



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 a proposal to present your work (formats include papers and posters) on the theme of “Education, Public Values, and Privatization.” The conference, which singularly highlights the research interests and inquiries of students from within and outside the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, offers an important platform for inspiring interdisciplinary exchange on pressing educational issues.

Revised deadline for submissions: February 12, 2017

Additional Mini-Conferences

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 the Twitter Session.

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

This full day (9:00 AM - 5:30 PM) workshop is a mentoring and publishing opportunity for eight graduate and two undergraduate students selected to submit a working paper and receive feedback from College of Education faculty members. *Educational Theory* Editor, [Chris Higgins](#), will lead the discussions. Several of the workshop participants will be invited to submit revised versions of their papers for possible inclusion a special issue of *Educational Theory*. For more details about the workshop and information on how to apply, see below.

Twitter Session featuring Special Guest Twitter Moderator Dr. [Adrienne Dixon](#)

In this engaging session, panelists will be given 140 seconds to present their findings on their topic, followed by Q&A not only from conference participants but from [GSC 2017 Twitter](#) followers as well. Twitter sessions will feature 3-5 coordinated papers organized around a single theme or topic.

Submission Guidelines

- Email proposals by midnight, February 12, 2017 to gsc@education.illinois.edu, including the title of your proposal in the email header
- In the body of the email, please indicate:
 - Your name, affiliation, and contact information
 - The title of your proposal
 - The preferred format for your main conference presentation, paper or poster.
 - Presenters will have 20 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for discussion. Posters will be displayed during a one-hour poster session.
 - Whether you would also like your proposal considered for either or both of the mini conferences.
 - Please note that those selected for the Educational Theory Pre-Conference Workshop must submit their working papers (5000 words) by March 18 at 5:00 PM CST. See conference [website](#) for details.
- Please attach an abstract, of no more than 800 words, in pdf format
 - Include your title, but do not include your name or any other identifying information.
 - The abstract should include the following: (1) a clear statement of the main point or argument of the paper; (2) a brief addressing of the problem or research question with reference to previous research and the work's relevance to the area of study; (3) a short piece of data 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 of acceptance or non-acceptance will be sent via email no later than February 22, 2017.

The *Educational Theory* Pre-Conference Workshop

Thursday, March 30, 2017

College of Education, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The journal *Educational Theory* is pleased to announce a pre-conference writing workshop and publishing opportunity in conjunction with the 8th Annual Graduate Student Conference at the 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 questions, the development 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. A good theorist knows how to pose profound and precise questions, how to develop concepts clearly and fully, and how to test

claims dialectically. This requires an apprenticeship to a disciplinary craft and to traditions of thought that help us reframe and revitalize our fossilized concepts and surface the value dimensions of debates posing as merely technical.

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:

1. There will be a plenary speed round and debrief at which all can receive brief suggestions from all.
2. For more detailed feedback, we will divide into two workshop groups (labeled A and B in the schedule below) meeting concurrently. Each group will devote 45 minutes to each of its 5 papers.
3. Finally, each participant will have a 1-hour one-on-one meeting with an assigned faculty mentor.

Educational Theory will provide meals during the workshop and dinner afterwards. We also have a limited number of travel bursaries available to defray transportation and lodging costs for participants from out of town. If you are unable to secure funding from your home institution and cannot attend without assistance, please email Jessica Harless (jharles2@illinois.edu) for further details about applying for a travel bursary.

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
6:30	Dinner at local restaurant