

What Is a Division?

AERA is broken into Divisions and Special Interest Groups. Divisions are larger organizational structures within AERA. When you join AERA, you will select at least one.

Examples:

Division A: Administration, Organization, and Leadership

Addresses the challenge of doing research in the public interest by reporting on studies concerned with the organization, leadership, and administration of schools and school systems.

Division G: Social Context of Education

Examines education and, in particular, schooling, within a social context that includes cultural, political, and economic interpretations. The division addresses education from the perspectives of anthropology, critical theory, economics, philosophy, political science, and sociology, as well as from other disciplines that inform the viability and promote the utility of educational research.

Division L: Educational Policy and Politics

Examines research and theory on the formation, the implementation, the intended and unintended consequences, and the evaluation of education policies and the politics that propel them.

What is a SIG?

Special Interest Groups are smaller organizational structures within AERA organized around smaller areas of research and concentration.

Examples include:

- Queer Studies SIG
- Foucault and Education
- Leadership for School Improvement
- Indigenous Peoples of the Americas

There are 140+ SIGS

Why Belong to a SIG?

- Focus your interests
- Opportunities to network
- Opportunity to get involved with AERA
- Help SIGs increase presence in the program

Deciding Where to Submit:

Refer to the call to decide the most appropriate division, section, or SIG to send your proposal. It is important that you send it to the best place.

- Consider what both what is most appropriate, and, what is your best chance of getting in (which is usually the most appropriate Division or SIG).
- Session spaces are allocated, in part, by membership.

Types of sessions

1. Individual

Paper discussion (roundtable)

These are generally 45 minute sessions with maximum interaction with the presenters by eliminating the formal presentation. Individual presenters are assigned to numbered tables in a large meeting room where interested persons may gather for discussion with the presenter about his or her paper or project.

Paper session (Individual paper on a panel)

In paper sessions, authors present abbreviated versions of their papers, followed by comments/critique by a discussant and audience discussion. A typical structure for a session: four or five papers with 10-12 minutes per author presentation

2. Multiple

Symposium.

These provide an opportunity for examining specific problems or topics from a variety of perspectives. Symposia may present alternative solutions, interpretations, or contrasting points of view on a specified subject or in relation to a common theme. Symposia often use a panel discussion format targeted at a clearly delineated issue or idea.

Interactive Symposium.

Interactive symposia increase engagement with the topic, enrich the experience of attendees through active discussion, and promote deeper understanding by all (including presenters). A large portion of the session is devoted to activities such as a panel discussion among the presenters and discussants, questions and discussion among all those present at the session, or small-group interaction.

Writing the proposal

- Try to allow yourself adequate time to write the proposal
- Get some feedback from your supervisor or other professors. Whittling your work down to a short summary is difficult and needs time for drafting and feedback
- Read the call for proposal and guidelines for submissions carefully. Follow guidelines explicitly. There is no harm in following the layout suggested by AERA. Reviewers will be looking at many proposals and this makes it easier for them . . . you don't get points for creativity.

Parts of a proposal:

- a. objectives or purposes;
- b. perspective(s) or theoretical framework;
- c. methods, techniques, or modes of inquiry;
- d. data sources or evidence;
- e. results and/or conclusions/point of view; and
- f. educational or scientific importance of the study.