



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

is pleased to announce that its

Thirteenth Annual Conference

"Research that Promotes Sustainability and (re)Builds Strengths"

will convene at the
New Orleans Marriott
New Orleans, LA
January 15, 2009 - January 18, 2009

Submission Deadline:
Wednesday, April 30, 2008

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, adoption, child maltreatment, mental health/mental disorders, health disparities, health promotion and disease prevention, disability, suicide, child and adolescent health and behavioral health, sexual orientation, family conflict, domestic violence, substance abuse and addiction, international social work, violence, delinquency, crime, academic failure, school dropout, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted disease, unemployment, poverty, welfare, managed care, social development, measurement, research designs, community and policy-based interventions.

The theme for the 2008 conference is "Research that Promotes Sustainability and (re)Builds Strengths." While most agree that "research matters", understanding the impact of research to under gird sustainability and develop capacity in individuals, families, and communities undergoing harsh and difficult challenges lags behind. In addition, as social work research moves forward to better understand the interactions between individuals and their environments, many questions remain. 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

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).

Alcohol and Substance Abuse. Research focusing on adult alcohol and substance abuse are included in this cluster. Studies addressing the epidemiology of substance using behaviors, related factors, and effective interventions.

Child Welfare. Abstracts in this cluster focus on the complexities of the child welfare system. Areas such as: child maltreatment, 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.

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/Ethnicity/Sexual Orientation. This cluster includes studies that focus on gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and transgendered.

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.

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

housing, and criminal behaviors and criminal justice system responses are requested for this cluster.

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.

Social Policy and Organizations. SSWR seeks abstracts that investigate organizational theory, development, and practice. This cluster also includes abstracts focusing on social policy research to guide policy and decision making.

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

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

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; 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 which will serve 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 the abstract.**

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 beginning March 2008.

Online submission site: <http://sswr.confex.com/sswr/2009/cfp.cgi>

DEADLINE FOR ONLINE SUBMISSION is 11:59pm PDT on Wednesday, April 30, 2008

We look forward to seeing you in New Orleans!