



## AERA Task Forces Working for the Association and Education Research

In addition to an excellent roster of standing committees and award committees that advance AERA's ongoing work and interests (see [http://www.aera.net/?menu\\_id=96&cid=224](http://www.aera.net/?menu_id=96&cid=224)), in recent years, the Association has been substantially advanced by special task forces focused on accomplishing specific work that does not fall readily under the aegis of any single committee or group of committees. These task forces also provide additional opportunities for AERA members not serving on standing committees to participate in Association-wide activities.

In 2005–2006, the Special Interest Group (SIG) Task Force and the Task Force on Reporting Research Methods, chaired respectively by Christine Sleeter and Pamela Moss, completed important work and advanced recommendations to AERA Council. Currently, AERA has eight task forces undertaking work on behalf of the Association and the field of education research. As the work of these task forces comes to fruition, reports and actions will be covered in the pages of the *Educational Researcher (ER)*, on the AERA website (<http://www.aera.net>), and in the minutes of Council.

We want our members to be aware of these activities and this valuable form of service to the Association. Please let me know if you have questions or contributions regarding any of these areas of ongoing work.

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### Task Force on Awards

**Charge:** The task force will examine awards policies and practices for the Association and its committees, divisions, and SIGs. It will review AERA awards in terms of numbers of awards, types of awards, and policies and procedures governing awards. It will make recommendations on award selection processes and procedures; on the number and scope of awards for the Association and units conferring awards; and on procedures that the Association might establish for oversight of awards selection, reviewing the continuation of awards, and the establishment of new awards. The task force will provide a final report and recommendations to Council in winter 2008.

**Co-Chairs:** Gloria Ladson-Billings, William F. Tate

**Members:** Nancy Beadie, David Flinders, Steve A. Henry, Stafford Hood, Phoebe H. Stevenson (Staff Liaison), William Tierney

### Task Force on Conflicts of Interest

**Charge:** The task force will examine and recommend a conflicts of interest policy for AERA. The task force will identify areas where conflicts of interest policy should guide deliberation and decision making of individuals, committees, and other boards and bodies within AERA. The task force will review all existing conflict procedures and develop, articulate, and integrate a set of ethical standards, criteria, and procedures for addressing conflicts of interest or the appearance of conflicts of interest that can be widely used by the Association in situations in which conflicts of interest may arise. The task force will provide an initial report to Council in February 2007 and a final report and draft policy for Council review and action in June 2007.

**Chair:** Patricia O'Sullivan

**Members:** James D. Anderson, Margarita Calderon, Barbara Foorman, Barbara Olds, Ivor A. Pritchard, Gerald E. Sroufe (Staff Liaison)

### Task Force on Data Sharing

**Charge:** The Task Force is charged with examining issues of data sharing/archiving as it relates to the conduct of education research. The Task Force is asked specifically to address whether AERA should articulate standards with respect to data sharing and, if so, what these standards should be. In doing so, the Task Force is asked to consider Recommendation 5 of the 2005 National Research Council Report *Advancing Scientific Research in Education*, which reads:

Recommendation 5: Professional associations involved in education should develop explicit ethical standards for data sharing.

The task force will provide a final report and recommendations to Council in June 2007.

**Chair:** James D. Anderson

**Members:** Lizanne DeStefano, Beth Graue, Felice J. Levine (Staff Liaison), Stephen Raudenbush, Brian Rowan

### Task Force on Ethics

**Charge:** The task force on ethics will examine whether AERA should establish an ethics committee and report and recommend to Council on what the scope, nature, and purpose of such a

committee might be. The task force will examine what issues arise where the presence of an ethics committee might assist members of the Association in understanding and implementing responsible ethical conduct or guide AERA in addressing ethical issues. The task force will consider how ethical issues are currently handled by the Association and how other scholarly societies approach the consideration of such issues. The task force will also advise Council on whether a review of the current Ethical Standards of the American Educational Research Association is in order, irrespective of whether the task force recommends an ethics committee that could undertake such work. The task force will provide a final report and recommendations to Council in June 2007.

**Co-Chairs:** Gloria Ladson-Billings, Felice J. Levine  
**Members:** Melissa Anderson, Linda Hagedorn, Carolyn Herrington, Vinetta Jones, Christine Sleeter, Kenneth Strike

### **Task Force on AERA Fellows Program**

**Charge:** The task force will investigate the desirability and feasibility of the “Fellow” designation and consider a few alternative models. The task force will address concerns such as whether the status would be Association-wide or within Divisions; strategies to ensure the diversity of Fellows; the potential impact of such a status on evaluations or reviews of researchers (e.g., promotions); ways to ensure that Fellows would include members outside academia; and how such a program could be constructed and operated. The task force will provide an initial report as to how it wishes to proceed for the February meeting of Council and a final report for Council review and action by April 2007.

**Co-Chairs:** Eva L. Baker, Felice J. Levine  
**Members:** James Banks, Camilla Benbow, Lloyd Bond, Richard Duran, Marcia Linn, Richard Mayer, Janet Schofield, Linda Tillman

### **Task Force on International Exploration**

**Charge:** The task force will constitute AERA’s working group to assist and advise the Association on a possible international organization for education research. It will help in outreach and the exploration of the interest of other education research associations in establishing both the principles of international cooperation and an organizational structure. It will help AERA in its effort to foster an international entity that can promote collaborative research and intellectual exchange among like-minded organizations around the world so that education research can be fostered as a field of inquiry, so that international research and coordination can be advanced, so that education research organizations (national and regional) and their members can more readily benefit from each other, and so that support might possibly be provided to organizations in developing countries to participate in any new forum. The task force will play a role in and serve to identify activities that can aid in the development of an international organization, including the

convening of planning meetings or an international summit of education research organizations. The task force will undertake this work through June 2007, at which time AERA’s President and Co-Chair of the task force will advise Council on whether the task force needs to be continued.

**Co-Chairs:** Eva L. Baker, Felice J. Levine  
**Members:** Vibeke G. Aukrust, Patricia Gándara, Joan Herman, Ki-Seok (Bill) Kim, Joyce King, Daniel Koretz, Carol D. Lee, Barbara McCombs, Andrew Pollard

### **Task Force on Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing**

**Charge:** In 2006, the Task Force on Testing Standards was charged with providing guidance on whether Council should support proceeding with a revised edition of the *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*. The Task Force determined whether there is a significant aspect missing in the *Standards*, whether the entire set or a subset of the *Standards* should be revised, whether there is a need for categories of *Standards*, and whether it is reasonable for AERA to participate if NCME and APA decide to proceed.

With Council’s recommendation in June 2006 that only selective parts of the *Standards* should be revised and that the revision be accomplished within a relatively short period of time, the Task Force was charged in 2007 to review the *Standards* and identify sections that need considerable revision, sections that need minor revisions, and sections that do not need revisions. The Task Force will also recommend a schedule for the revision and cases of application. The Task Force is expected to complete its work by fall 2007.

**Chair:** Eva Baker  
**Members:** Zenaida Aguirre-Munoz, Daniel Koretz, Suzanne Lane, Robert L. Linn, Robert Mislevy, Michael Nettles

### **Task Force on Standards for Reporting on Research Grounded in the Humanities**

**Charge:** The task force is charged with developing a set of recommendations to Council that would outline preferred reporting standards for inquiry in education research in areas such as history, philosophy, literary analysis, and arts-based study. These standards would be directed to informing reviewers and readers about the conduct of the research, the nature of the data, and the methods of analysis. They would suggest, but not be limited to, accepted levels of reporting and presenting inquiry that use the sources, tools logic of reasoning, and modes of analysis characteristic of humanities traditions of scholarship in education. The Task Force is expected to provide a report and recommendations to Council by winter 2008.

**Chair:** Marilyn Cochran-Smith  
**Members:** Thomas Barone, Kenneth Howe, Linda Perkins, Thomas Popkewitz, Gerald E. Sroufe (Staff Liaison), Lynda Stone