Notes from the Conferences Workshop – Jan 31, 2022

**Faculty speakers:**

Jen Gilbert – AERA (American Educational Research Association)

Gabby Moser – Conference Applications

Lisa Farley – AESA (American Educational Studies Association)

Natalia Balyasnikova – CSSE (Canadian Society for the Study of Education)

Marika Kunnas & Jenna d’Andrea – YGSE Graduate Student Conference

For notes from Gabby Moser’s presentation, see her slideshow.

**YGSE Graduate Student Conference**

* Designed for graduate students
* Submission deadline: February 9
* Conference dates: March 24 – 26
* Welcoming community with the goal of building up networks and community for grad students
* All grad students can apply, not just within our faculty or within our university
* <https://ygse.info.yorku.ca/2022-graduate-student-conference-in-education/>

**American Educational Studies Association (AESA)**

* Medium-sized conference, a few thousand attendees
  + More intimate than AERA or CSSE
* Founded in 1916
* Might not have hybrid options (there were none in 2021)
* Wise scope of topics
  + Critical community building for social justice (2019) theme
  + Social foundations of education are central to this conference\*
* All levels of academics attend: faculty, graduate students, post-docs
* The conference itself is very inclusive, most papers can fit into the conference theme – it is usually very open
* In slightly less 'cool' cities, cheaper to attend
* Deadline for submissions - around July
* Runs in late October generally - can interfere with Halloween
* Cheaper than AERA
  + Have to be a member to attend the conference, so you must pay the member registration fee in order to attend the conference, which you also have to pay for (Same as AERA, CSSE)
  + $45 US for grad students – membership
  + $75 US for grad students – conference
* <http://educationalstudies.org/default.php>

Canadian Society for the Study of Education (CSSE)

* Founded in 1972
* Meets once a year
* Often referred to as "Congress"
* **CSSE coming to York in 2023!\***
  + CSSE Usually happens in tandem with a university/at a university
* Virtual conference this year
* May 12 - 20
* University receptions are thrown - good networking and social opportunities
* Structure of Congress is like a Russian nesting doll
  + There is the overarching congress 🡪 CSSE 🡪 individual research associations (like Canadian Association for Curriculum Studies; CACS)
  + Associations within associations
  + You need to register at all three levels: your association, CSSE, Congress
  + Technically each association is having its own separate conference, they’re just all under the same roof
* Congress: <https://www.federationhss.ca/en/congress/congress-2022>
* CSSE: <https://csse-scee.ca/>
* Curriculum Studies Association: <https://cacsacec.ca/>
* Fees:
  + Must pay association fee, varies by association: <https://assets.swoogo.com/uploads/1530602-61d89369bd3b9.pdf>
    - Ranges from $20 - $150
  + Congress fee:
    - Early bird: $55
    - Regular: $80
  + There are subsidies for Black and Indigenous peoples
* Applying to CSSE is competitive
  + Call for proposals – usually out in the summer
  + Reviews happen in December
  + Acceptances are sent in January
  + CACS - has the accept with revisions, so it boosts your possibility to participate
    - Look for graduate students to serve as co-reviewers
* Very large conference - largest in Canada
  + Gives you access to all the different associations when you go in person

**American Educational Research Association (AERA)** [**https://www.aera.net/**](https://www.aera.net/)

* 3rd week of April
* Largest academic conference in North America
* Every kind of educational researcher at all stages of their academic career
  + Mostly emerging scholars are able to present
* Submissions: 2nd week of July
* Proposal is much longer process than for the average conference - you basically submit the paper itself
  + You should submit something that is already done
  + Use your headings in your proposal (objectives, methods, etc.)
* Must be a member to attend the conference
  + $75 to be a member US
  + $95 registration US
* Always in a big city, comes to Canada every 4 years
* Lots of professional things for students
* AERA is split into two smaller groups: divisions and SIGs
  + Divisions - large communities (social justice)
  + SIG (Special Interest Group) – specific communities (French language)
* Pre-conferences before AERA starts are great opportunities for free events and networking
* Fireside chats are a good way to engage with academics in an informal setting
* If you get in (are presenting), when your presentation is scheduled can greatly impact if people attend or not
* AERA is hybrid this year
* Lots of parties with free food and drinks
* Usually in big cities – expensive, but great for tourism

**Q & A and other Tips**

1. **When can I submit my work - I have just started my dissertation proposal**

* Usually need a finished research project to submit a paper or poster presentation
* Look for different ways to present/participate
  + Roundtables, fireside chats
* Merge the stage of your research with the format
  + Roundtable, work in progress
  + Do a proposal with your supervisor
    - Ask your supervisor to help out at conferences that they attend
  + Strong literature review outlining a gap in literature can be a paper presentation

1. **What to do when research doesn't fit theme**

* Use the theme as a lens, you investigate the research through the lens
* You can critique the theme, not necessarily reinforce it
* Rarely rejected because it doesn't fit the theme, but usually for methods

**Tips**

* Conference papers are 15 minutes long at most → 6 double spaced pages of writing
  + Don’t prepare something longer than this, you will not be able to cover it
* Support each other at conferences
  + Attend each other’s presentations
* Don’t only go to conferences with people that you know, or only large conferences, small conferences can make you really get to know people, as can attending a conference alone
* Look up keywords in the conference agendas and it will give you a sense of scholars in that field, go to the sessions, will build up a community
* Following up after conferences
  + Email people you saw, follow up on your own lines of inquiry
* Most conferences will offer grants to cover expenses
  + Can add these to your CV
* Save all receipts of money that you spend on conferences - you can write this off on your taxes
  + Dinner receipts, hotels, travel