



CALL FOR PAPERS
THE SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL WORK AND RESEARCH
is pleased to announce that its

Sixteenth Annual Conference

**“Research That Makes a Difference:
Advancing Practice and Shaping Public Policy”**

will convene at the Grand Hyatt Washington
Washington, DC • January 11-15, 2012

The Conference Planning Committee of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) invites submissions for presentations within all content areas of social work, social services, and social welfare policy.

The theme for the 2012 conference is “Research that Makes a Difference: Advancing Practice and Shaping Public Policy.” As human and social problems become more complex and global, knowledge development commands ever-increasing rigor and a timely translation of research. Research need to move beyond knowledge generation in order to significantly advance practice and shape public policy. The current challenges present opportunities for social work researchers to take a lead by bringing our commitment to social justice and our experience in addressing multidimensional and context-dependent human problems. This annual conference provides the opportunity for social work researchers, educators, practitioners and policy makers to strengthen the scientific knowledge base and impact of social work research in practice and policy. Submissions for presentations may include individual paper and poster presentations, organized paper symposia, round-table discussions, and workshops.

As illustrated in the cluster areas, submissions are encouraged across all areas of social work. These may span various forms of research. Preliminary cluster areas are: Adolescence and Youth Development, Aging Services and Gerontology, Child Welfare, Crime and Criminal Justice, Gender and Ethnicity, Health and Disability, International Social Work and Global Issues, Mental Health, Organizations and Management, Poverty and Social Policy, Research Design and Measurement, Research on Social Work Education, School Social Work, Sexual Orientation, Social Work Practice, Substance Misuse and Addictive Behaviors, and Work, Family, and Family Policy.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

The conference will focus on original research that has implications for practice or policy. Research abstracts are encouraged in all substantive areas, using scientifically sound qualitative and/or quantitative methodology. The research may take place in any country and at the micro, macro, or policy level. You are invited to submit abstracts for presentations of one of three types of original research: (1) Oral paper presentation; (2) Symposium (organized by the applicant) of three or more papers on the same topic to be presented in the same session; (3) Poster presentation. Only paper and poster abstracts reporting completed findings will be reviewed. We urge that studies with “findings pending” be submitted for future review after the study is complete. Abstracts should not be based on research previously published elsewhere. If applying for a paper or poster presentation, please submit an abstract of 500 words or less. If applying for a symposium, please submit an abstract (500 words or less) for each symposium paper, along with an overall abstract (500 words or less) for the symposium session that describes the symposium theme and its importance. Preference will be given to symposia that demonstrate

cohesiveness across presentations. Symposia will be accepted or rejected in total, i.e., abstracts will not be accepted independently.

Abstracts should be submitted in a structured format and include the following: Background and Purpose: Description of the problem, study objectives, research questions and/or hypotheses. Methods: Study design, including a description of participants and sampling methods, data collection procedures, measures, and appropriate analytic/statistical approach. Results: Specific results in summary form. Conclusions and Implications: Description of the main outcome(s) of the study and implications for practice, policy, or further research.

SSWR seeks to optimize as many people participating in the conference as possible. SSWR, therefore, limits the number of roles that participants can play in the 2012 conference. There is a limit of two (2) presenting-author abstract submissions per person. This limit applies to these presentation formats: oral papers, both individual papers and papers within an organized symposium, posters and workshops. It does not apply to co-authorship. Participants may, however, perform additional roles such as chairing an organized symposium, leading a special interest group, serving as moderator for a session of grouped oral papers, and a panelist in a round table session.

The conference will also include workshop and roundtable sessions serving a continuing education function to help participants keep up to date with recent advances in methodology and other matters. Abstracts on workshop sessions should be no more than 500 words in length and include a description of the content and how it will be covered (pedagogical techniques, etc.) Note: Image(s) and table(s) are not permitted in any abstract.

Peer reviews will be used to select submissions based upon technical merit and importance of findings. Please note that all abstracts are to be submitted online using the SSWR online abstract management system, which will be accessible March 1, 2011.

Submission Deadline: 11:59pm PDT on Saturday, April 30, 2011

We look forward to seeing you in Washington, DC!