

# Tidying the toolbox: trials, blunders, and challenges overcome in research on learning and education

Vienna, September 9-10, 2020

Published papers often seem to have research designs and methods that are ideally suited to their studies. Yet, research rarely happens with perfectly executed methods or starts out with optimal designs. Instead, it is littered with dashed hopes, rusty tools, and challenges that are met and bested. The EARLI SIG17 2020 conference seeks to enable open discussions about what happens when the best-laid plans of researchers in learning and education meet reality. The aim will be to open up the research process: which methods worked out, which ones proved wanting, and what did we learn when we used them? Which designs did we attempt, and how could we improve them for future studies? What advice would we give to the junior or senior colleagues who might want to use similar methods or designs in future?

The conference aims to inspire submissions from the full range of methodological approaches. It will include mentoring opportunities for JURE members, as well as plenary sessions where senior colleagues discuss how they go about the 'craft' of research.

We seek abstract proposals that adopt a **conceptual, methodological, or empirical lens on research methods, and that relate to the theme above**. They can be about any research design or method used in research on learning and education, whether qualitative, quantitative, or mixed. We warmly welcome submissions from JURE members, who will benefit from in-depth discussions on the challenges involved in different research approaches, and equally invite members of other EARLI SIGs to join the debate.

Potential presenters can submit abstract proposals for symposium, individual paper, poster, research 'fail', and workshop sessions. The format that proposals should take is addressed below. **Proposals should be sent to <http://submit.sig17.net/> by 16/02/2020**

If you have any further questions, drop us a line at [hello@sig17.net](mailto:hello@sig17.net)

## Conference Formats

### Symposium

Symposia present research on one topic or theme, providing a coherent set of papers for discussion. Symposium sessions consist of three or four oral presentations and a discussant, led by a chairperson.

Proposals for a symposium should consist of a general abstract for the proposed symposium, as well as an abstract for each individual paper presentation. The general abstract should describe the overarching theme of the symposium. The paper abstracts should be up to **500 words (excluding references)**. Abstracts for empirical papers should address: 1) The background and aims of the study and research questions, 2) Methodology (including participants, context, materials and data analyses), 3) Results and 4) Discussion/conclusions (including discussion of methodological challenges and implications). Conceptual and methodological contributions can follow a different structure.

### Individual Paper

Individual paper sessions involve oral presentations of empirical, methodological or theoretical papers and discussions with the audience.

Individual paper abstracts should be up to **500 words (excluding references)**. Abstracts for empirical papers should address: 1) The background and aims of the study and research questions, 2) Methodology (including participants, context, materials and data analyses), 3) Results and 4) Discussion/conclusions (including discussion of methodological challenges and implications). Conceptual and methodological contributions can follow a different structure.

### Poster

Poster sessions will involve 5-minute presentations of individual posters followed by an unstructured period where the audience will be invited to visit and comment on posters.

Poster abstracts should be up to **500 words (excluding references)**. Abstracts for empirical papers should address: 1) The background and aims of the study and research questions, 2) Methodology (including participants, context, materials and data analyses), 3) Results and 4) Discussion/conclusions (including discussion of methodological challenges and implications). Conceptual and methodological contributions can follow a different structure.

### Research 'fail' sessions

Research 'fail' sessions involve oral presentations of papers that discuss research 'fails' – instances where research methods and designs didn't work according to plan – and what these experiences can teach us about doing research, as well as discussions with the audience. Proposals can draw on several studies and can address, among others, aborted ideas, "near-misses", and attempts to "turn things around". Their emphasis can be empirical, methodological, or conceptual.

Research ‘fail’ abstracts should be up to **500 words (excluding references)**. Abstracts for empirical papers should address: 1) The background and aims of the study and research questions, 2) Methodology (including participants, context, materials and data analyses), 3) the nature of the research fail, and 4) Discussion/conclusions, with a focus on what the research fail can teach us about doing research. Conceptual and methodological contributions can follow a different structure but should follow the overall research fail format mentioned above.

### **Post-conference workshops**

Post-conference workshops will provide interactive contexts for an in-depth examination, discussion and elaboration of methodological approaches. The workshops will be organized on September 11th. Each workshop should provide an in-depth introduction to a methodological approach, which can then be further explored and critically scrutinized for its potential and limitations to address key issues in research on learning and education. Workshops should also discuss the key challenges and/or pitfalls involved in the methodological approach. Workshop proposals should be submitted through the submission system.

Proposals for workshops should be up to **500 words (excluding references)**. They should contain: 1) the topic of the workshop, 2) a rationale for why the method or methodology covered is important, 3) the workshop objectives, 4) a description of the activities planned for the workshop, 5) the contribution expected from the participants, 6) possible outcomes.

### **Important Dates**

February 16, 2020	Submissions due
March 1, 2020	Notification of Review Outcomes
April 15, 2020	Early Bird Registration deadline
July 31, 2020	Main Registration deadline
September 9-10, 2020	Conference. On-site registration will be possible if spaces are available.
September 11, 2020	Post-Conference Workshops

We are very much looking forward to receiving your submissions and welcoming you all in Vienna in September next year!

*Dominik, Jasperina, and Marc (SIG17 coordinators)*