

Opportunities and New Directions
A Conference on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

Wednesday April 27 and Thursday April 28, 2011

The deadline for submissions of proposal abstracts is Friday, January 14, 2011

The Teaching-Based Research Group (TBRG), in association with the Centre for Teaching Excellence at the University of Waterloo and supported by the office of the Associate Vice-President, Academic, invites you to participate in a two-day conference of research on teaching and learning and its application in the course setting. We welcome everyone interested in this scholarship to join us for an exciting opportunity to network with like-minded colleagues from multiple disciplines and institutions and to engage in conversations about new research, work in progress, and emerging ideas.

This year's conference will include 2 keynotes, a plenary, and theme workshops that explore not only how we do research about teaching and learning, but also how we make the results public in a way that will inform not only our own students but also those of our colleagues. Submissions for workshops, concurrent sessions, and poster presentations are invited to address this or other themes.

Call for Proposals

We invite four types of proposals: 50-minute interactive sessions, 25-minute presentations, and interactive poster presentations and 90 minute workshops.

1. **Interactive session (50 minutes):** Interactive sessions should take the form of a workshop which will include activities and discussion to actively engage participants in the topic. These may be single presenter sessions or team-led. Submissions must include session activities that go beyond small and large group discussion, and should be described in detail.
2. **Paper presentation (20 minutes):** More traditional research paper presentation. The time frame includes time for questions. Plan for a 15 minute presentation plus 5 minutes question time.
3. **Interactive Posters:** Interactive posters use erasable markers, post-it notes, lift the flaps, etc. to engage colleagues in your research methods and findings. Posters will be held during a closing wine and cheese celebration. We particularly encourage you to submit research in progress and emerging ideas.
4. **In-depth workshops (90 minutes):** These workshops allow participants a chance to explore topics more deeply (e.g., writing an ethics application, designing an online survey, etc.). Participants should leave these workshops with work completed and ready to implement in their own settings. Submissions must articulate the participant take-aways.

Proposals that present original research about teaching and learning as well as those that present exemplary practices for research about teaching and learning are most welcome for each format. We also invite comprehensive literature reviews that map opportunities for future SoTL work. We particularly welcome people who are new to SoTL work, and we encourage presentation of work in progress.

Examples of past (2010) presentations (50 and 20 minute formats and posters) can be found at http://cte.uwaterloo.ca/research_on_teaching_and_learning/TBRG/OND/2010/2010.htm

A computer/projector and whiteboards are available in all conference rooms. Posters will not have tables, and we cannot guarantee access to power for poster presentations.

All proposals should include:

1. Names, positions, institutional affiliations, and contact information for the presenter(s). In each instance, the person who submits the proposal will be the key contact.
2. Session title.
3. Session abstract (150-175 words) outlining the objectives, research focus, and intended take-away for the session. The abstract should address what participants will gain by attending your session. For interactive sessions please also include a description of methods of presentation (e.g., small group activity, discussion, etc.). List 2-3 references to which you refer in your abstract (these may be in addition to the 150-175 words). Your abstract and references will appear in the conference program.
4. Any A.V. requirements in addition to those listed above. We will do our best to assist you!

Submission of Proposals

Details for submitting using the online submission software will be available shortly. If you have questions or concerns, please email Nicola Simmons at nsimmons@uwaterloo.ca. The link regarding submissions will be posted at http://cte.uwaterloo.ca/research_on_teaching_and_learning/index.html, click on Opportunities and New Directions conference.

The deadline for submissions of proposal abstracts is Friday, January 14, 2010. There will be no extensions to this deadline.

All proposals will be subject to a peer blind review process. You will receive reviewers' feedback by February 18, and will be invited to consider this feedback before submitting the final version of your abstract by March 7, 2010. Submissions with amendments not received by this date will regrettably not be included in this year's conference. The final program will be available on the website in March.

Call for Proposal Reviewers

We invite you to volunteer to review short abstracts (150-175 words) for 3-4 sessions. Submitting a proposal for a conference session does not preclude you from being a reviewer, nor do you need to attend the conference to be a reviewer. Please respond as soon as possible (before December 31) indicating your willingness to serve as a reviewer, along with your name and institutional affiliation as this information will appear in the conference program and on the website. Abstracts will be sent to you before February 1 and you will need to submit your reviews by February 11.

To volunteer to serve as a reviewer, or if you have questions regarding the proposal process, please contact:

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We look forward to receiving your submission!

Nicola Simmons, Centre for Teaching Excellence (CTE) (OND Chair)
Donna Ellis (CTE)
Shelley Bacik (CTE)
Carey Bissonnette (Chemistry)
Shannon Dea (Philosophy)
Tim Ireland (Library)
Angela Madden (Pharmacy Librarian)
Ron McCarville (Health Sciences)
Toni Serafini (Sexuality, Marriage, & Family, St. Jerome's)
Bob Sproule (Accounting & Finance)