Toward Inclusive Learning Design:
Social Justice, Equity, and Community
2021 Summer Research Symposium Call for Proposals

The Association for Educational Communication and Technology (AECT) is soliciting research-supported papers for a symposium on inclusive learning design. It will be held July 21-22, 2021 in an online format due to COVID19. The resulting book will be published by Springer. AECT journal editors will be invited to participate, recruit future reviewers, and solicit articles for possible publication.

Educators and learning designers must seek to resolve societal shortcomings, including the inequity of education and opportunity; the lack of social justice; policy issues and their implications; implicit bias in terms of race or ability; as well as layers of equity and inclusion. Building community and bridging divides are goals for all education. How this directs our outreach, research, praxis, and values will be the principal focus of this symposium.

Proposals are solicited in multiple areas including addressing social inequity and systemic racism, universal design and inclusive education efforts, the digital divide, and the achievement gap. Both theory and research concerning inclusive learning design are welcome, as are case studies and position statements supported by literature and/or practice. We also invite examples and experiences from outside the traditional boundaries of instructional design and educational technology to enrich the discussion.

The Symposium will begin the morning of July 21, 2021 and end on July 22, 2021 at the end of the day. It is the goal of the symposium to gather together a select group of scholars to share research for real dialogue and deep discussions about learning experience and learning design. Using Art of Hosting techniques for engaged conversation, we will have very intense and deep discussions of each proposed chapter. Social and recreation events will be developed to engage the participants more fully with the topic of design; non-electronic work periods will used to examine the field from different view-points. The conference fee (with some included meals) is expected to be around $60.

Proposals of 750-1000 words will be accepted through March 15, 2021; authors will be notified in mid-April. 

Click here to submit a proposal.

Should a proposal be accepted, the author will be asked to commit to:
• Strictly adhering to the presentation and discussion guidelines for the symposium.
• Advancing the initial proposal into a 2500 word draft suitable for discussion by June 1, 2021. Failure to provide the full draft paper by June 1, 2021 may result in a rescinding of the proposal acceptance.
• Commit to reading at least ten of the accepted papers from other presenters prior to attending the symposium.
• Attend the full symposium and actively participate in all collaborative and/or group activities.
• Based on feedback and collaboration from symposium attendees, make adjustments to your initial draft and resubmit a draft for review by other chapter authors by September 15, 2021; to review other chapters, comment, and to submit a final draft by December 1, 2021.
• Review authors proofs in a timely manner in preparation for publication in an upcoming Springer Press symposium book with an anticipated publication date of October, 2022.

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