Educational Symposium for Research and Innovations
February 18, 2017

FAQs

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WHAT is ESRI?

The Educational Symposium for Research and Innovations (ESRI) is a student-led conference sponsored by the Graduate School of Education and Human Development (GSEHD) at the George Washington University (GW). ESRI was created to support and promote the advancement of academic inquiry.

ESRI provides graduate students and alumni with an opportunity to experience the rigor of an academic conference. Students and alumni are encouraged to submit a research or project proposal – and GW faculty and staff will provide recommendations on the strength of the proposal. Students will then have the opportunity to complete their work and present it in a “safe” environment where they will receive feedback from faculty, staff, alumni, peers, and others. For many students, ESRI is the first chance they have to experience the expectations of an academic conference.

ESRI also offers a series of different professional and research-related workshops. The end result is a full day of significant academic and professional development for students.

WHEN and WHERE is ESRI?

ESRI 2017 has been scheduled for February 18 and will take place in the Marvin Center on GW’s Foggy Bottom Campus.

WHY should I plan to attend ESRI?

ESRI is designed to facilitate cutting edge presentations related to all levels and areas of education, including issues surrounding education policy, international education, teacher preparation, assessment, special education, higher education, administration, governance, and much more!

Whether you attend as a participant or as a presenter, you will learn about current issues in academic research and practice, discover new approaches and perspectives in the field of education, and have the opportunity to give your peers feedback on their work (as well as possibly developing new ideas of your own).

WHY should I submit a proposal to ESRI?

ESRI provides graduate students (and alumni) with a truly unique opportunity to be immersed in current research in education. Participants will gain experience submitting an academic/research proposal, making changes based on feedback from a committee of reviewers, and presenting their research in front of their peers as well as faculty and other experts in the field. Because the conference is developmental in nature, students who submit completed proposals are guaranteed a session and the opportunity to participate.

The extended deadline to submit a proposal for ESRI 2017 is November 9, 2016.

WHAT if I am not interested in submitting a proposal but would like to be a reviewer?

We recognize students might not wish to submit a proposal to ESRI, but still want to be active in the process. If you are interested in serving as a peer reviewer, please contact the ESRI planning committee at
WHAT types of proposals are encouraged?

Students and alumni are encouraged to submit a proposal in one of four areas:

1. Scholarly Papers (research-based)
2. Capstone or Action-Research Projects (field/practice-based)
3. Dissertations (recently defended or approaching defense)
4. Poster Presentation (for those “budding” ideas)

Click on any of the links above for a detailed description of each type of proposal.

If your proposal falls into a different category than those listed here, just let us know (you will have the opportunity to do this early in the online submission). We will do our very best to accommodate your request, and will contact you to discuss various options.

If you are not sure in which category your proposal falls, please talk to one of your professors. He/she will be able to guide you accordingly.

WHAT information should I prepare in order to submit a proposal?

In order to prepare and submit a complete proposal, please be ready with the following information:

1. Title of Session
2. Desired Presentation Format (see below for the specifics on each type of presentation)
   - Scholarly Paper (research-based)
   - Capstone of Action Research Project (field/practice-based)
   - Dissertation (recently defended or defending soon)
   - Poster Session (for a “budding” idea)
3. Individual or Group proposal?
4. Up to 3 keywords that offer insight into your research/study/project
5. Presenter information (up to 4)
   - Name
   - Email address
   - Mobile phone
   - Student status
   - Degree sought
   - Program (either within or outside of GSEHD)

PRESENTATION FORMATS:

Scholarly Paper (Research-Based) – 5 Types

**Master’s Research Paper**
- Abstract (max 120 words)
- Research purpose
- Brief introduction to theoretical and research foundations of the study
- Synthesis of the main findings/results of the study

**Advanced Research Paper, Research Proposal**
- Abstract (max 120 words)
- Research paradigm/design overview
- Brief introduction to theoretical foundations and theoretical constructs of the study
- Population/sampling strategy
- Summary of methods (instrumentation, data collection, analysis steps)

**Advanced Research Paper, Literature Review Proposal**
- Abstract (max 120 words)
- Research purpose & main question supported by this literature
- Brief introduction to theoretical and research foundations of the study
- Synthesis and integration of literature to research purpose/question

**Advanced Research Paper, Policy Analysis**
- Abstract (max 120 words)
- Introduction/Overview of Policy
- Policy History
- Policy Analysis and Critique

**Doctoral Research Paper**
- Abstract (max 120 words)
- Research purpose/main questions
- Summary of methods
- Theoretical framework
- Findings and implications

**Capstone/Action-Research Project**
- Abstract (max 120 words)
- Research purpose/main questions
- Rationale/importance
- Research methods or approach to inquiry
- Findings (actual or anticipated)
- Significance of findings

**Dissertation (Recently Defended or Ready to Defend)**
- Abstract (max 120 words)

**Poster Presentation (For A “Budding” Idea)**
- Abstract (max 120 words)

**HOW do I submit a proposal?**

Submit your proposal online through the Call for Proposals website (go.gwu.edu/ESRI2017proposals).

The submission form contains personal information such as your name, address, phone, email, and your Program/School affiliation. The actual session proposal should not contain any personal and identifiable information (e.g., name or program).

Presenters may choose to present individually or as a group with up to four (4) presenters total. The first presenter listed in the online submission form (Presenter #1) will be the main contact with the conference planning team.

Multiple proposal submissions for any single person are allowed, however no more than two presentations with the same presenter can be accepted for the conference. In the case of multiple proposals from the same individual, the ESRI Chair will contact the submitter to discuss presentation options. Please be sure to submit each proposal individually.

Presenters are expected to follow the AERA code of ethics for research available at http://www.aera.net/About-AERA/AERA-Rules-Policies/Professional-Ethics

**WHAT is the likelihood that my proposal will be accepted?**

Because ESRI is considered a student conference and geared toward professional and academic development, all proposals submitted will receive structured feedback. This feedback will be provided in order to help students improve their overall proposal content and focus, and ultimately improve their work (paper, project, etc.). Students will be expected to carefully consider the suggestions offered. All final
conference proposals will be accepted.

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HOW will my proposal be evaluated?

A panel of current faculty, staff, students and alumni of GSEHD will evaluate proposals in a double blind review process using the criterion identified in the call for proposals and section below.

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WHERE can I find descriptions, presentation formats and review criteria for each type of session?

Scholarly Papers (research-based) – General
- Master’s Research Paper category
- Advanced Research Proposal category
- Doctoral Research Paper category
- Capstone or Action-Research Project
- Dissertation Poster Presentation

Scholarly Papers (research-based) – General
Description: In a paper session, one or multiple people present a research or scholarship-based paper. After presentation at this conference, presenters are encouraged to submit their presentations to other conferences and/or to journals for publication.

Presentation Format: In this session format, presenters give abbreviated versions of their papers. There will be 2-3 presentations in a session. These presentations will be followed by comments from a discussant (usually a faculty member) and questions from the audience. A session schedule would include approximately 5 minutes for the chair to introduce the session, 8-10 minutes for presentation of each paper, 10 minutes total of critique by discussant of all papers, and 10 minutes for question and answer with the audience.

Sources of Scholarly Papers: Papers typically evolve from a number of sources, including the following:
- Empirical research project
- Master's level research paper
- Pilot study for a dissertation
- Course research project
- Literature review (for a dissertation or a course project)
- Case study completed as a course assignment (based on a real organization)
- Research design proposal (both qualitative and/or quantitative method designs are encouraged)
- Policy analysis project or course assignment
- Problem statement generated as part of the dissertation process

Scholarly Paper Proposal Formats: Scholarly Paper proposals should be submitted according to the following categories: Master’s Research Paper; Advanced Research Proposal; or Doctoral Research Paper

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Scholarly Paper - Master's Research Paper category
Description: A proposal for the Master's Research Paper is appropriate for original student research that is reflective of beginning graduate-level research. A proposal for this category could include a Master's thesis' findings, completed course project, finalized course case study creation and/or analysis, or collaborative research project.

Review criteria: Proposals will be peer reviewed based on: importance of topic; originality of work; grounded by prior research, rigor of analysis; reasonableness of conclusions and implications; clarity of exposition of ideas, analyses, and arguments; and anticipated appeal to conference attendees.

Students who submit proposals for this category are likely to be current master's degree students or recent
graduates within 1 to 3 years. This list is a merely suggestion, any person with a valid proposal, following the listed guidelines, is welcome to submit a proposal.

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Scholarly Paper - Advanced Research Proposal category

Description: The Advanced Research Proposal category is appropriate for original student research that is "in progress" or a smaller section of a larger research project indicative of advanced graduate-level research. A proposal for this category could include a section of a pre-candidacy dissertation (including a problem statement, literature review, or pilot study), an advanced course project, and/or a personal or professional research project not connected to a course or dissertation. Proposals should include: an abstract, research purpose & main question, research paradigm/design overview, brief introduction to theoretical foundations and theoretical constructs of the study, population/sampling strategy, and summary of methods (instrumentation, data collection, analysis steps).

One of the following types of paper could be considered a Research Proposal:
- Research Problem Statement Proposal: This proposal should describe the problem statement identified for a research study. A problem statement (dissertation, course project) should include: an overview of the research purpose, context of the project, explanation of the problem in practice, explanation of the literature gap and why the gap merits addressing, overview of the potential project, and significance of the project relating to the problem of practice and literature gap.
- Pilot Study Proposal: This proposal should describe a pilot study under development or recently completed (research findings should not be included). The type of pilot study, its paradigm of inquiry, methodology, and theoretical constructs, will be varied between submissions.
- Advanced Course Project Proposal: This proposal should highlight a recent advanced course project that a student (or group of students) completed as a part of a class assignment. The content of this proposal will vary among submissions. The course project proposal will not include research findings (the study is not complete at this point).
- Personal or Professional Research Project Proposal: Similar to the Advanced Course Project Proposal, this submission will highlight an area of personal or professional research project that is under development. The research project proposal will not include research findings (the study is not complete at this point).
- Literature Review Proposal: A proposal for a literature review should include: research purpose/question supported by this literature review, introduction to main conceptual areas of the review, synthesis and integration of literature to research purpose/question.
- Policy Analysis Proposal: A proposal for a policy analysis should include: abstract, introduction/overview of policy, policy history, and policy analysis and critique.

Review criteria: Proposals will be peer reviewed based on: importance of topic; originality of work; appropriateness of theoretical or conceptual framework; soundness of research design; rigor of analysis; reasonableness of conclusions and implications; clarity of exposition of ideas, analyses, and arguments; and anticipated appeal to conference attendees.

Students who submit proposals for this category are likely to be pre-candidates for the doctoral degree (e.g., doctoral students who have not defended their dissertation).

This list is a merely suggestion, any person with a valid proposal, following the listed guidelines, is welcome to submit a proposal.

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Scholarly Paper - Doctoral Research Paper category

Description: The Doctoral Research Paper category is appropriate for original student research that is reflective of a completed educational research study. A proposal for this category would be a completed or nearly completed study or research findings typical of a doctoral student. Proposals should include: research purpose/main questions, summary of methods, population/sampling strategy, brief introduction to theoretical and research foundations of the study, summary of findings, and implications.
Review criteria: Proposals will be peer reviewed based on: importance of topic; originality of work; adequacy of theoretical or conceptual framework; soundness of research design; rigor of analysis; reasonableness of conclusions and implications; clarity of exposition of ideas, analyses, and arguments; and anticipated appeal to conference attendees.

Students who submit proposals for this category are likely to be candidates for the doctoral degree (e.g., a doctoral student has defended, or will soon defend, his/her dissertation). This list is a merely suggestion, any person with a valid proposal, following the listed guidelines, is welcome to submit a proposal.

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Capstone or Action-Research Projects
Description: The Capstone or Action-Research category is appropriate for students who would like to share and receive feedback on a Capstone project, or are focused on projects offering a more practical approach to professional inquiry, including students completing work “in the field.” Action research projects tend to be collaborative in nature and focused on solutions to everyday, real problems. Rather than dealing with the theoretical, action research allows students and practitioners to address concerns that are closest to them, ones they may be able to exhibit some influence over and make change.

Review criteria: Proposals will be peer reviewed based on: importance of topic; originality of work; grounded by prior research, rigor of analysis; reasonableness of conclusions and implications; clarity of exposition of ideas, analyses, and arguments; and anticipated appeal to conference attendees.

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Dissertations
Description: A proposal for a Dissertation session is appropriate for original student research that is reflective of a doctoral candidate. This session is for those who have already defend their dissertation and would like the opportunity to share their research OR for those approaching defense who would like the opportunity to practice discussing their research.

Review criteria: Proposals will be peer reviewed based on: importance of topic; originality of work; adequacy of theoretical or conceptual framework; soundness of research design; rigor of analysis; reasonableness of conclusions and implications; clarity of exposition of ideas, analyses, and arguments; and anticipated appeal to conference attendees.

Students who submit proposals for this category are likely to be candidates for the doctoral degree (e.g., a doctoral student has defended, or will soon defend, his/her dissertation). This list is a merely suggestion, any person with a valid proposal, following the listed guidelines, is welcome to submit a proposal.

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Poster Presentations
Description: In this venue, presenters show completed course projects, research papers, or work projects that are underway. Presentations will:
- Showcase research and evaluation work currently being undertaken in education.
- Present information on the related areas of education in an interactive manner that engages presenters and audience in interdisciplinary dialogue.

Presentations may be in one of several formats, such as:
- Poster Presentation: Graphic displays (posters prepared by presenters posted on bulletin boards or other means) or materials related to a project having to do with research or practice.
- Demonstration: Displays of materials related to a project having to do with research or practice. Individual presenters set up displays at assigned venues. These presentations may include a variety of formats, such as computer programs, video presentations, websites, project portfolios, software designed to aid an educational endeavor, a computer---based simulation, a teaching or practice method, or a multimedia approach to some project. Presenters must provide their own equipment.

Sources of Presentations: Examples of presentations include:
- Portfolios of projects and work site contributions
- A website, computer program, or video presentation designed to achieve an educational goal
- An instructional media project
- Product of a practicum or internship (such as a program, intervention, etc.) that can be explained through a graphical display
- Research proposal (both qualitative and/or quantitative method designs are encouraged)
- Student Policy/Current Issues Debate

**Setup:** The poster presentations will be held in a large room. Easels will be available for all presentations; tables and power cords will not be available for poster sessions. Presenters will staff their assigned places for the duration of the session. Conference participants will circulate among the presenters, asking questions and engaging in individualized, informal dialogue with presenters about the projects.

**Proposal Format:** A poster/demonstration presentation proposal should include: an overview of the project, description of presentation materials, type of practice or innovation to be showcased, target audience, venues in which innovation/practice might be used or was implemented, and applicability of practice or innovation.

**Review Criteria:** Criteria for review will include: clarity of proposal; relevance, timeliness, and general interest level of topic; suitability for conference; quality of proposed content, organization, and format; and relevance of project/innovation for education improvement.

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**WHERE can I find some sample proposals?**

Sample proposals will be made available on our Facebook page at [https://www.facebook.com/GWESRI](https://www.facebook.com/GWESRI).

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**I have a question that is not addressed here. Who can I contact?**

We highly suggest that you engage in a conversation with one of your professors first. However, we value your feedback and questions, so please feel free to contact us via email or our Facebook page.

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