



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AT ILLINOIS

8th Annual College of Education Graduate Student Conference:

Education, Public Values, and Privatization

Friday, March 31, 2017

Educational Theory Pre-conference Workshop: Thursday, March 30, 2017

Main Conference

The Committee Members of the 8th Annual Graduate Student Conference, the editor of the journal *Educational Theory*, and the College of Education at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign cordially invite you to submit proposal abstracts for presentation at this conference. Focused on the theme of “Education, Public Values, and Privatization,” conference presentations will singularly highlight the research interests and inquiries of graduate students of the College. Conference presentation formats include papers and posters.

The 2017 Graduate Student Conference will be held on Friday, March 31, 2017 in the College of Education and will offer a valuable and important platform for inspiring interdisciplinary exchange on pressing educational issues.

Deadline for Submissions: February 1, 2017

Additional Conference Opportunities

In addition to paper and poster sessions, this year’s conference will feature two new opportunities to engage participants in diverse ways: The *Educational Theory* Pre-conference workshop and Twitter conference.

Educational Theory Pre-conference Workshop, Thursday, March 30, 2017

This full day (9:00 AM - 5:30 PM) writing session is a mentoring opportunity for eight graduate and two undergraduate students who apply and are selected to discuss their research with College of Education faculty members. Editor [Chris Higgins](#) will lead the discussions.

Moreover, as a unique publication opportunity, 5-8 papers from the Pre-conference workshop will be selected for a special issue of the journal [*Educational Theory*](#).

Twitter Session

Moderated by our very own College of Education faculty member Dr. [Adrienne Dixon](#), panelists will be given 140 seconds to present their findings on their topic.

This engaging session will accept Q&A from conference participants as well as from [GSC 2017 Twitter](#) followers. This Twitter session will feature 3-5 coordinated papers organized around a single theme or topic.

Abstract Submission

Abstracts: Abstracts of 750-800 words must be submitted in **pdf form only**, via email to gsc@education.illinois.edu. Author information, affiliation, and contact information should be submitted separately, in the body of the email only, and the title of the abstract should be included in the subject heading, with pdf abstract attachments made completely anonymous.

The abstract should include the following: (1) a clear statement of the main point or argument of the paper; (2) a clear statement of the problem or research question, including references to previous research and the work's relevance to the area of study; (3) a short excerpt of data (as relevant) to support the main point or argument; (4) conclusions and/or implications of the research, however tentative.

If your presentation relies on a visual representation of data (e.g., video data or screenshots of Internet data), up to three images may be included in your abstract as contributing data samples.

Notification: Notification of acceptance or non-acceptance will be sent via email in early February 2017. Working papers selected for the Pre-conference workshop are due two weeks before the workshop, by March 15 at 5:00 PM CST. See conference website for details.

Format Preference: Please include in your abstract document the title of your poster or presentation and your preference for poster, presentation, Twitter Session, and/or pre-conference workshop. If you have a format preference but would like to be considered for all four, please indicate that clearly. Presenters will have 20 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for discussion. Posters will be displayed during a one-hour poster session.

Deadline for Submissions: February 1, 2017

The *Educational Theory* Journal Workshop

Thursday, March 30, 2017

College of Education

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Educational Theory is pleased to announce a pre-conference writing workshop and publishing opportunity in conjunction with the 8th Annual Graduate Student Conference at UIUC College of Education.

The modern English “theory” derives from the Ancient Greek *theoria*, a term connected to vision. The theorist attempts to see things for what they are and to notice the overlooked. Theory is not, as some methods textbooks would have it, a pre-given framework. Theory is best thought of not as a thing but as an activity, one that, whether done well or poorly, is unavoidable in any serious inquiry. Every piece of educational research involves the posing of a question, the formulation of concepts, and the building of arguments. To theorize is simply to treat these crucial elements of inquiry not as steps in a recipe but as complex matters demanding care and reflection. To theorize is to mine the history of ideas for more profound and precise questions and for ways of reframing and revitalizing fossilized ideas; to take care to develop concepts clearly and fully; to surface the value dimensions of debates posing as merely technical; to test claims dialectically; and to foreground argumentation in order to invite the reader into the process of testing the theorist’s thesis.

Much of educational research is under-theorized. Whether or not the names of theorists or theories are mentioned, concepts and arguments are not given adequate attention. Graduate students in education are not always encouraged to do the slow and difficult work of honing their own vision, of becoming genuine theorists.

The Educational Theory Workshop is designed to offer up to 10 students (in addition to doctoral students, masters and advanced undergraduate students are free to apply) the opportunity to cultivate this vision, to develop the conceptual side of their scholarship. Invited faculty mentors will join the workshop and hold one-on-one meetings with participants.

A further goal of the workshop is to generate a special issue of *Educational Theory* on the conference theme. Several papers will be selected for further development and submission to the journal.

All participants will receive feedback on their work in progress in three ways. There will be a plenary speed round and debrief at which all can receive brief suggestions from all. For more detailed feedback, we will divide into two workshop groups, A and B, which will meet concurrently. Each group will devote 45 minutes to each of its 5 papers. Finally, each participant will have a 1-hour one-on-one meeting with an assigned faculty mentor.

Tentative Schedule

- 8:30** Breakfast available

- 9:00-10:10** **Plenary Introductions and speed round**

- 10:15-11:00** **Concurrent Workshops (paper A1/B1)**

- 11:00-11:15** Coffee break

- 11:15-12:45** **Concurrent Workshops (papers A2 & A3/B2 & B3)**

- 12:45-1:45** Lunch

- 1:45-3:15** **Concurrent Workshops (papers A4 & A5; B4 & B5)**

- 3:15-3:30** Coffee break

- 3:30-4:30** **One-on-one mentoring meetings**

- 4:30-5:30** **Plenary Debrief**