

***Reclaiming Expertise: Facing Challenges to Knowledge, Authenticity, Expertise and Trust***

The 5th Annual Research & Inquiry Conference

<https://ric.gseis.ucla.edu>

Graduate School of Education & Information Studies, UCLA

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UCLA Faculty Center

Recently, writing about the “death of expertise,” foreign policy and international security expert Tom Nichols has charged: “Something is going terribly wrong...we’re *proud* of not knowing things...to reject the advice of experts is to assert autonomy.”

Existentialist philosopher Sarah Bakewell identifies the deeper roots of the growing distrust of institutions and knowledge: “...[people] worry about being in bad faith, even if they don’t use that term...The unnamed object of desire here is authenticity...”

In this environment, even fundamental concepts like speech rights, inclusion, justice and citizenship are being appropriated to serve conflicting, partisan, and even separatist interests.

**The 2018 GSE&IS Research and Inquiry Conference will focus on this growing skepticism concerning knowledge claims, institutions, and practice.** What are the possible responses to this shift for research, scholarship, creative work, teaching and learning, intellectual freedom, autonomy and agency, public life and informed opinion, citizenship, and community?

Now in its fifth year, **the R+I Conference invites submissions that address these challenges from all disciplinary and philosophical perspectives, professional approaches, and methodological and theoretical frameworks.**

We might ask, for example:

- *What kinds of knowledge (e.g. locally/community derived, practice based, theory generated) are being created? How is this knowledge created, represented, legitimized, and applied?*
- *How does one judge its authenticity?*
- *What challenges to knowledge, including local as well as institutional knowledge, are being faced?*
- *What does our work as academics, intellectuals, and practitioners – as knowledge producers and consumers -- contribute under these conditions? How do we respond to the challenges to our work?*
- *How do we prepare students to face these challenges and to be ethical, effective participants in society, politics, economics, and culture?*
- *How do we help institutions thrive in an increasingly fragmented and contentious social and cultural landscape?*
- *What concrete interventions are possible – community outreach, research-practice partnerships, knowledge sharing, capacity building, leadership, advocacy, activism?*
- *What literacies, practices, technological tools, data, values, organizational forms and leadership, or other resources or strategies, are necessary to meet these challenges?*

### **Submission Options and Deadlines**

**For 2018, the R+I Conference invites two types of submissions.** Both types will be reviewed by, and receive feedback from, student peer reviewers. Student authors may submit to both categories.

• **Option 1: Proposals for sole- or jointly-authored poster presentations.** Poster presentations provide succinct, visually compelling summaries of research, scholarship, design solutions or creative works, case studies, team projects, works in progress, or other contributions. They may employ a range of media or formats, including still and moving images, graphics, demonstrations, models, as well as text. They should be designed to give readers/viewers a complete but concise overview of the work, and generate lively, informal conversations with the presenter(s). Proposals should include the title, a 500-word abstract, short bio sketches for each author, and a brief description of presentation format including any special media requirements.

**After the Conference, authors will be submit a final version of their poster submissions, including key illustrations, to be published in the Conference proceedings using a standard template. More information about submission formats, and the required template, will be provided on the Conference website.**

§ Deadline for poster presentation proposals: **February 16, 2018** (end of Week 6, Winter Quarter)

Online Submission form: <https://goo.gl/forms/460z51JOaOxdLWdr1>

§ Reviews and notifications of acceptance: **March 30, 2018** (end of Exam Week, Winter Quarter)

§ Deadline for final versions for for proceedings publication: **[date TBA]**

The online application form for posters: <https://goo.gl/forms/460z51JOaOxdLWdr1>

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• **Option 2: Proposals for high-intensity participatory sessions.** Student teams will organize and propose sessions designed to appeal to, and generate innovative interactions among, participants from diverse fields and interest areas, including at least one faculty mentor/participant to be recruited by the team. Teams are encouraged to develop innovative formats for session that promote broad participation, for example variations on world café, pecha kucha or 7-14-28 formats, storytelling, lightning-round, “campfire chats”, or other approaches. Some examples of alternative formats can be found on the website.

There are two steps in the Participatory Session proposal process.

**First**, student teams will submit drafts of brief calls for participation, or “mini-CFPs,” that describe their proposed sessions. Mini-CFPs will include (1) the session title; (2) a 250-word abstract, describing the session topic and its relation to the conference theme; (3) a description of the session format, activities, technology requirements, and desired outcomes/goals; and (4) a profile of the organizing team, including bio sketches of all student organizers and the faculty mentor/participant.

**Second**, Based on feedback from R+I Conference reviewers, teams will prepare and submit final versions of their mini-CFPs to be posted on the 2018 R&I Conference website; final versions will include open invitations to participate and the team’s contact information. To join a session, prospective participants will send the organizers a short statement of interest in the topic, and two to three discussion points to include as part of session activities.

**After the Conference, Participatory Session organizing teams will submit a final document summarizing their session activities and outcomes, using a standard template for publication in the Conference proceedings. More information about submission formats, and the required template, will be provided on the Conference website.**

§ Deadline for session proposals: **February 16, 2018** (end of Week 6, Winter Quarter)

Online Submission form: <https://goo.gl/forms/DB8sraN3ftrDNbCU2>

§ Notifications of acceptance and feedback to session teams: **March 12, 2018** (beginning of Week 10, Winter Quarter)

§ Final mini-CFPs posted online: **March 16** (end of Week 10, Winter Quarter)

§ Prospective participant abstracts to session teams: **April 13** (end of Week 2, Spring Quarter)

§ Deadline for final versions for proceedings publication: **[date TBA]**

The online application form for session proposals: <https://goo.gl/forms/DB8sraN3ftrDNbCU2>

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