



AERC 2027
Call for Proposals
Memphis, TN
June 3-5, 2027
Pre-Conferences on
June 3, 2027

**The 68th Annual
Adult Education
Research
Conference**
hosted by
The University of Memphis

Proposal Deadline:
November 15, 2026
Decisions
Communicated by
February 15, 2027

AERC Steering Committee

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Research as Resistance: Adult Education Scholarship in Challenging Times

The Adult Education Research Conference (AERC) invites submissions for the 2027 Adult Education Research Conference, to be held June 3-5, 2027, at the University of Memphis in Memphis, Tennessee.

Adult education has long served as a site of inquiry, critique, and action in response to social inequities, democratic tensions, and struggles for human dignity. The 2027 conference invites participants to explore how research itself can function as a form of resistance. Research as resistance encompasses documenting marginalized histories, challenging dominant narratives, advancing participatory methodologies, amplifying lived experiences, and supporting democratic participation, social justice, and human flourishing.

The rapid rise of AI makes this work newly urgent. As automated systems increasingly mediate knowledge, judgment, and representation, research can expose what these systems obscure, challenge the extraction of human knowledge and intellectual work, and defend human judgment against automated authority. It can ask who builds these systems, whose knowledge they absorb, whose histories they preserve or erase, and who bears the consequences when they fail. In this moment, research as resistance means not simply studying technological change, but producing the knowledge communities need to question it, contest it, and shape its course.

Guided by this theme, proposals addressing any aspect of adult education research, practice, policy, leadership, community engagement, teaching and learning, workforce development, higher education, healthcare education, technology, and lifelong learning are welcome.



Types of Proposals and Sessions

Paper Proposals:

Papers are reports of completed research and will be published in the conference proceedings. There are three categories for papers: empirical research, model or theory development, and theorizing from the literature. The time allotted for each session is **50 minutes**. Audience participation, as a principle of adult education, is stressed.

Research Roundtable Proposals:

Research roundtables provide an opportunity to informally discuss research in progress and research issues with a group of participants. A summary will be published in the conference proceedings. The time allotted for each session is **50 minutes**. Several roundtable discussions will take place concurrently in the same room with each presenter assigned to a different table.

Guidelines for Submitting Proposals

All proposals must be submitted typed or cut-and-pasted into the [proposal form](https://forms.gle/X9EeVDyvKPFAJkaW8). Please do not include author names or institutional affiliations in your abstract or description. The following information should be entered in the proposal submission form: <https://forms.gle/X9EeVDyvKPFAJkaW8>

- Title of the paper
- Type of submission
- Contact information for **all authors** (name, address, telephone number and e-mail address)
- An abstract of 25-30 words
- Keywords (3-5 words)
- Proposal submission, as outlined below

Proposal Submission Deadline: November 15, 2026

Decisions Communicated by February 15, 2027

Papers: If your paper is selected for presentation, you have the option to submit a formally written six-page (single-spaced, typed) paper for inclusion in the conference proceedings.

Research Roundtables: If your roundtable proposal is accepted, you have the option to submit a formally written two-page (single-spaced, typed) summary for inclusion in the conference proceedings.

Submission Agreement for all Proposals:

I/we warrant that if my/our paper [roundtable or symposium] proposal is accepted, I/we will have an option to submit a formally written summary for inclusion in the conference proceedings. If we choose to submit to the proceedings, I/we agree that the summary will be typed, single-spaced, and 2 pages for roundtables, 6 pages for papers. I/we understand that if this summary is not submitted by **April 15, 2027, Noon Central Time**, I/we will still have the opportunity to present at the conference, but the presentation will not be included as part of AERC 2027 proceedings.



For Paper Proposals

Submit a proposal, not to exceed 600 words. Remove all identifying information from the proposal. A list of references is not required. **Any submission extending beyond 600 words will be excluded from consideration.**

Empirical paper proposals should adequately describe:

- Purpose of the study (What does the study contribute?);
- Perspective or theoretical framework—relevant literature and adult education theories, research;
- Research design (including rationale for method, research questions, data collection, and analysis);
- Findings and conclusions; Implications for adult education

Model or theory development paper proposals should adequately describe:

- What practical or theoretical void will this model or theory fill with respect to adult education?
- What is the basis for proposing this model or theory (experience, literature, personal empirical research, etc.) related to adult education?
- What are the elements of the model or theory and relationships among its elements?

Theorizing from the literature paper proposals should address:

These proposals can be either explorations based on literature (reviews and/or critiques) or applications from one field to another that give new insights about adult education.

- What is the purpose of this exploration or application?
- What fields of study, disciplinary perspectives, or bodies of literature are being analyzed?
- What are the implications for the development of adult education theory and practice?

For Research Roundtable Proposals

Submit a summary of the proposal, not to exceed 600 words. Remove all identifying information from the summary. A list of references is not required. Roundtable proposals should outline the questions or ideas that form the basis for the discussion you are proposing. Include two or three foundational questions that will spark meaningful discussion. Be sure to address the relevance of this topic to the field of adult education. Why does this work as a roundtable discussion?

Final Accepted Paper Submission Guidelines

- All final papers for the published conference proceedings will be due April 15, 2027, Noon Central Time (no extensions). Papers received after this date will **NOT** be included in the conference proceedings.
- Authors whose proposals are accepted will be notified of the specifications for preparing and submitting papers at the time of acceptance.
- Should unforeseen circumstances prevent you from attending, it is your responsibility to contact the AERC steering committee AERC2027Memphis@gmail.com.