Scottish Educational Research Association

Annual Conference 2023

Queen Margaret University

Musselburgh

EH21 6UU

22nd to 24th November 2023

Call for Submissions

Meeting global and local challenges through interdisciplinary partnerships and collaborations in education

The SERA Annual Conference is an important event for the educational research community in Scotland. The three-day conference, to be held at Queen Margaret University from 22-24 November 2023, invites researchers and practitioners working in Scottish and international research contexts to share their insights under the theme of *Meeting global and local challenges through interdisciplinary partnerships and collaborations in education*. Contributions that discuss the challenges and pose solutions are welcomed. These may include conceptual understandings of how we frame these issues, interdisciplinary views on how to research challenging contexts, and empirical work that can evidence possible solutions in action. Contributions that extend last year's theme of reconnection via interdisciplinary partnerships and collaborations are welcomed.

Living in a world that has been described as being in permanent crisis (giving rise to the term permacrisis) linked to global climate change, a growing disparity in wealth accumulation and threats to democracy via surveillance and misapplication of machine learning has seriously impacted how educators prepare children for what may come next.

The 2023 SERA Conference offers an opportunity to contribute to ongoing discussions about how we think, research and respond to the challenges surrounding us. Building on last year's discussions around reconnection, there is a need for education to be adaptable and creative to a world in flux. The 2023 SERA Conference seeks to examine the ways in which the world of education has responded globally and locally to these challenges. This however invites us to consider a series of questions:

1. How do we identify challenges?
2. In responding to challenges, how do we ensure our responses are in keeping with concepts of social justice, equality and diversity that promote human flourishing?
3. What types/forms/functions of research best allow us to examine challenges and offer potential solutions?
4. How can research contribute to policy that enables educational communities and spaces to grow and flourish?
5. What practices are needed to address challenges and offer solutions that engender flourishing for all?
6. What role do we see educational partnerships, interdisciplinary approaches and transdisciplinary ways of thinking, being and doing, in addressing challenges and offering solutions?
7. How do we sustain this work in a world described as being in constant flux?

The conference theme welcomes original and critical contributions from scholars and practitioners from a wide range of disciplines and educational settings that explore the above questions through practice, scholarship, conceptual thinking, and empirical research. Details about the 2023 SERA Conference submission and registration protocols are provided below.

SERA 2023 CONFERENCE STRANDS

Key organizing strands for this year's SERA conference will include:

- **Social Justice and Inclusion:** How might education reach out to all? How might education respond to the challenge of competition, distribution, and access to educational services supporting our communities? Is the gender divide in education increasing? How might education foster awareness that our lives depend on natural environments and that ecology can only be achieved through equity? How might we learn to live peacefully with one another within the limits of the Earth supporting us?

- **Professional and Vocational Learning (including teacher education and higher education):** What new challenges in workspaces and practices are impacting professional and vocational learning? How is knowledge generated and shared in occupational and professional contexts and across professional boundaries? How might professional education and development be reconceptualised? How are interprofessional work practices shaping new demands for new pedagogical responses? What new possibilities could be explored around leadership "education"?

- **Policy and Education:** How might policy at global, national, and local levels respond to identified challenges? How might educational actors (regardless of sector) respond to, and inform policy directions? How might new partnerships enhance or inhibit educational initiatives that respond to challenges or offer solutions?

- **Curriculum:** How might curriculum engage with a constantly changing and evolving world? To what extent might the curriculum support interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary learning and reflection on key themes of human flourishing? How might educational practitioners engage with the process of curriculum reform in light of the conference theme?

- **Assessment and Evaluation:** In what ways could national testing/assessment evolve to foster resilience to challenge and change? How might issues arising from national and international testing/assessment hinder human flourishing? What alternatives could be explored?

- **Digital Learning:** How might the infusion of new technologies impact learning experiences in/out of formal educational settings? What new spaces are emerging to enable more sustainable forms of pedagogy and learning? How might the open education movement support or inhibit inclusion/exclusion locally and globally? How can the educational community consider 'humane technologies'?

- **Innovative Research Methods:** What challenges face educational researchers and how might new research methods respond to the conference theme? What new questions need to be asked and examined? How might different theoretical perspectives and paradigms create openings for new questions, new forms of

research, and offer critical insights? How might more innovative research methods contribute to supporting learning and change in challenging times and spaces?

The conference will accept individual papers, short presentations, symposia, poster presentations/rapid thesis presentation, as well as suggestions for roundtable discussions and workshops.

Individual papers

Individual papers require a 250-word abstract. Please note that authors must identify the theme (above) that their abstract addresses. Abstracts should include:

- theme (best fit from the list above);

- title of paper;

- author name(s), affiliation(s), contact email address;

- 4 keywords.

An indicative structure for the abstract might include:

- aims;

- methods;
- main findings;
- conclusions.

Each paper will be allocated a 20-minute slot (Fifteen minutes to present with five minutes for questions). Please note: You are allowed to submit as many abstracts as practical but normally each person is limited to two presentations within the conference.

Short presentations

A short presentation is an engaging and highly visual presentation of 15 slides for a maximum of 20 seconds each (300 seconds or five minutes in total). The format keeps presentations concise and fast-paced and is useful when wanting to highlight key points, pose questions, present evocative insights, and/or share research in-progress efficiently.

Short proposals require a 250-word abstract. Please note that authors must identify the theme (above) that their abstract addresses. Abstracts should include:

- theme (best fit from the list above);

- title of paper;

- name(s), affiliation(s), contact

- email address;

- 4 keywords.

An indicative structure for the abstract might include:

- aims;

- methods;
- main findings;
- conclusions.

Symposia

Proposals for self-organised symposium are welcome. A symposium is a planned event lasting 60 minutes with between two and four individual contributions on a theme. Symposia organisers are free to decide on how their symposium is run. They should provide a chairperson who will introduce the session and highlight relationships amongst the contributions. Symposia organizers should also provide a discussant to offer a critique of the whole symposium. The contact person identified on the proposal must act as a link between the conference organizers and other contributors. Proposals should include:

- title of symposium;

- name(s), affiliation(s), contact email address of the symposium organiser;

- name of chairperson/discussant;

- an outline of 200 words describing the purpose of symposium and relationship between papers.

- symposium presenters;

- 250-word abstracts for each paper in the symposium, including: title of paper, name(s), affiliation(s), contact email address, 4 keywords.

An indicative structure for the abstract might include:

- aims;

- methods;
- main findings;
- conclusions.

Poster Presentations/Rapid Thesis Presentations

Submissions to the Individual poster category or the rapid thesis require a 250-word abstract.

Please note that authors/designers must identify the theme (above) that their abstract addresses. Abstracts should include:

- theme (best fit from the list above);

- title of paper;

- author name(s), affiliation(s), contact email address;

- 4 keywords.

An indicative structure for the abstract might include:

- aims;

- methods;

- main findings;

- conclusions.

Posters will be displayed in a public area during the conference and all presenters will be invited to an interactive session on the 22nd November to present their posters. All posters accepted will be submitted to the poster competition.

The Rapid thesis format allows each presenter a maximum of three minutes to present their research using one static slide in the background (this slide could be similar to a poster). These presentations will be held on the 22nd November and all entries will be eligible for the rapid thesis competition. Further advice will be available on the SERA website for accepted proposals.

Workshops and Round tables

Workshops and round tables will be scheduled as 60-minute events. Proposals for workshops should include the design and delivery of a learning activity that engages participants directly both in experience and subsequent reflection. Workshop proposals can centre on the analysis of a research methodology/approach or a teaching and learning method. A descriptor of 250 words should include:

- theme (best fit from the list above);

- title,

- name(s), affiliation(s), contact email address for the organiser

- 4 keywords;

- rationale and/or theoretical background;

- aims and methods of the proposed activity.

Proposals for round tables will indicate the theme to be discussed by a range of stakeholders sharing a range of views and experiences. Cross-cutting themes that are of interest to a range of educational stakeholders are welcomed.

Performance/Arts-based Sessions

A performance-based or arts-based session aims to involve participants in working experientially to explore and to reflect on a particular theme. All forms of performance-based activities (i.e. spoken word poetry or narratives, oral storytelling, art forms (including paintings, drawings, sculpture, etc.), drama, dance, walking, digital multimedia presentations, etc.) are welcome. A descriptor of 250 words should include:

- theme (best fit from the list above);

- title, name(s); affiliation(s), contact email address;

- indication about spaces, any special equipment that might be required and maximum number of participants.

Prizes and awards

Three prizes of fifty pounds are awarded at the SERA conference for the best poster, best rapid thesis and short presentation. A panel composed of SERA executive members will review the entries and winning entries announced during the conference.

Estelle Brisard Award

This awarded on an annual basis to the best research paper written by an early career researcher based in Scotland. The cash prize of £250 is presented at the annual conference. Further details can be found on the webpages.

To apply, please send your name, email address, area of research, course, university and title of your paper to sera.conference@gmail.com.

SERA Submission Dates

- Call for proposals opens Friday 31st March 2023.

- All proposals are to be sent to sera.conference@gmail.com by ~~Friday 5th May 2023~~. **** extended to Wednesday 31st May****

- Peer review of abstracts will be completed by the end of June 2023.

- Notification of acceptance will be given on or before the week beginning w/b 31st July 2023.

SERA Conference Registration Arrangements

SERA Conference registration will open at the beginning of May and will be available at https://www.sera.ac.uk/conference/how-to-book/