



# Society for Research in Child Development

1825 K Street N.W., Suite 325 • Washington, DC 20006 USA  
Tel: 202.800.0677 • Fax: 800.979.0620 • Email: [info@srcd.org](mailto:info@srcd.org) • Website: [www.srcd.org](http://www.srcd.org)

**SRCD 2018 Special Topic Meeting:  
*Promoting Character Development Among Diverse Children and Adolescents:  
The Roles of Families, Schools, and Out-Of-School-Time Youth Development Programs***

**October 18 - 20, 2018  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
#CHARACTERDEV18**

## Call for Submissions

The Society for Research in Child Development invites you to submit for the 2018 Special Topic Meeting: ***Promoting Character Development Among Diverse Children and Adolescents: The Roles of Families, Schools, and Out-Of-School-Time Youth Development Programs*** to be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from October 18 - 20, 2018.

**Submission Website:** <https://admin.allacademic.com/one/srcd/characterdev18/>  
**Submission Deadline: March 27, 2018**

Organizers: Richard M. Lerner, Tufts University and Deborah Lowe Vandell, University of California-Irvine

Parents, schools, and out-of-school programs are united in an interest in identifying the contexts of youth that are associated with positive development. With increasing frequency, this interest is focused on a key indicator of such development: Character. Embodied by the vision of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, that "my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character," the growing interest in character development is predicated on the aspirations of parents and of youth-development practitioners that enhancing children's character will benefit both individuals and civil society.

Following on a 2016 meeting at the National Academies of Science Measuring Character Development, the 2018 Special Topics Character Development Meeting seeks to bring together developmental scientists, philosophers, educators, and practitioners to advance theory, research, and program practices pertinent to understanding character development as it occurs within and across the key settings of youth development. The program is expected to feature, among other topics, findings from longitudinal studies of character, work by biologists and epigenetic researchers who study social genomics and the mutually influential relations between individual and context, and practitioners within family, school, and out-of-school settings whose programs seek to promote character development. Other topics will include sessions that focus on the development of measures of character development that reflect both change-sensitive and invariant aspects of character and evaluation strategies for assessing programs designed to foster character development.

### Exciting sessions planned for the Invited Program:

Keynote Addresses from:

- **Marvin W. Berkowitz**, University of Missouri, St. Louis
- **Marc H. Bornstein**, National Institutes of Health
- **David Brooks**, New York Times
- **Steven W. Cole**, University of California, Los Angeles
- **Stephanie M. Jones**, Harvard Graduate School of Education
- **Velma McBride Murry**, Vanderbilt University

Invited Views by Two with

**Angela L. Duckworth**, University of Pennsylvania and  
**David S. Yeager**, University of Texas at Austin

Invited Symposia organized by

**Frosso Motti**, University of Athens,  
**Sandra D. Simpkins**, University of California, Irvine and  
**Yalda T. Uhls**, UCLA and Common Sense Media

Invited Roundtable organized by

**Sarah M. Clement**, John Templeton Foundation



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## Submission Rules

**Submission Deadline:** Submissions will be accepted until March 27, 2018, 8:00pm EST. Authors will be notified of acceptance by the end of June 2018.

### Submission Panels:

1. Parenting and Character Development, Chair: Yalda Uhls, University of California, Los Angeles and Common Sense Media
2. Schools and Character Development, Chairs: Stephanie Jones, Harvard University and Scott Seider, Boston University
3. Out-of-school-time (OST) Youth Programs and Character Development, Chair: Sandra Simpkins, School of Education at UC Irvine
4. Defining and Measuring Character Development, Chair: Anthony Burrow, Cornell University
5. Character Development in Diverse Children and Adolescents, Chair: Velma McBride Murry, Vanderbilt University
6. Studies of Character Development Internationally, Chair: Frosso Motti, University of Athens, Greece

**Submission Formats:** Submissions will be accepted in the following formats and all will be peer-reviewed.

1. **Individual Poster Presentation.** Posters are individual, free-standing research presentations. They are the appropriate format when material can be explained briefly, is suited for graphic or visual presentation, and/or the presenter would benefit from high levels of interaction and discussion.
2. **Paper Symposium.** The symposium is a focused group of presentations on a common theme. Symposium goals should include diversity and integration of perspectives. To attain cohesion, the symposium should focus on a specific topic and emphasize conceptual issues and the integration of findings. Symposium organizers are strongly encouraged to incorporate multiple disciplines, all aspects of diversity, and international participation into their submissions. These elements will be important considerations when reviewers are choosing among submissions with equivalent scientific merit.

## REVIEW PROCESS AND CRITERIA FOR SUBMISSIONS

1. Sufficient empirical data *must be included* in your abstract to provide a basis for evaluation of your submission.
2. Each submission undergoes a blinded review by at least two members of a review panel. No author or other identifying information may be included in your abstract, integrative statement or graphics.
3. If two ratings of a submission differ considerably, the panel chair also will rate the submission.
4. Submissions are reviewed according to the following criteria:
  - a. Clarity of formulation/conceptualization
  - b. Adequacy of methods
  - c. Appropriateness of interpretations
  - d. Importance of topic
  - e. The inclusion of elements of the [SRCD Strategic Plan](#) (i.e., multidisciplinary, international, and cultural/contextual research) are also important considerations when choosing among submissions with *equivalent* scientific merit.

## PREPARING AND UPLOADING SUBMISSIONS

Please note: *Whatever you enter into the submission website is what will appear in the online program.* Submissions may be revised, but **NO** changes can be made after the submission deadline of March 27, 2018.

General information for entering data into the submission website:

1. Any information entered will not be saved unless your submission is submitted. Please enter placeholders if necessary in order to complete a draft so that the submission is saved for editing at a later time.
2. During the submission process you must choose one primary review panel. A secondary review panel is optional.
3. Please enter a *complete, formal* name (e.g., Samuel T. Jones; H. Harrison Smith-Barton), current email address, *and* affiliation for each person. Please do not enter your author names in all upper-case letters or all lower-case letters. This requirement serves to uniquely identify a person included on your submission and ensures that they receive email communications regarding the decision status of the submission.
4. Titles: Use mixed-case letters (upper-case for the first letter of all words with 4 or more letters and lower-case letters for the remainder of the words) and appropriate punctuation. Maximum number of characters for your title—letters, punctuation, and spacing—is 130.
5. Abstracts and Integrative Statements entered for submissions must be typed or copied and pasted into a text box on the submission website. NOTE: Your abstract and/or integrative statement should be in final form.
6. File Uploads - all of your graphics must be incorporated into one single file. The file must be in Adobe PDF format. **You will upload this document at the end of the submission process.**
7. Group Authorship (e.g., consortia, projects, programs) may be entered in the “Group Authors” field of the submitting process. **Do not enter individual authors in your submission in the Group Author field** or they will not be seen in the program!

### Submitting Instructions by Format:

#### **INDIVIDUAL POSTER PRESENTATION**

Each poster occupies one 8' wide x 4' high poster board for the entire session.  
No electrical power will be available.

#### ***What You Will Need to Submit an Individual Poster.***

1. A title for your submission with no more than 130 characters—including spaces and punctuation. Use mixed-case letters and appropriate punctuation in your title. Please do not put a period at the end of a title.
2. One primary review panel and an optional secondary review panel.
3. **Enter a full name, affiliation, and email address for each author of your poster.** This information establishes a unique identity for each person, ensuring that submitters receive a decision status notification for the submission. **Identify the presenter of the submission.** Please notify SRCD at [programoffice@srcd.org](mailto:programoffice@srcd.org) if an author has been entered with more than one email address so that duplicate accounts can be merged.
4. If you need to include a “group author” (consortium, program, etc.), enter it in the “Group Authors” field of the submitting process. **Do not enter individual authors in your submission in the Group Author field** or they will not be seen in the program!

**NOTE: Do not include research funding support anywhere in your submission!** The appropriate place to acknowledge research funding support is in your presentation should the submission be accepted.

5. Enter an *abstract* with a maximum of 400 words. Your abstract must be typed or copied and pasted into the submission website; no file uploads are allowed. The abstract for an accepted poster will be viewable in the online program.
  - a. **Single-space** your abstract.
  - b. **Do not** include the title in the abstract.

- c. **Do not** include names or other identifying information in your abstract.
  - d. Use standard reference citations (last name, year), but do **not** include a reference list. If you believe a full reference is necessary, include it in the text as (authors, title, journal, year) and include it in your word count.
6. Graphics are encouraged, *but are optional*; they do **not** count toward the maximum word count for your abstract. The two graphics allowed may be:
- 2 tables, **or**
  - 2 figures, **or**
  - 1 table plus 1 figure.

**File Uploads** - all of your graphics must be incorporated into one single file. **Do not include any author information in your graphic.** The file must be in Adobe PDF format. You will upload this document at the end of the submission process.

## **Paper Symposium**

### **# of Roles Allowed in each Symposium:**

1 Chair, 1 Discussant (optional), 3-4 Papers

Please keep in mind that:

**Paper Symposia must be organized and submitted as a group of presentations** with a chair. SRCD does *not* organize symposia.

- **Paper Symposia organizers** are strongly encouraged to incorporate multiple disciplines, diversity, and international participation into their submissions. After the scientific review is completed, these factors may be considered in the decision process.
- **While inviting people to participate in your Paper Symposium**, please clearly communicate to them that they *are not* part of the official SRCD Invited Program and that SRCD *will not* reimburse their expenses.

## **Role Descriptions**

1. **Chair (required):** **The Chair organizes the symposium and enters all information into the submission website.** He/she also organizes and directs the symposium session, introduces the presenters during the oral portion of the session, and ensures that time limits are strictly observed. The Chair should be prepared to lead, stimulate, and coordinate the 30-minute open discussion with the audience. This is a presenting role and thus is protected against schedule conflicts. **Only one chair is permitted.**
2. **Discussant (optional):** The discussant comments on the presentations included in the symposium, drawing on his/her own expertise; however, this person does not present his/her own research. This role is protected against schedule conflicts but does not count toward the maximum number of presenting roles allowed per person.
3. **Presenting Author (required):** One person presents an individual paper within the symposium. This presenting role is protected against schedule conflicts.
4. **Authors 2 - 10 (optional):** Up to 9 people may be listed as co-authors of papers within the symposium. These roles *are not* protected against schedule conflicts and *do not count* against the maximum number of presenting roles allowed per person.

## **Integrative Statement and Abstracts**

1. Prepare a 250-word **integrative statement** that summarizes the nature and significance of the proposed topic. Integrative statements for Paper Symposium submissions accepted for presentation will be viewable in the online program schedule.
2. Prepare a 500-word **abstract** for each presentation that describes the material to be presented (introduction, hypotheses, study population, methods, results). If accepted, abstracts will be viewable in the online program.

### **What You Will Need to Submit a Paper Symposium:**

1. A title for your submission with no more than **130 characters—including spaces and punctuation**. Use mixed-case letters and appropriate punctuation in your title. Please do not put a period at the end of a title.
2. One primary review panel and an optional secondary review panel.
3. **Enter a full name, affiliation, email address, and country for the chair and optional discussant.** This information establishes a unique identity for each person, ensuring they receive a decision status notification for the submission. Please notify SRCD at [programoffice@srcd.org](mailto:programoffice@srcd.org) if a chair/discussant has been entered with more than one email address so that duplicate accounts can be merged.
4. Enter an *integrative statement* with a maximum of 250 words. Your integrative statement must be typed or copied and pasted into the submission website; no file uploads are allowed.
  - a. **Single-space** your integrative statement.
  - b. **Do not** include the title in the integrative statement.
  - c. **Do not** include names or other identifying information in your abstract.

### **For each presentation within the symposium:**

5. **Enter a title** for your presentation with no more than 130 characters—including spaces and punctuation. Use mixed-case letters and appropriate punctuation in your title. Do not include a period at the end of your title.
6. **Enter a full name, affiliation, current email address, and country for each author of the presentation.** This information establishes a unique identity for each person, ensuring that submitters receive a decision status notification for the submission. **Identify the presenter of the submission.** Please notify SRCD at [programoffice@srcd.org](mailto:programoffice@srcd.org) if an author has been entered with more than one email address so that duplicate accounts can be merged.
7. If you need to include a “group author” (consortium, program, etc.), entered it in the “Group Authors” field of the submitting process. **Do not enter individual authors in your submission in the Group Author field** or they will not be seen in the program!

**NOTE: Do not include research funding support anywhere in your submission!** The appropriate place to acknowledge research funding support is in your presentation should the submission be accepted.

8. Enter an *abstract* with a maximum of 500 words. Your abstract must be typed or copied and pasted into the submission website; no file uploads are allowed.
  - a. **Single-space** your abstract.
  - b. **Do not** include the title in the abstract.
  - c. **Do not** include names or other identifying information in your abstract.
  - d. Use standard reference citations (last name, year), but do **not** include a reference list. If you believe a full reference is necessary, include it in the text as (authors, title, journal, year) and include it in your word count.
9. Graphics are encouraged, *but are optional*; they do **not** count toward the maximum word count for your abstract. The two graphics allowed may be:
  - 2 tables, **or**
  - 2 figures, **or**
  - 1 table plus 1 figure.

**IMPORTANT: A SINGLE Adobe PDF document containing figures and/or tables for ALL of the presentations in your symposium will be uploaded. Create a document that clearly labels which presentation each figure/table is associated with, but DO NOT include any identifying information about authors. You will upload this document at the end of the submission process for a symposium.**

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