

More Information on Session Types

Note – for paper sessions and symposia, LCD projectors and laptops will be provided. However, Internet access will not be available in any of the meeting rooms.

Conversation Hour

Proposal Format: Open

A conversation hour is an opportunity for informal discussion between the audience and one or two participants with expertise in an area of interest to SEPA members. Although the participant(s) may wish to make a short presentation to begin the session, the majority of time should be devoted to the group's discussion of the topic and answering questions from the audience. A proposal for a conversation hour should include a description of the participant's background and area of expertise, as well as a rationale for having the Conversation Hour.

Interest Group

Proposal Format: Open

This format provides the opportunity for attendees interested in a particular topic to meet for the purpose of networking, sharing information, or providing materials of interest. A proposal for an Interest Group should describe the general topic, its significance for SEPA members, the structure or format of the session, and any particular purpose (such as generating research collaborations, facilitating the purposes of other psychology organizations, or organizing for some common goal).

Panel Discussion

Proposal Format: Multiple presenters

In a Panel Discussion, the chairperson plays an active role in the session, serving as a moderator who asks questions (prepared and shared ahead of time) of the panelists and ensures that all panelists (three to five participants) have the opportunity to speak. Panel Discussions should generate spontaneous interaction among participants, as well as between panel participants and members of the audience. Diversity among panelists is important to the success of the session. Further, all Panel Discussion participants must prepare in advance. A Panel Discussion proposal should describe the questions that will be addressed by the panel, the underlying issues or themes to be discussed, and the structure or format of the session.

Paper Session

Proposal format: Open

In a Paper Session, an author presents his/her research orally. Each individual paper is allocated approximately 15 minutes within a longer session. Typically presenters prepare slides to illustrate key concepts, present data, etc. Submissions must represent completed work and be prepared according to instructions outlined in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Ed. Non-empirical submissions advancing theory ARE appropriate for paper submission.

SEPA Graduate Student Research Award

Proposal format: Open

SEPA offers cash awards for research (in any content area) that is conducted by graduate students. The sole or first author, as described in the APA Publication Manual, must be a graduate student from a regionally accredited psychology program. The graduate student's submission must be sponsored by a current, Full Member of SEPA, unless the submitting graduate student is a post-masters student and SEPA member. The paper cannot be simultaneously submitted to other SEPA competitions or programs (e.g., CEPO Student Research Awards for Research on Minorities and/or Women). However, legitimate submissions that are not accepted for an award will automatically be forwarded to other appropriate SEPA venues for program consideration. Finalists for the award will present their work in the SEPA Graduate Student Research Award paper session and are expected to be present for the awards ceremony (typically scheduled on the final evening of the meeting).

CEPO Student Awards for Research on Minorities or Women (presented by the Committee on Equality of Professional Opportunity - CEPO)

Proposal format: Open to undergraduate and graduate students

NOTE - This award program is NOT the same as the CEPO Undergraduate Research Program or the Graduate Student Research Awards. In the Electronic Submission System (ESS), please select "Yes" to item #8 ("Are you submitting your proposal for the CEPO Student Awards for Research on Minorities or Women?").

The Southeastern Psychological Association's Committee on Equality for Professional Opportunity (CEPO) offers its annual student research competition for outstanding papers in two categories: (a) Women's Issues and (b) Minority Issues. Examples of acceptable topics include but are not limited to the following: gender or minority bias in research, lifestyle and health problems, career aspirations, professional couples, legal/economic problems, sex and/or race differences, gender or minority role development, disability concerns, bias in assessment/therapy, social & political factors, ethnic minority issues, educational equity/access, and employment equity/access. Semi-finalists for the award will be scheduled as posters. Finalists for the award will present their work during a scheduled paper session.

ELIGIBILITY: Both graduate and undergraduate students in psychology or related disciplines are eligible for this award program. A student who is not a member of SEPA may submit an application for membership or be sponsored by a SEPA member. If the paper is co-authored by a faculty member, the student must be the first author as described by the APA Publication Manual and be able to present the paper if it is accepted for the award. Authors who are selected to present their work in the CEPO Student Research Awards paper session are expected to be present for the awards ceremony on the final evening of the meeting.

For more information about the CEPO Student Awards for Research on Minorities or Women (presented by CEPO), go to the SEPA website (www.sepaonline.com) and click on "Annual Meeting Award Opportunities".

Poster Session

Proposal format: Open

Several Poster sessions will be organized to give many submitters opportunities to present their work. At each Poster session, several authors simultaneously present their research, primarily in a visual medium, with key information displayed on large boards. The audience circulates among posters and stops to discuss those of particular interest with the authors. Submissions for Poster presentation must represent completed work and be prepared according to instructions outlined in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Ed. Please note that non-empirical submissions advancing

theoretical propositions ARE permitted. No audio/visual equipment or electricity will be available for Poster sessions. Presenters must indicate whether they are willing to present a paper (vs. poster) if necessary due to scheduling constraints or needs of the convention. Professional (non-student) members who are sole or senior authors of highly rated posters may become eligible for the Outstanding Professional Paper Award if they have agreed to present a paper instead of a poster. For information on this award program, go to the SEPA website and click on “Awards.”

NOTE – Occasionally, some posters are selected for Interactive Poster Sessions. In this format, a few posters on a particular topic are scheduled in a break-out room with a facilitator who guides conversation after all have had an opportunity to visit the posters. The primary author will be contacted if the submission seems appropriate for such scheduling.

Audio/visual equipment is NOT provided for Poster sessions.

Symposium

Proposal format: Multiple presenters

A Symposium is a session in which participants present empirical papers or a combination of empirical and theoretical papers about a common topical issue or question. For example, researchers studying different aspects of a topic could be invited to participate. It is also appropriate to discuss work in progress. Participants in a Symposium should include a chair and three to four presenters. Symposia usually, but not always, include discussants. Symposia that include the presentation of diverse and novel perspectives are encouraged, including sessions in which the audience plays the role of discussant and the chair facilitates the discussion. Sufficient time should be allotted for audience participation.

Neuroscience Data Blitz Session

Proposal format: Open

A “Data Blitz” is a fast-paced, high-throughput session in which participants present 5-minute talks (consisting of 1-3 slides), meant to highlight a single particular finding. The goal of the session is to provide a rapid review of a broad array of high-quality abstracts around a central theme, which are then presented in more detail in a subsequent poster session. Authors submitting a proposal will have the option of indicating whether they would like their proposal to be considered for the Data Blitz Session. Selected proposals will then be scheduled into the Data Blitz paper session, in addition to a subsequent poster session. Presentations will be given by the abstract’s first author — students at any level are particularly encouraged to apply.