

CALL for PROPOSALS
Systems Thinking in Education Special Interest Group
The American Educational Research Association
2011 Annual Meeting
April 8-12, 2011
New Orleans, LA

The theme of the 2011 AERA Annual Meeting is “Inciting the Social Imagination: Education Research for the Public Good.” This year’s theme is particularly pertinent to scholars of systems thinking in education, as it highlights increased attention to “reform policies, unprecedented education legislation, and money from all sectors devoted to these efforts,” which all encompass the growing attention to the systemic nature of problems and possibilities in education. The field of systems thinking is clearly aligned to the work of “reimagining the promise and potential of educational research” and to research that “employ[s] situated perspectives and dynamic conceptions of institutions and communities, as well as their members and practices.” In particular, this year’s theme lends itself well to research on systems thinking that focuses on alternative future possibilities in education, including public, private, preK-12, post-secondary, charter, or other.

The AERA Call for Submissions is aligned with the Systems Thinking in Education Special Interest Group’s (SIG) history of support for research that “enable[s] us to develop innovative forms of teaching and learning, [and] curriculum and assessment that begin to address the possibilities and problems of economies and communities of economic transition, new technologies and media of communication, and attendant issues of exclusion, marginalization, and access” that are in service of the public good. In keeping with the Systems Thinking in Education SIG’s mission, we invite proposals dealing with research, evaluation, and scholarship in systems thinking concerned with educator preparation and with educational practice and policy. This includes systems thinking applied to curriculum and instruction, teaching and pedagogical practice, professional development, change processes, school reform and improvement, program design and development, and evaluation and assessment models.

We encourage field, applied, and evaluation research, as well as theoretically oriented studies of systems thinking in education. As well, we encourage studies that examine the application of systems thinking in educator preparation including the design and development of preparation programs. Equally valued is research that focuses on program development in educational settings that directly impact the lives of all students. We are also interested in applications of systems thinking in examining inquiry-based approaches and learning communities (communities of practice) within schools and related educational settings.

The Systems Thinking in Education SIG offers a welcoming venue for papers, roundtables, symposia, and posters that “draw on transdisciplinary theories and constructs, integrated methods, and research approaches that aim to answer a breadth of questions from causal to interpretive/descriptive.” The program co-chairs invite submissions for papers, symposia, discussion tables, and posters from both established and emerging scholars from a diverse set of institutions and geographical regions, domestic and international. Individuals undertaking research that is not supported with external funding are particularly encouraged to submit their

proposals to the Systems Thinking in Education SIG. Please be aware that proposals must be submitted electronically by using the AERA Online Proposal Submission System at <http://www.aera.net/>.

THE SUBMISSION SYSTEM OPENS JUNE 1, 2010 and CLOSSES at 11:59 PM (Pacific Time) on JULY 15, 2010.

A few reminders:

For both paper and session submissions, only submissions that have not been published or presented at another professional meeting are eligible for review.

Submissions for papers, discussion/roundtables, and posters must be in the form of a narrative paper.

No individual may appear as first author on more than two submissions, and an individual may not appear on the program more than four times.

A paper or session submission must not contain any references to the paper's authors, and each submission may be submitted to only a single committee, division, or SIG.

Additional information on the 2011 Annual Meeting and the Call for Submissions may be accessed through <http://www.aera.net/>. If you have specific questions, please feel free to contact the 2011 Systems Thinking in Education SIG Program Co-Chairs: Jan Noga, Pathfinder Evaluation and Consulting (jan.noga@pathfinderevaluation.com) or Gary Skolits, University of Tennessee – Knoxville (gskolits@utk.edu).