

*The Department of Special Education at the University of Kansas is pleased to announce the
Fourteenth Annual*

KU Professionals for Inclusion and Social Justice
GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE
on
February 2, 2018

Embracing Innovation: Rigorous Research in our Community

The theme of this year's Graduate Student Research Conference is ***Embracing Innovation: Rigorous Research in our Community***. We use the term “embracing innovation” as it encompasses finding new ways to improve the lives of individuals in our community.

The theme is a call to examine the impact of new ideas and knowledge on society through rigorous research aimed to improve quality of life across various spheres. The theme relates to a variety of topics, populations, and frameworks explored by graduate students at KU. We seek submissions that represent a range of perspectives across disciplines, departments, and colleges. Although we encourage submission of topics related to our theme, we also accept proposals in other areas. Any individuals with questions about the relevance of a potential proposal topic may contact isjconference2017@gmail.com.

Potential topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Technology as an innovative solution to improving quality of life
- How involving key stakeholders in the research process can enhance the potential for impact
- Use of statistical analysis to examine relationships between innovative practices and group outcomes
- The impact of classroom tools and/or practices on students' achievement
- How certain innovations shape or influence the performance of identities
- Historical analysis of past efforts in innovative practice and implications for the future

- How innovative practice within a classroom, public space, or business facilitates or impedes access and inclusion
- How architecture and engineering afford or constrain access and inclusion through the planning, design, and implementation of research in innovation
- How or why certain innovations privilege or marginalize certain populations or identities
- How advances in big data, data-based decision making, and other technological shifts are changing experiences for individuals, communities, practitioners, and researchers

We welcome submissions that examine the ways in which interactions between people and innovation create challenges and opportunities for inclusion, social justice, equity, and/or access, as they are broadly defined. We also welcome submissions that use theory, research, and/or performance to call for the creation of innovation through rigorous research to facilitate these ideals. However, all submissions will be considered for acceptance, regardless of adherence to the conference theme.

Proposal Information:

- *Who should submit a proposal?* Masters and doctoral level graduate students who are working on research and projects are encouraged to submit proposals. Proposals from all disciplines are welcome.
- *Why submit a proposal?* To bring together students, community members, and professionals at and outside of the University of Kansas to share ideas, collaborate, and learn from one another.
- *What should be submitted?* A variety of presentation topics will be included in the conference. We welcome proposals for dramatic performances and art displays, as well as poster and paper presentations.

*Please consult the proposal form for time and space restrictions.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL

1. Go to the online proposal submission form at either of the links below:
<http://specialedu.ku.edu/resources/isj/research-conference>
<https://goo.gl/forms/aXfrReZWgZvB76I12>
2. Indicate the presentation formats you are **most** interested in:
Poster presentation - 60 minute poster session
Performance piece - 30 minute performance
Break-out session - 30 minute presentation
3. Write or insert an abstract 100-250 words in length.
*You may find it helpful to prepare the required abstract information in a word document beforehand and then copy and paste it into the online proposal submission form.
4. Submit proposal. All proposals must be received by **11:59 pm On Sunday, December 10, 2017**. If you have questions regarding proposal submission, please contact isjconference2017@gmail.com.

REVIEW PROCESS

The conference committee will review all submitted proposals. The conference committee includes graduate students from a variety of departments at The University of Kansas. A broad array of topics and a variety of presentation formats will be selected. Presenters will be notified of proposal acceptance by **December 20, 2017**.