Introduction

The 2016 Presidential Sessions cohere around the many faces and conceptions of public scholarship, building upon longstanding traditions in education research as well as newer approaches to scholarship. This guide outlines our goals for the Annual Meeting program and offers a typology of public scholarship, illustrated with examples from the Presidential Sessions. It is a companion to the online booklet that describes all of the Presidential Sessions at the 2016 AERA Annual Meeting (Public Scholarship to Educate Diverse Democracies: 2016 AERA Presidential Sessions).

Public scholarship includes research translation and research engagement. Translation is the effective communication of research to various publics in accessible and useful forms. Engagement is conducted in partnership and collaboration with various publics in an effort to solve real problems. Engaging publics with education research helps researchers address the problems or issues community members deem important; this engagement also helps to build a strong knowledge base for current and future research. Public scholarship arises from a century-old call—from John Dewey, Jane Addams, W.E.B. DuBois, and others—to infuse technically and scientifically rigorous research with knowledge and participation of the people, institutions, and communities most affected by the social challenges under study.

Four Primary Goals of the 2016 Presidential Sessions

**Goal 1: Lift up public scholarship.** The Presidential sessions provide high-quality examples of scholars who bridge research with the work of educators, policymakers, advocacy groups, litigants, and other publics. Such work is rigorous scholarship that generates new ideas about practice, enriches policy debates, supports and evaluates implementation, and reflexively informs the scholars about their own research production.

**Goal 2: Address the opportunities and challenges of engaging in public scholarship.** Public scholarship may ask researchers to communicate across fields and communities, co-design topics and foci for study, coordinate logistics, and steadily participate with different publics and other scholars in reflection and inquiry. The Presidential Sessions engage scholars at all professional levels, and ask them to consider how researchers navigate and respond to the challenges of supporting successful public projects.

**Goal 3: Build our capacity to engage in public scholarship within professional norms.** The program provides many nuts-and-bolts examples of public scholarship—cross-sector collaborations, knowledge dissemination, and research methods that honor rigorous knowledge creation. They highlight scholars and institutions pursuing the highest standards of scholarship...
while engaging multiple publics. Together, the sessions build upon the collective capacities of scholars and publics alike to do this work well.

**Goal 4: Recognize public scholarship as integral to rigorous academic work and as a core responsibility of education researchers.** Engaged scholarship is often lauded as "service" but may not be highly valued in promotion-and-tenure decisions. The 2016 Presidential Sessions illuminate public scholarship as a powerful and demanding type of research that must become more central to the profession and must become encouraged, supported, and rewarded as such. Not every scholar's program of research or personal disposition should lead to public scholarship, but those who venture outside the academy should be recognized from within. This recognition should include both the external value of the work and its internal value to the institution.

**Typology of Public Scholarship**

**Communicating Research to Broad Audiences.**
Scholars do the essential work of translating research findings, and honing the skills necessary to understand and use public modes of communication. This vital intellectual endeavor is one of the principal means for moving research into the mainstream of national consciousness and policy discourse. The following presidential sessions reflect this goal by highlighting strong and innovative work within the spheres of old and new media.

**Sessions**

- **Learning From a National Network of University-Based Public Scholars** (Followed by Networking Reception). Fri, April 8, 4:05–7:00pm, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 202B.
- **Writing Our Way Into the Public Sphere.** Sat, April 9, 10:35am to 12:05pm, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 202 A.
- **Public Scholars on the Social Impact of School-Related Inequalities: Perspectives From Multiple Disciplines.** Sun, April 10, 8:15 to 9:45am, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 202 A.
- **Making Knowledge Public: Books as Public Scholarship.** Sun, April 10, 2:45 to 4:15pm, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 202 B.
- **The Power of Public Scholarship to Transform Policy and Practice: Five Award-Winning Books.** Mon, April 11, 11:45am to 1:15pm, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 201.
- **Career Threats and Opportunities: What Is the Role of Social Media in Public Scholarship?** Mon, April 11, 2:45 to 4:15pm, Convention Center, Level Three, Ballroom C.
- **Backpack Full of Cash: Sneak Preview of a 90-Minute Documentary Film Narrated by Matt Damon.** Tue, April 12, 12:25 to 1:55pm, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 202 B
- Additionally, please note five Presidential Sessions called “ED Talks” that demonstrate highly effective presentations of salient research prepared for multiple publics. These sessions will all be in Convention Center, Level Two, Room 207 B and will be held on Saturday from 12:25 – 1:55 pm & 2:15 – 3:45 pm; Monday from 10:35 am – 12:05 pm & 4:05 – 5:35 pm; and Tuesday, from 10:35 am – 12:05pm.
Collaborative Research for Policy Change
Researchers collaborate with policy makers, education professionals, community organizations, and litigation teams to investigate policy solutions to problems in education and related spheres. Such collaboration prompts new questions, methods, and practices that may not arise in more traditional arenas of academic research.

Sessions:

- **Talking Back: Public Scholarship, Productive Practice, and the Future of Teacher Education.** Sat, April 9, 8:15-9:45am, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 201.
- **Where Might the 2016 Election Year Take Us? Exploring the Implications of Political Framing for Future Education Legislation.** Fri, April 8, 12pm to 1:30pm, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 201.
- **The Role of Philanthropy in Education Research.** Sat., April 9, 12:25-1:55 pm, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 201.
- **Reflexive Sociology as Public Scholarship: Research to Inform Policy That Addresses Inequality.** Sat, April 9, 10:35am to 12:05pm, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 201.
- **Education Research and Teacher Unions: What Are the Rules of Engagement?** Sat, April 9, 12:25 to 1:55pm, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 202 B.
- **Public Scholarship and Immigrant Students and Families: Leveraging Community and Research Partnerships.** Sun, April 10, 10:35am to 12:05pm, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 201.
- **Public Scholarship on the Witness Stand: The Impact of Research and Expert Testimony in Educational Reform Litigation.** Sun, April 10, 10:35am to 12:05pm, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 202 A.
- **The Unique Role of Non-University Research Centers in the Study of Educational Equity.** Sun, April 10, 2:45-4:15pm, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 207B.
- **Public Scholarship and Community Organizing for Sustainable Community Schools.** Mon, April 11, 8:00 to 11:30am, Montgomery Knolls Elementary School, 807 Daleview Dr., Silver Spring, MD.
- **Public Scholarship in Campaigns to Change Hearts, Minds, and Policy: Discipline Disparities and the School-to-Prison Pipeline.** Mon, April 11, 4:30 to 6:30pm, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 202 A.
- **How Much Testing and for What Purpose? Public Scholarship in the Debate About Educational Assessment and Accountability.** Tue, April 12, 10:35am to 12:05pm, Convention Center, Level Three, Ballroom C.
- **Influencing Equality before the Law: Enhancing the Use of Social Science for the Public Good.** Tue, April 12, 12:25 to 1:55pm, Convention Center, Level Three, Ballroom C.

Research Embedded in Educational Contexts
Research conducted in schools and with educators involves the dual task of improving practice and producing research that is viable beyond that particular context. Several sessions illustrate how research partnerships with educators produce useful knowledge
and raise relevant questions about the two-way relationship between research and practice.

Sessions:

- **The Ethnic Studies Revival: Tucson and Beyond.** Sat, April 9, 2:15 to 3:45pm, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 202 A.
- **Living Public Scholarship: Insights from a University-School Partnership.** Sat, April 9, 4:05 to 5:35pm, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 207 B.
- **Public Scholarship and Teacher Education for Diverse Democracies.** Sun, April 10, 8:15 to 10:15 am, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 207 B.
- **Increasing Educational Opportunities and Improving Outcomes for English Learners: Partnerships between Public Scholars and School Leaders.** Sun, April 10, 8:15 to 10:15am, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 201.
- **Teachers, School Leaders, and Public Scholars Developing an Ecosystems Approach to Growing Educator Capacity.** Mon, April 11, 10:00 to 11:30am, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 201.
- **With, by, and for Teachers: Collaborative Public Scholarship in Teacher Learning and Leadership.** Sat, April 9, 8:15 to 9:45am, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 202 B.
- **Public Scholarship Broadening Participation in Computer Science Education.** Tue, April 12, 2:15-3:45pm, Convention Center, Level Three, Ballroom C.

**Institutional Partnerships and Centers**

University-wide or center-based partnerships collaborate on inquiry and improvement by leveraging institutional resources and relationships across multiple constituencies. They bring intellectual, financial, and political capital of institutions to bear on understanding and developing research-based solutions to significant educational problems. Several sessions illuminate these partnerships within their larger policy contexts.

Sessions:

- **Going Beyond the Obvious: University Centers Leveraging Public Scholarship for K–12 Equity.** Sun, April 10, 10:35am -12:05pm, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 202 B.
- **Public Scholarship to Inform Equity and New Accountability: The Iterative Relationship Between Research and Policy.** Mon, April 11, 7:45-9:45am, Convention Center, Level Three, Ballroom C.
- **Public Scholarship as Creating and Studying Excellent and Equitable Schools for a Diverse Democracy.** Mon, April 11, 10:00-11:30am, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 202 A.

**Public-Creating Scholarship**

Public-creating scholarship identifies and directs attention to concrete, public problems that otherwise might be seen as personal troubles. It invites and encourages civic participation, supports and organizes that participation, and empowers citizens to prompt state action. It helps develop a “public” with a cohering identity and purpose that is informed by data it finds relevant, a sense of its struggle’s place in history, strategies to further policy goals, and much more. Sessions highlight research conducted with and for community organizations associated with current social movements.
Sessions:

- **Urban Research Based Action Network: Public Scholarship That Connects Collaborative, Community-Engaged Research to National Educational and Racial Justice Movements.** Fri, April 8, 4:05–5:35pm, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 201.
- **Privatization, Commercialization, and Disappearing Spaces for Public Scholarship.** Sat, April 9, 8:15–9:45am, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 202A.
- **Researchers Meet Community Organizers: Can Public Scholarship Contribute to Struggles for Immigration Rights, Community Schools, and Public Institutions in Neoliberal Times?** Sat, April 9, 12:25–1:55pm, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 202A.
- **“This Is What Democracy Looks Like”: How John Dewey’s Democracy and Education Lives in Education Organizing, Activism, and Opting Out.** Sat, April 9, 2:15–3:45pm, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 202A.
- **Can Public Scholarship Help School Finance Policy Meet the Challenge of Increasing Diversity?** Sun, April 10, 2:45–4:15pm, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 202A.
- **Innovative Qualitative Methodologies for Public Scholarship.** Mon, April 11, 11:45-1:15pm, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 201.
- **Public Scholarship and #BlackLivesMatter: New Directions for Research and Policy Through College.** Mon, April 11, 12:25–1:55pm, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 201.
- **#BlackGirlsMatter: Public Scholarship Engaging With the Race/Gender Interaction in Schools.** Mon, April 11, 10:35am to 12:05pm, Convention Center, Level Three, Ballroom C.
- **Public Scholarship and Public Education in a Time of Civil Unrest.** Mon, April 11, 2:45–4:15pm, Convention Center, Level Two, Room 201.
- **How Public Scholarship Helped Put School Integration Back on the Public Agenda.** Mon, April 11, 4:30–6:00pm, Convention Center, Level Three, Ballroom C.

**Our Thanks**

Public scholarship has a long and deep tradition, but it is also a concept continually under construction. We hope that you will use the meeting’s sessions, events, and informal interactions to problematize and advance the idea and practice of public scholarship. Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your participation and interest.

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