

## ***SPECIAL SESSIONS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS!***

### **Graduate Student Council Open Business Meeting and Reception**

The Graduate Student Council Open Business meeting is your opportunity to connect with the AERA graduate student community. This will be a working session, in which we develop recommendations around two issues: 1) How can AERA best support graduate students on their paths to becoming education researchers and 2) How might graduate students contribute to AERA? The results of our discussion will be used to guide ongoing GSC efforts as well as to develop new initiatives. We'll also be reporting on the accomplishments of the Graduate Student Council over the past year, and providing information about how you can become more involved. Join us for a lively and engaging session!

*Time: Sat, May 1 - 6:15pm - 7:45pm*

*Place: Colorado Convention Center, Room 207*

### **Graduate Student Networking Opportunity With Special Interest Groups (SIGs)**

One often overlooked avenue for involvement and networking within AERA is Special Interest Groups (SIGs). SIGs offer unique opportunities for graduate students to exercise leadership and enhance discipline-specific connections in a more focused, smaller group setting. This session is an open networking breakfast event hosted in the Graduate Student Resource Center to promote connections between graduate students, SIG chairs, and the SIG Executive Committee.

*Time: Sat, May 1 - 8:15am - 9:45am*

*Place: Colorado Convention Center, Room 207*

### **GSC Chair Fireside Chat: Best Practices in Finding, Obtaining, and Maximizing Internship Opportunities in Measurement and Educational Research**

Internships serve as valuable experiences for both graduate students and organizations. However, organizations may fail to reach qualified potential applicants - leaving potential interns without valuable opportunities and organizations without a precious source of input and human capital. This session is designed to inform both of these groups about the internship process. First, the results of a survey of current and former interns will be used to present some common themes among previous internship experiences. Second, a panel of former interns and organizational representatives will be given the opportunity to present their thoughts on best practices. Finally, the audience will be given an extensive question and answer session where they can receive feedback and suggestions to inform their internship search.

*Time: Mon, May 3 - 8:15am - 9:45am*

*Place: Colorado Convention Center, Room 207*

### **GSC Chair Fireside Chat: Standards of Publishing in the 21st Century: Informed Reflections From the American Educational Research Journal-Social and Institutional Analysis section's Graduate Student Review Group**

The University at Buffalo's Graduate School of Education is home to The American Educational Research Journal's section on Social and Institutional Analysis. This prestigious, tier-one academic journal publishes original empirical research and rigorous theoretical analyses regarding the political, cultural, social, economic, and organizational components of education. Since June of 2008, a team of eight graduate students has served as a pre-screening committee making

supplementary recommendations to the editorial team for all AERJ-SIA manuscript submissions. In this panel, members of the AERJ-SIA Graduate Student Review Group will share their experiences reading and reviewing fully blinded manuscript submissions – those that are within and outside the scope of the journal, as well as those of the highest academic quality and those that do not meet standards set by the American Educational Research Association. This panel is aimed specifically at graduate students and early career faculty who are beginning to think about submitting manuscripts for publication in referred academic journals as well as issues related to academic publishing more generally.

*Time: Mon, May 3 - 4:05pm - 5:35pm*

*Place: Colorado Convention Center, Room 207*

### **GSC Division A Fireside Chat: Complex Ecologies: Implications for School Leadership**

In an increasingly complex and diverse ecological world striving for improved student performance, educational leadership has changed. To be effective, leaders must take into account the complex diversities of students, families, and communities. Panelists in this session will discuss ecological diversity, its relevance to leadership, and its implications for educational administration and school organization.

*Time: Mon, May 3 - 4:05pm - 5:35pm*

*Place: Sheraton, Plaza Court 5*

### **GSC Division B Fireside Chat: Engaged Scholarship and Power in Education: Building Curriculum**

What does it mean when a researcher's academic work is also his/her local, community, or home/work? In this session, participants will explore how researchers negotiate authenticity of self and social inquiry within competing demands to balance genuine research curiosities with the responsibilities of academic life, including publishing and speaking out in public spheres.

*Time: Sun, May 2 - 10:35am - 12:05pm*

*Place: Colorado Convention Center, Room 104*

### **GSC Division C Fireside Chat: Understanding Motivated Learning for Academic and Career Success**

This session focuses on how motivated learning can help to promote academic and career success. The conceptual framework informing this presentation is Albert Bandura's social cognitive theory, which contends that human functioning involves a dynamic interplay among personal, behavioral, and environmental influences. Within this framework, Dr. Schunk emphasizes the role of motivational and self-regulatory processes such as goal setting and self-evaluation of capabilities (self-efficacy). He will discuss motivation and self-regulation in his scholarly agenda and higher education career, and address the relevance of motivated learning for successful academic and career development.

*Time: Sun, May 2 - 12:25pm - 1:55pm*

*Place: Colorado Convention Center, Room 108*

### **GSC Division D Fireside Chat: Experimental Versus Quasi-Experimental Design in Educational Research**

Are experimental designs always preferred over quasi-experimental designs? If so, are experimental designs really feasible in educational research? The decision to use a quasi-

experimental design for educational research is one that is usually made based on the infeasibility of designing purely experimental research studies. The purpose of this session is to discuss the appropriateness as well as the strengths and limitations of each of the approaches. Perhaps, even when conducting experimental designs are practical, there may be sound reasons for using quasi-experimental designs instead.

*Time: Mon, May 3 - 10:35am - 12:05pm*

*Place: Sheraton, Plaza Court 2*

### **GSC Division E Fireside Chat: The In Between: How to Use My Time Wisely**

This session focuses on the many transitions we, as graduate students, face during our "race to the finish." Should I get a job after my master's degree before I start my doctorate degree? Should I teach during my doctorate program or should I get some clinical experience? How much time should I spend publishing during school? With the job market so difficult right now, how should I spend my time if I can't get a full-time job? This session will be one that provides practical information about using time during life transitions. Come join us as we get some advice from people who've been here before.

*Time: Sat, May 1 - 2:15pm - 3:45pm*

*Place: Colorado Convention Center, Room 709*

### **GSC Division F Fireside Chat: Teaching and Writing the Political: Conflict, Controversy, and Opportunity**

The increasing fluidity of diverse knowledge bases within an expanding global hegemonic context presents a critical moment to revisit assumptions underpinning educational research for, with, and in social contexts of communities. In this fireside chat, panelists with diverse perspectives, in defining "communities" in relation to schooling, will discuss ways their work engage with/in communities, situated within a critique of educational research involving social contexts. Attention will be given to the complexity of the social contexts of communities as mediated by geography, class, race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, with consideration to the intersections of identities. By discussing avenues through which research undertaking diverse methodologies and subjects can empower community members, panelists push the academy's conceptualization of understanding research with/in social contexts. This session highlights current trends and points of tension involving educational research and the social contexts of communities, pointing to future directions in the field and providing insights for graduate students who seek to foster new notions of the social contexts of 'community' through transformative research.

*Time: Sun, May 2 - 12:25pm - 1:55pm*

*Place: Colorado Convention Center, Room 602*

### **GSC Division G Fireside Chat: A Critical Perspective on Research in Social Contexts of Education: Positioning the Role of Educational Research to Communities**

*Time: Fri, Apr 30 - 4:05pm - 5:35pm*

*Place: Colorado Convention Center, Room 712*

### **GSC Division H Fireside Chat: A Triangular Relationship? International Perspectives on the Links and Tensions Between Accountability, Summative Testing, and Ongoing Classroom Assessments**

Debates surrounding the tensions between progress monitoring, assessment and classroom teaching transcend borders. Such debates are key to current issues in educational assessment, and each nation offers unique insights regarding the affects of such tensions on education and the roles that researchers can play in educational reform. The graduate students of Division H will host a discussion featuring perspectives from researchers from around the globe with diverse expertise ranging from theory to measurement.

*Time: Mon, May 3 - 10:35am - 12:05pm*

*Place: Sheraton, Plaza Court 7*

### **GSC Division I Fireside Chat: Finding the Right Balance Between Research and Professional Practice: Opportunities to Expand Educational Research in the Professions**

Conducting educational research in the professions provides unique opportunities to apply and validate education theory to explain a wide variety of phenomena. Taking advantage of these opportunities requires a balance in focus between the “home discipline” and the profession. This tension has been characterized in terms of research for “producers” (i.e., other researchers) and research for “users” (i.e., members of the profession). Finding this balance is a dynamic process that most in education in the professions confront regularly. How one selects a balance point depends on many forces. This fireside chat will describe this issue, provide insights, and foster an open discussion among members of the audience. The chat will be led by Stanley J. Hamstra, Ph.D., Acting Assistant Dean, Academy for Innovation in Medical Education, at the University of Ottawa Faculty of Medicine. Dr. Hamstra, an experimental psychologist, is also the Research Director of the University of Ottawa Skills and Simulation Centre and currently developing research on competency assessment for residency programs.

*Time: Sat, May 1 - 12:25pm - 1:55pm*

*Place: Colorado Convention Center, Room 710*

### **GSC Division J Fireside Chat: The Day After You Defend: Career Paths in Higher Education**

While higher education institutions play significant roles in society, our interest in organizing this Fireside Chat involves the complex ecologies associated with the preparation of doctoral students and the multiple ways in which these students may contribute, both professionally and personally, to evolving societies, communities and movements. In particular, the Fireside Chat will provide the opportunity for graduate students and doctoral graduates in higher education who occupy different types of employment to candidly discuss the variety of career options available to students after the completion of a doctoral degree in higher education.

Interestingly, the preparation of doctoral students takes on different meanings due to a host of factors. In recognizing the multiple histories of students and faculty members as well as the diversity of contexts in which this preparation occurs, focused conversations about the realities of doctoral graduates are a necessary component to the doctoral process. By discussing their possible futures, current students may be able to orient their activities in ways that optimize their learning and development during their studies. Also, by providing the space for doctoral graduates to reflect on and talk about their experiences, we are actively encouraging the possibility of research that impacts the theory and practice of doctoral education.

This specific focus on doctoral education and its role in the enterprise of education research that impacts theory and practice have very salient connections to the complexities of ecologies – that

of students, institutions and broader society. In many ways, these connections bring to bear difficult questions about the purpose of doctoral education, the responsibility of universities and colleges, and the relationship of educators to society. By having this discussion, we hope to shed some light on the realities of higher education systems, and to encourage current and future researchers and practitioners to ask questions about and seek solutions to the continued challenges of contributing to theory and practice.

*Time: Sun, May 2 - 12:25pm - 1:55pm*

*Place: Colorado Convention Center, Room 105*

### **GSC Division K Fireside Chat: Where the Rubber Hits the Road: Educational Researchers Go to School**

This year's theme will echo the theme of AERA "Understanding Complex Ecologies in a Changing World". The Chat will focus on "Bridging the gap between theory and practice and better answer the question of "What it means to be both an educational researcher and classroom teacher?" We are asking the distinguished scholars to give a short (10-15 minute) talk on this topic as it is related to their content area. These presentations will be followed by a question and answer session among the scholars and the audience.

The chat will explore three overarching topics:

1. Educational research;
2. Classroom teaching; and
3. Cultural knowledge and social responsibility in teaching.

The topics reflect multiple research methodologies such as mixed-methods, qualitative research, quantitative research, meta-narratives, etc. Each of our panelist's diverse experiences and perspectives on research will have a conversation on defining educational research as informed by multiple disciplines and how people can do the work of educational research as well as classroom teaching.

*Time: Sun, May 2 - 12:25pm - 1:55pm*

*Place: Colorado Convention Center, Room 703*

### **GSC Division L Fireside Chat: Critical Conversations: Exploring the Influx of Market-Based Reform Efforts Within State and Federal Educational Policies**

We seek to provide a interactive roundtable where student scholars and invited guests can participate in a collaborative conversation regarding the influx of market-based reform efforts within educational policies efforts at both the state and federal levels. After allowing each guest to address 2-3 core questions, we will allow students scholars to ask questions and make comments that address the core topic and questions previously addressed. This conversation seeks to provide a critical, yet balanced conversation that will highlight the researched opinions of both the supporters and detractors of market-based reforms efforts.

*Time: Sat, May 1 - 8:15am - 9:45am*

*Place: Sheraton, Plaza Ballroom E*

### **GSC Fireside Chat: Grant Writing for Graduate Students**

Writing a successful proposal for external funding often requires the ability to communicate research effectively to an interdisciplinary team of scholars. This session will provide an overview

of the skills of writing an interdisciplinary proposal and will highlight strategies for reconceptualizing research from that which will inform a discipline to that which can contribute to a field.

*Time: Sat, May 1 - 2:15pm - 3:45pm*

*Place: Colorado Convention Center, Room 207*

### **GSC Future Faculty of Color Fireside Chat**

This session will examine life in the academy through the lens of faculty of color. Faculty will discuss the balance of the three dominant areas within the academy; scholarship, teaching, and service. Graduate students will have the opportunity to discuss the key elements of transitioning from doctoral students to the professorate. Participants will dialogue about balancing family, the dissertation process, their career, and working toward tenure. Graduate students of all stages and junior faculty are encouraged to attend.

*Time: Sun, May 2 - 8:15am - 9:45am*

*Place: Colorado Convention Center, Room 207*

### **GSC Orientation**

This session will provide information for graduate students about how to get the most out of the annual meeting and how to get involved with AERA's Graduate Student Council. Come network with colleagues from across AERA, meet the Graduate Student Council representatives from each division, and learn about opportunities available to graduate students within AERA. Light refreshments will be provided.

*Time: Fri, Apr 30 - 6:15pm - 7:45pm*

*Place: Colorado Convention Center, Room 207*

### **Scholarly Writing Within the Academy: Navigating This Space From a Doctoral Student, Junior Scholar, and Senior Scholar Perspective**

Many of doctoral students and junior scholars enter the field of research because they wish to make a difference in their communities, schools, universities, and beyond. However, the demands of doctoral students and early career scholars can make it difficult to pursue goals related to scholarly writing and academic publishing. This session will examine how doctoral students, early career scholars, and senior scholars can successfully navigate within the academy and arrive at a dissertation defense or a productive research agenda. The participants will share insights on effective writing from their doctoral journey, careers as scholars, and a doctoral student mentor to deconstruct topics such as writing effective literature reviews, writing winning dissertations, doctoral student writing techniques, and creative ways to writing as a new scholar.

*Time: Mon, May 3 - 6:15pm - 7:45pm*

*Place: Colorado Convention Center, Room 207*