional Educational Research Association (SRERA) at AERA Meeting

- Discussions on NERA representation at SRERA were held.

Membership Committee Report

- The membership committee report was presented and discussions were held around suggestions for a new Chair Mentoring Committee Report
- Ambassador committee roles were also discussed.

Continued on next page

Mentoring Committee Report

- The mentoring committee report was presented, mostly focusing on making the committee more active throughout the year and increasing involvement from NERA members.

GSIC Committee Report

- The GSIC committee report was presented focusing on the need to recruit additional members and increase interest in conducting outreach efforts at local institutions.

Communications Committee Report

- This is a year of transition for the committee. Some members are transitioning off while others are joining.

Awards Committees Reports

- Updates were presented on the Doherty, Woollatt, and Donlon Committees.

Nominations Committee

- Nominations are needed for a couple of committees, and for the Board of Directors, as one of them will be rotating off.

NERA Proceedings

- Submissions have been low, efforts are needed to increase submissions.

The NERA Researcher

- Article submission deadlines were presented.

New Business/Meeting Summary and To Dos/Next Meeting Date

- President Rochelle Michel summarized action items and topics of discussion for the next Board meeting. She will be setting up the next Board meeting for late spring/early summer.



Update from the Nominations Committee – NERA Elections

Dear NERA Colleagues,

On behalf of the Nominations Committee, I am excited to announce that we have an exceptional slate of candidates who are running for the following elected positions.

For President:

- Steven Holtzman, *Educational Testing Service*
Andrew Jones, *American Board of Surgery*

For Board of Directors:

- Francis O'Donnell, *University of Massachusetts Amherst*
- Jason Kopp, *American Board of Surgery*
- Johan van der Jagt, *Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania*
Marcia Delcourt, *Western Connecticut State University*

In early September, each member received an e-mail with voting instructions. If you have any questions about the election, please contact me at jrussell@ets.org. Voting will close on **October 8th**.

Javarro Russell
Chair, Nominations Committee



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540.568.7878



Membership Committee Update Madison Holzman, *Curriculum Associates*

As summer draws to a close, NERA planning is in full swing! In planning for NERA 2019, the Membership Committee is partnering with the Conference Ambassadors. The Ambassadors are a group dedicated to ensuring a productive and enjoyable conference for attendees. In particular, Ambassadors plan conference events that primarily help new NERA members navigate the conference. The Membership Committee is partnering with the Ambassadors to coordinate events for new conference attendees, as well as brainstorm additional ways to involve new members at NERA.

Additionally, the Membership Committee continues to think about strategies for recruiting and retaining NERA members. By NERA 2019, the committee hopes to have a strategic plan in place to guide NERA membership in the coming years.

As always, we are here to serve you! If you have questions, concerns, or ideas regarding NERA membership, we want to hear from you!

Best,
Madison Holzman
Chair, Membership Committee



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Infrastructure Committee Report

Jonathan Steinberg, *Educational Testing Service*

Hello NERA Members! As summer turns to autumn, the Infrastructure Committee has been working on multiple fronts to prepare for the upcoming Annual Conference while also planning for expanding procedures in utilizing our technological resources. I want to highlight the efforts of some of our newer committee members in helping with these activities.

First, a sincere thanks to Paulius Satkus of James Madison University for working with the past chair and current board liaison, Jason Kopp, and one of this year's conference co-chairs, Alejandra Garcia, to make updates to the R code allowing this year's incoming conference proposals to be routed to the correct prospective reviewers.

Second, we have developed plans to significantly expand our internal user guide for working with the Vieth system to go beyond just aspects related to the Annual Conference and cover elements related to conference registration, management related to functions involving the Treasurer, and overall NERA website management, among other areas. Daigo Blanco Murakoshi of James Madison University will be leading this process, which will be highly collaborative involving many of our other committee members. We hope to roll this revised guide out later this year.

Finally, we have been making plans to revisit our internal file infrastructure procedures for those NERA committee chairs, conference co-chairs, and officers who use the Box platform and develop a backup system to maintain redundancy. Thanks to Beth Perkins of James Madison University for reviewing our current structure and making recommendations for improvements. We hope to implement some of these changes later this year.

As always, if our committee can ever be of service to you in your NERA work, please feel free to reach out. I look forward to seeing many of you in Trumbull at the conference in October.

Jonathan Steinberg
Chair, Infrastructure Committee

Communications Committee Update

Bo Bashkov, *American Board of Internal Medicine*

Dear NERA Members,

Fall is practically here, and that means NERA is just around the corner. I hope everyone is as excited as I am for this special 50th Anniversary Conference. That said, leading up to the conference, a lot of work needs to get done by our awesome volunteers, which means a lot of communication. My team has done a fantastic job over the past year, but some of them are rotating off soon. This brings me to the only item I would like to address in this update: WE NEED YOUR HELP!



OPEN POSITIONS:

The Communications Committee has **two regular member positions** and **one Social Media Coordinator position** open. If you feel passionate about serving on the Communications Committee in any of these roles, please reach out to me at bo.bashkov@gmail.com. I am happy to answer any questions.

Communication Request Procedures

As a reminder, all official NERA business that needs to be disseminated to the membership needs to follow NERA's Communication Committee guidelines as documented in the [NERA Handbook](#). That is, a [Communications Request Form](#) must be submitted to bo.bashkov@gmail.com at least a few days before the requestor's target date for dissemination to ensure sufficient time for the request to be reviewed/approved and information to be sent out to members or posted on social media. We hope all members, including NERA leadership, will follow these procedures.

Best,
Bo Bashkov
Chair, Communications Committee

The Graduate Corner

Henry “Hank” Johnson, *New England Institute of Technology*

Our Mission: The mission of the Graduate Student Issues Committee (GSIC) is to support the involvement and professional development of NERA graduate student members and to reach out to new graduate students to increase the diversity of institutions represented at NERA.

At this year’s conference, the GSIC has two sessions scheduled. The first session, “Getting Through It: Surviving the Dissertation Process,” is back by popular demand. Recently completed doctoral students will share tips and tricks to make the dissertation process more bearable. This session was well attended last year, so please plan to arrive early.

Our new session this year is, “The Business of our Business.” Most researchers eventually work on one-off projects funded by grants or government entities outside of the scope of their normal employment. This panel consists of business experts offering suggestions on independent contracting work, legal agreements, and most importantly, on how to properly form a business to protect your personal assets. The panel will also talk about grant work and how to plan for taxes and how to minimize your tax liability.

If you have questions you’d like to submit for discussion by either panel, please e-mail neragraduatestudents@gmail.com.

The GSIC will continue working on our mission of supporting NERA graduate students through the Graduate Student Social, and the Best Paper by a Graduate Student Award. GSIC is now accepting applications to serve on the GSIC for the 2020 academic year. Serving on the GSIC is a great way to meet graduate students outside of your university, research practitioners, and to get involved with NERA! Applying to be a GSIC member is easy. Submit a short statement of intent (150 words maximum) and your CV or resume to neragraduatestudents@gmail.com. The deadline to submit is **November 1st**.

The GSIC would like to thank all those who submitted papers to the Best Paper by a Graduate Student Award competition. All of the papers were well written and of high quality. We encourage all graduate students who present a paper this year to submit their papers for this year’s 2019-20 Best Paper by a Graduate Student Award competition. The deadline for submission is **November 1, 2019**, so start preparing those papers now!



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www.academics.jwu.edu/graduate-studies.

Fall Webinar Series from Buros Center for Testing: Cultural and Linguistic Considerations When Developing, Adapting, and Validating Measures


Professional standards and guidelines encourage the consideration and inclusion of individuals from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds in all aspects of testing. However, meeting this goal presents many unique challenges. When these recommendations remain unaddressed or do not incorporate methodologies promulgated in the literature, test results may be misinterpreted and misused.

This webinar series will highlight the expertise of an interdisciplinary group of scholar-practitioners engaged in this work from school, forensic, educational, and clinical/counseling psychology to encourage the practice of standards-aligned methodologies and processes. These scholars will share empirically-based recommendations, best practice examples, and case studies that will assist with the development, adaptation, and validation of measures used with individuals from culturally and linguistically diverse groups.

- **Dr. Guillermo Solano-Flores (September 24, 2019, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm CDT)** will discuss emerging methodologies that address the intersection of culture, language, and testing as critical to fairly assessing students classified as ELs. These new developments build on current knowledge from the fields of psychometrics, sociolinguistics, sociocultural theory, and social semiotics.
- **Dr. Joseph Rios (October 1, 2019 11:00 am – 12:30 pm CDT)** will discuss how to improve the validity of inferences made from adapted tests by addressing recommendations for test development, such as identification of appropriate test translators and judgmental designs for evaluating translation quality and discussing quantitative as well as qualitative methods for investigating potential sources of translation bias (construct, method, and item bias).
- **Dr. Rebecca Weiss (October 24, 2019, 12:00 – 1:30 pm CDT)** will use guidance from both psychology and language studies to review essential considerations and recommendations when using interpreters in psychological evaluations. Ethical responsibilities, legal requirements, logistical realities, and best practices will be reviewed.
- **Dr. James Allen (November 5, 2019, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm CST)** will discuss emergent scientific considerations and ethical concerns and resulting psychometric operating characteristics, internal structure, and external validity of two measures that were initially adapted then revised to produce culturally-grounded measures for suicide prevention of indigenous youth.

Visit <https://buros.org/cultural-linguistic-webinar-series> for presentation abstracts, presenter biographies, and registration information. Individual registrations are \$15/webinar or \$20/webinar to receive APA CE or NASP CPD credit. Reduced pricing for all individuals in an organization or a class is also available. Questions? Email Dr. Jessica L. Jonson at jjonson@buros.org.

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