



Call for Papers

**THE SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL WORK AND RESEARCH
with Pre-Conference Institutes Sponsored by:
The Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research**

is pleased to announce that its

Fourteenth Annual Conference

will convene at the

Hyatt Regency San Francisco Embarcadero Center

San Francisco, CA

January 14 – 17, 2010

The Conference Planning Committee of the Society for Society Work and Research (SSWR) invites submissions for presentations within all content areas of social work, social welfare services, and social policy. Relevant focus areas include, but are not limited to: aging, gerontology, adolescent and youth development, addictions, child welfare, disaster/ hazards, health and disability, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, mental health, poverty, crime and the criminal justice system, research design and measurement, social work education, organizations and management, work and family issues, social work practice, school social work, and policies relevant to each of these areas.

The theme for the 2010 conference is “Social Work Research: A World of Possibilities.” In this increasingly interdependent world, the research conducted by members of SSWR now serves as international models. This annual conference provides researchers interested in a wide range of biopsychosocial problems and issues with an opportunity to impact globally on policy and services related to poverty, child welfare, health, mental health, addictions, aging, criminal justice, and many other topics. As detailed in the cluster areas below, submissions that include a focus across all areas of social work research from epidemiology, translational, and dissemination research are strongly encouraged. Submissions for presentations may include individual paper and poster presentations, organized paper symposia, round-table discussions, and workshops.

Topic Clusters

Addictions. Research focusing on gambling, sexual addictions, internet addictions, child and adult alcohol and other substance abuse concerns are included in this cluster. Studies

addressing the epidemiology of substance using behaviors, related factors, and effective interventions are all included.

Adolescent and Youth Development. This cluster seeks abstracts focusing on adolescent problem behaviors (e.g., violence, delinquency, health and mental health, substance abuse, academic achievement) and youth development. Studies addressing the prevalence of specific behaviors, the distribution of risk factors, shifts in risk factors, the distribution of problems over time, protective factors and resiliency and effective prevention and intervention programs.

Aging Services and Gerontology. Studies investigating aging and end-of-life issues (e.g., productive aging, palliative care, caregiving, interventions).

Child Welfare. Abstracts in this cluster focus on the complexities of the child welfare system. Areas such as: child maltreatment/neglect/abuse, foster care, adoption, child and family interventions, transitioning out of the child welfare system. Interactions between child welfare and other service sectors (e.g., juvenile justice, health, mental health) are encouraged.

Crime and Criminal Justice. SSWR seeks to include studies focusing upon criminal behaviors, criminal and juvenile justice systems, human trafficking, and violence against women and children.

Disaster/Hazard. This cluster seeks studies addressing disaster planning. Research on disaster preparedness and mitigation in addition to studies investigating disaster response and recovery are included in this cluster.

Gender and Ethnicity. This cluster includes studies and related policy issues that focus on gender, immigrants/refugees, race and relevant disparities and problems.

Health and Disability. The health and disability cluster seeks studies addressing areas of health and illness (e.g., STD, obesity, diabetes, cancer, HIV/AIDS), disabilities, prevention, interventions, health promotion and education. This cluster also seeks studies focusing on understanding issues related to health disparities. Studies that articulate how social work research can address key biological, behavioral, social environment, physical environment, and policy factors to promote health and well-being and reduce health disparities.

Mental Health. Studies addressing mental health services, serious mental illness, diagnosis, assessment, co-morbidity, systems of care, mental health treatment, and evidence-based interventions are included in the cluster.

Organizations and Management. SSWR seeks abstracts that investigate management and administration as well as organizational theory, development, and practice. This cluster also includes abstracts focusing on social policy research to guide policy and decision making.

Poverty and Social Policy. Studies investigating various aspects of communities/neighborhoods, issues of poverty, welfare reform, homelessness and housing.

Research Design and Measurement. SSWR seeks to advance the development of new measures, research designs, and statistical analyses. For example, mixed-methods approaches that integrate qualitative and quantitative methodologies. Innovative studies and methodological analyses are welcomed that address measurement, statistical, methodological and practical challenges to social work research.

Research on Social Work Education This cluster focuses on evaluation research, educational and training research, educational outcomes, faculty development, research infrastructure at schools of social work, and scholarly productivity.

School Social Work. Studies that focus on social work practice in a school setting.

Sexual Orientation. This cluster seeks to include studies which focus upon issues and research relevant to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered community.

Social Work Practice. Research focusing on social work practice and skills (e.g., ethical issues, evidence based practice, cultural competence, international social work).

Work, Family, and Family Policy. SSWR seeks abstracts relevant to employment, occupational social work, work issues, and policies relevant to working families.

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

question(s) and/or hypothesis (es). **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.

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.)

Peer reviews will be used to select submissions based upon technical merit and importance of findings. Research abstracts are encouraged in all substantive areas and using any scientifically sound qualitative and/or quantitative methodology. There is a limit of three (3) first-authored abstract submissions per person. This limit, which applies to all presentation formats, does not apply to other levels of authorship.

Please note that all abstracts are to be submitted online using the SSWR online abstract management system, which will be accessible the week of March 2, 2009.

Submission Deadline: 11:59pm PDT on Thursday, April 30, 2009

We look forward to seeing you in San Francisco!