

Call for Submissions

Thriving in the Wilds



The Eighth Annual Learning Sciences Graduate Student Conference
October 13–15, 2023
University of Iowa, Iowa City

Last year we asked what we learned from the upheaval and changes the global pandemic triggered, and where the Learning Sciences would go from there. This year we ask a new question:

What does it mean to *thrive*, instead of just *surviving*?

The Learning Science Graduate Student Conference (LSGSC) is a gathering of emerging voices in the field of Learning Sciences. All graduate student work is welcome at LSGSC, but this year, we are particularly interested in work and discussion about *thriving*.

- What does it mean to thrive in graduate school, in academia, in learning, in this constantly changing world? How do we thrive physically, emotionally, morally, socially and academically?
- How do we design environments that allow learners to thrive?

- How does individual thriving intertwine with the thriving of larger communities and ecological systems?
- How do connections with other fields help us to better explore this concept of thriving?
- How do our research methods, connections, and communities help us to change systems and practices related to learning so that the ability to thrive is possible for all?

We especially encourage works-in-progress, first-time presenters, reflective pieces, and things that do not fit the norms of traditional academia but can support thriving in all its many states.

The eighth annual LSGSC will be held at the University of Iowa, Iowa City. the conference will be held from October 14th - 15th, 2023, with 'kick-off' social events on October 13th. These events are a great way to meet one another before we formally begin sharing our work. A full schedule and list of faculty speakers will be announced in September.

We hope you will join us and invite others that may be interested in the conference!

Details about Submissions

We invite 500-word abstracts (not including references) describing academic works, (e.g., works-in-progress, designs, theoretical frameworks, literature reviews, preliminary findings, and final results) related to learning sciences topics, questions, designs, and research. The key goal of these sessions is to build community by generating rich discussions and quality interactions among presenters and attendees at the conference. This year all presenters must present in person, but we will allow virtual attendance of Keynote sessions and Faculty panel sessions during the conference.

This year, to encourage participation and to help offset the costs of attendance, we will be offering two \$300 awards for early submissions. If you submit prior to June 1st 2023, your submission will be included in the drawing for the awards.

Submission formats:

Forums, Workshops, Research Talk, Lightning Talk, Poster Presentation

Deadline for submissions

All anonymized submissions are due by June 7, 2023.

Due to the increasing number of submissions, each student is limited to one first author submission. Furthermore, in an effort to build community around the conference, all first authors will be required to review at least two abstracts. All properly formatted (see submission instructions below) and accepted abstracts will be published in the LSGSC 2023 conference proceedings.

Forums and Workshops

Forums

Last year the LSGSC introduced forums, and we want to keep them going! They are different. Much like us, Forums don't quite know what they are, but they're giving it their all. Forums are our attempt to break out of the mold of what a typical conference presentation is. Have you always wanted a community discussion on making learning tech more equitable, or to have a poetry slam with LS folks you only ever see at conferences? We encourage this and value it! With a Forum, you will get 45 minutes to do something LS-related. The facilitators may discuss research, but the intent of a forum will be on participant engagement and discussion.

Forum proposals should include: (1) A description of the forum topic and why it is important to the field or the community; (2) a short literature review or narrative; and (3) names of planned facilitators or indication that you would like the LSGSC Committee to help find additional facilitators.

Workshops

Workshops are interactive presentations. They may focus on devices, systems, or techniques such as games, software, or novel research methods. Or they could be centered around an activity or experience. With a workshop you will get 45 minutes to let everybody work on something LS related.

Workshop proposals should include a description of the focal device or activity along with the expected impact and setup requirements (including participant device requirements such as computer/smart phone/etc.).

Research Presentations

Research Talk

Papers, works in progress, practicing that proposal, defense, or job talk? These sessions will be 20 minutes with 10 minutes for questions/discussion. They follow the more traditional research presentation format used for larger conferences and are a great way to get experience.

Research talk proposals should consist of a conventional research abstract, with a literature review, methods, findings, and discussion (for works in progress, please indicate this in the beginning and then include what you have and what you are looking to get feedback on through the presentation).

Lightning Talks

This is a quick, interesting, and memorable way to talk about your work. Practice for a three-minute thesis competition, practice for that quick elevator pitch or job interview, or have fun explaining your work in a unique way!

Proposals should consist of a conventional research abstract, with a literature review, methods, findings, and discussion, but be sure to keep it short; 500 words is the limit, not the goal!

Posters

Posters will be another way to present research in the conventional conference format and are particularly good for works in progress. We hope posters will facilitate open discussions among participants related to a topic of interest. Posters should be no larger than 46 inches by 46 inches. Poster proposals should consist of a conventional research abstract, with literature review, methods, findings, and discussion.

Submission Instructions

Submissions will be facilitated via EasyChair. EasyChair submissions will open May 15th and you can find links to EasyChair on our website: <http://lsgsc.org>

Step 1: Submit Anonymized Abstract - DUE June 7th, 2023 (Early-bird award deadline June 1st)

Anonymized abstracts should not include author names or institution affiliations, be no more than 500 words of text and no more than two pages total (including title, figures, tables, and references), and submitted in both PDF and Word formats. We ask that you use the template below for your submissions:

[TEMPLATE](#)

In addition to your 500 word abstract, you must provide:

- 3-5 relevant keywords
- 1-3 relevant topics from a provided list in EasyChair
- A brief statement related to the status of the work (e.g., stage in the research / design process or program milestone)
- A brief statement related to feedback desired (e.g., aligning research methods to questions or writing tips)

The brief statements are meant to frame reviewer feedback and enable constructive feedback relevant to the authors' work.

Step 2: Complete Mandatory Peer Reviews - DUE July 20th, 2023

Please provide supportive and constructive feedback to the authors to improve their submissions and encourage quality discussion and engagement among conference participants. These reviews provide an opportunity to contribute to the learning sciences community and become a thoughtful and reflective reviewer. Feedback may include connections to related work, motivation, engagement with participants, soundness of methods and claims, broader impacts, and presentation of the abstract.

Step 3: Submit Camera Ready Abstracts - DUE August 30th, 2023

Upon acceptance, authors are responsible for revising and submitting abstracts that comply with the formatting requirements in the template, are no more than two pages, and include author names, email addresses, and institutional affiliations. Authors are NOT expected to submit a full paper to participate in this conference. All abstracts that are properly formatted, two pages or less

in length, and submitted by the deadline will be included in the LSGSC 2023 Conference Proceedings. Review this [exemplar](#) for an example of a camera-ready abstract from a previous year.

Important Dates

Submissions Due: June 7th, 2023

Reviews Due: July 20th, 2023

Author Notifications: August 1st, 2023

Camera Ready Abstracts Due: August 30th, 2023

Registration opens: August 1st, 2023

Conference: October 13-15th, 2023

2023 Learning Science Graduate Student Conference Planning Committee

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