

2024 IARSLCE Call for Proposals
Intersections
October 2-4, 2024
University of San Diego

As a community of scholars, researchers, practitioners, students, and community partners, we look forward to welcoming you to the 2024 IARSLCE Conference at University of San Diego in California, USA. Our theme this year is: *Intersections*. We hope to create an expansive and inclusive convening that encourages emerging, mid-career, and advanced scholars, including but not limited to academics, practitioners, community partners and students, to learn and grow together.

Important advancements have been achieved in many areas in recent years, including medicine, technology, and commerce. The world is ever more interconnected and interdependent – as was clearly illustrated by the recent COVID pandemic. The global community has a collective target to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, to “end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all” by 2030. And yet, the world is also more volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous. Individuals and societies are no closer to mutual understanding than we were before. Millions of poor, women, youth, migrants and minorities are marginalized and disenfranchised every day. There is a growing disconnect between individuals, groups, and nations. The current geopolitical landscape, at both domestic and international levels, is experiencing levels of turbulence not seen in many years.

IARSLCE 2024 comes together to explore the intersections between these local, national and global issues, and our practice, background, and lived experiences. As SLCE scholars and practitioners, we want to ponder our positionality and our contribution to the context of education in the future. How do we prepare ourselves, and our students, for this world of the future? How do our respective disciplines, experiences, and contexts intersect to prepare students to address complex issues in the community? How do we acknowledge history and silenced voices to approach this work with a decolonized lens?

The mission of IARSLCE is “to promote the development and dissemination of research on service-learning and community engagement internationally and across all levels of the education system.” This mission encourages an exploration of the wide range of approaches to SLCE that facilitate access to and inclusion in educational spaces for everyone in the field.

We acknowledge that language is ever-evolving and may be defined differently across the globe. Service-learning, Community-Based Learning and Community-Engaged Learning are closely related and as such, IARSLCE welcomes submissions on all of the above.

Intersections in SLCE

IARSLCE encourages thoughtful intercultural dialogue about research and research-informed practice for the benefit of diverse stakeholders across an expansive SLCE community. Questions that arise from an emphasis on inclusive engagement include:

1. What does SLCE mean in different communities and parts of the world?

2. How does SLCE navigate and respond to the changing landscape around legal and/or institutional challenges to pluralism, diversity and inclusion?
3. How does research inform best practices for preparing students, education professionals and community practitioners to engage in meaningful, ethical, and impactful activities with communities?
4. How does SLCE contribute to community development and in tackling multifaceted and complex problems faced by communities?
5. How does the SLCE field intersect with other disciplines to create meaningful learning experiences for students that bring tangible impact to communities?

The Conference Committee invites proposals that present scholarship related to service-learning and community engagement in a wide range of contexts. Especially encouraged are proposals that consider these questions and connect in some way to the conference theme of **Intersections**. We are excited to gather in San Diego this October to learn about vital research and scholarship being developed around the world and its implications for the field.

Submissions are encouraged to connect to the theme *Intersections* and the following thematic areas. Proposed conference sessions should identify the topic(s) corresponding most closely to your research:

- Community partnerships and non-university stakeholders
- Student outcomes at K-12, Undergraduate and Graduate levels
- Emerging technologies in SLCE
- Faculty issues (promotion and tenure, learning communities, etc.)
- Theory and methods
- Using SLCE to address Sustainable Development Goals
- Identity and indigeneity
- Other (please specify)

IARSLCE Conference Submission Process

Conference proposals must be submitted via the [IARSLCE Conference Proposal Submission Site](#). To submit a proposal, you will first need to create a user profile on the website. The abstract submission process requires the following components:

- Selection of the appropriate proposal category; see below for detailed information about the requirements for each format
- Author and presenter information, including contact info, professional affiliation and a brief biographical sketch for each author
- Proposal abstract: a short, 250-word description that will be used to describe your presentation in the conference program.
- Proposal narrative: a 1000-word description of your proposal that will be used in the peer review process.

Presentation Categories

The 2024 IARSLCE conference will include two primary session formats: **Emerging Ideas and Deeper Dives**. Emerging Ideas sessions offer opportunities for presenting projects that have yielded (at least preliminary) data/findings or evaluation results. The common thread among the

Deeper Dive sessions will be sharing robust, completed research that has the potential to expand the field of service-learning and community engagement research.

Emerging Ideas

➤ *Lightning Talks (maximum one presenter)*

Lightning Talks are incisive twenty-minute presentations focusing on a key element related to the conference theme.

Topics for the talks might include:

- details about an effective, innovative teaching practice;
- application of one theoretical concept or piece of research;
- discussion of a key moment for leadership and advocacy in our field; and/or
- description of a collaboration across disciplines, institutions, and/or groups that resulted in a generative moment.

Successful Lightning Talk Proposals will be tightly focused and plan for 15 minutes for presentation, with 5 minutes set aside for questions and answers. Lightning Talk Proposals should include:

- a brief (1-2 sentence) overview of the research problem or community issue sparking the featured activities;
- a clear statement of purpose;
- a brief theoretical foundation for the talk; and
- a rationale for the significance of the talk.

➤ *Poster Presentations (maximum 3 presenters per submission)*

Poster presentations provide a forum for scholars to engage in active discussion with other conference participants about either a completed research project or a project in the developing stages. Individuals, institutions, and organizations may present posters that highlight current research or feature programs and community partnerships informed by research and/or yield research opportunities.

There will be one poster presentation session during the conference (time TBD, please check website for updates).

Poster presenters will display research on a large bulletin board (provided at the conference; poster measurement specifications are listed below). Presenters will attend the poster session to discuss the project with conference attendees; they may wish to bring a written detailed summary of their work to hand out to attendees.

Poster Presentation Proposals should contain as many of the following as are applicable, preferably in this order:

- a clear statement of the purpose or goals of the project and the primary research question(s) addressed;
- a brief summary of the theoretical or conceptual foundations for the work;
- a concise description of the research design and methods used or proposed;
- the project findings;

- the theoretical and/or practical significance or implications of the research; and
- 3- 4 keywords that best represent the research.

Deeper Dives

➤ *Research Paper Presentations (maximum of four presenters per submission)*

This format involves the formal presentation of a research paper that advances service-learning and/or community engagement research. Research papers present well-developed arguments on philosophical, theoretical, policy, and/or practical issues in the study of service-learning and community engagement and adhere to the tenets of scholarly research. Papers (two per session) will be grouped thematically. IARSLCE may identify a discussant for research paper sessions, or in the cases where that is not possible, paper authors will coordinate to self-introduce, keep presentations on time, and facilitate discussion.

Program descriptions and/or program evaluation results will not be considered or accepted for research paper presentations. If your ideas fall in either of these directions, we encourage you to consider one of the Emerging Ideas session formats.

Research Paper Proposals should contain the following as are applicable, preferably in this order:

- a clear statement of the purpose or goals of the study and the primary research question(s) addressed;
- theoretical or conceptual frameworks/perspectives;
- methods, techniques, or modes of inquiry;
- data sources or empirical evidence;
- results, conclusions;
- significance of the study findings;
- 3 - 4 keywords that best represent the research; and
- indicate whether and how ethical concerns were addressed and/or vulnerable populations were safeguarded.

➤ *Roundtables (maximum of two presenters per submission)*

Roundtable discussions provide an opportunity for conference attendees to discuss research in development with other conference attendees in an informal, conversational setting. A table host will take responsibility for facilitating the discussion, and holding open the space for sharing ideas, pushing boundaries of inquiry and/or practice, and potential for continued collaboration and community beyond the conference based on the interest of roundtable participants. ***Given the informal structure of the roundtable presentation, no audio-visual equipment will be provided.*** Foci include the following:

- Input/Feedback – for scholars presenting preliminary findings from research and/or graduate students seeking input or feedback on theses or dissertations;
- Collaborative Research – for exploring potential collaborative research projects across institutions; and
- Topical Discussions – for discussions on important topics (e.g. diversity/equity, professionalization of field, etc.) designed to generate research ideas and/or policy briefs/white paper essays, potentially co-authored by roundtable participants.

Roundtable Presentation Proposals should contain the following as are applicable, preferably in

this order:

- the format of the roundtable (input/feedback, collaborative research, or topical discussion);
- a clear statement of the purpose or goals of the project and the primary research question(s) addressed;
- the theoretical or conceptual foundation for the work;
- the scholarly significance of the research or topic, including the particular contribution to the field in terms of SLCE theory, method, policy and/or practice;
- plans for the allocation of time (re: presenting research and engaging attendees in discussion);
- 3 - 4 keywords that best represent the research; and
- indicate whether and how ethical concerns were addressed and/or vulnerable populations were safeguarded.

In addition to the elements listed above, proposals for roundtables presenting research (Input/Feedback) should include a description of the research design, methods and findings, including participants, setting, data sources, analysis and implications. Roundtable proposals for Collaborative Research or Topical Discussions should also indicate the purpose of the discussion and any pertinent research related to the topic.

In the roundtable session, roughly equal time should be allocated for the presenter to introduce the research or topic and for session attendees to contribute to the discussion. The type of roundtable (Feedback/Input, Collaborative Research, Topical Discussion) will be noted along with the titles in the conference program.

Proposal Review Process

The Conference Committee will distribute specific review criteria for each presentation type, based on the Call for Proposals. All proposals will be evaluated according to the extent to which they:

- connected to the conference theme
- are clearly and compellingly written
- are research focused
- consider the ethical implications of the research
- address issues that are important to the field
- show potential for audience appeal

Each criterion will be reviewed using the following scale:

1. The proposal does not adequately address or meet the criterion
2. The proposal adequately addresses or meets the criterion but could be more developed
3. The proposal fully addresses or meets the criterion
4. N/A: Not applicable or relevant to this proposal

A note about conference sessions:

- To allow for the inclusion of as many different voices as possible, participants will be limited to being the primary author on two (2) presentations, only one (1) of which can be

lead presenter. There is no limit on the number of co-authored papers or projects as a *non-presenting author*.

- All conference sessions are 60 minutes in length.
- All lightning round sessions will be 60 minutes, with three presenters each having 20 minutes (15 minute presentation and 5 minutes for Q&A)
- All paper presentations will have two (2) papers per session. We suggest that the two presenters each present for 25 minutes with a shared 10 minute Q&A at the end.
- There will be two poster sessions. Posters should be **48" x 36"** with a horizontal orientation.

Important Dates

Call for Proposals Released: April 8, 2024

Proposals Due: May 15, 2024

Proposal Review Period: May 22-June 5, 2024

To submit a proposal please visit: [IARSLCE Conference Proposal Submission Site](#)

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About IARSLCE

The International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement (IARSLCE) is an international non-profit organization; it launched in 2005 and incorporated in 2007. The Association's primary objective is to advance service-learning and community engagement research across the educational spectrum (primary, secondary, post-secondary, and other forms of education).

IARSLCE collaborates with international organizations and affiliates through dialogue and co-sponsored regional symposiums across the globe. These partnerships seek to increase research and scholarly output across the globe and ensure that service-learning and community engagement is underpinned by international engagement.