

Conference Description:

The past year has demonstrated the importance of strong partnerships and connections across disciplines. As colleagues across the teaching and learning community shifted to remote teaching, it became increasingly important to ensure scholarly pedagogical approaches were considered while reimagining courses with the support of educational technologies.

In the past, the MacPherson Institute has offered separate conferences to address topics related to educational technologies and scholarly research. In 2021, we have reimagined our approach to acknowledge and address the important partnership between these two disciplines through the pandemic and beyond.

Accompanying this pilot is a new conference title: **Innovations in Education Conference**. For the inaugural year, the conference theme is ***Partnership in Teaching and Learning***. This conference provides an opportunity for an exploration of current issues and trends in teaching and learning partnerships through:

- Interdisciplinary Learning
- Active and Flexible Learning Spaces
- Learning Technologies
- Scholarly teaching
- Innovative, Holistic and Inclusive Teaching practices within and across different disciplinary contexts.

Call for Proposals:

The Paul R. MacPherson Institute for Leadership, Innovation & Excellence in Teaching is excited to announce the inaugural **Innovations in Education Conference** (formerly two separate events: the Research on Teaching & Learning Conference, and the Learning Technologies Symposium). The 2021 Innovations in Education Conference will be hosted virtually by McMaster University on December 9th & 10th. The 2021 conference theme focuses on ***Partnership in Teaching and Learning***. This conference provides an opportunity for an exploration of current issues and trends in teaching & learning partnerships through sharing and celebrating the change and engagement that can occur in teaching and learning when we actively seek partnerships.

We invite abstracts that highlight innovations in teaching and learning related to one or more of the following sub-themes (example question prompts offered only as a guide):

- **Interdisciplinary Learning** (*e.g. When is interdisciplinary learning helpful and when does it cause challenges to teaching and learning?*)
- **Active and Flexible Learning Spaces** (*e.g. What does partnership look like in blended classroom settings?*)

- **Learning Technologies** (e.g. *How can partnership inform the development of a Digital Learning Strategy to improve both online and face-to-face learning experiences across campus?*)
- **Scholarly Teaching** (e.g. *What does it mean to be a 'partner' in teaching and learning?*)
- **Innovative, Holistic and Inclusive Teaching practices** (e.g. *How might partnership foster a sense of belonging in students?*)

Proposals should consider how these issues are interpreted, understood, enacted, and investigated through partnerships with students, student services, community, and between faculties.

Proposals can take the form of the following types of virtual participation:

- **Workshops (1 hour):**
Workshops should be hands on, participatory sessions that will allow participants to learn about some aspect of teaching and learning research or learning technologies by doing. Keeping in mind the virtual context, breakout rooms may be utilized for these participatory sessions.
- **Short Papers (20 + 5 min questions):**
Short papers provide an opportunity to communicate research results (or related material) in a more condensed fashion. While these virtual sessions may be akin to traditional conference papers, presenters are encouraged to include interactive components wherever possible.
- **Poster Presentations (5 min + 20 min networking):**
Posters allow participants to present research ideas and/or findings in an informal context that facilitates one-to-one discussion and exchange with other conference attendees. In the virtual environment, our poster sessions will be presented in a lightning round, with each presenter having 5 minutes to present, followed by 20 minutes of scheduled networking time.
- **Panel Discussions:**
These virtual sessions should bring together the perspectives of two to four presenters into a cohesive conversation surrounding innovative ideas, current topics, and issues regarding partnerships in teaching and learning and/or learning technologies.
- **Innovations in Education Sandbox (1 hour):**
Sandbox sessions are presentations that share early-stage research questions related to partnerships in teaching and learning and/or learning technologies with the objective of establishing connections and receiving feedback from like-minded researchers. These virtual sessions will be held in small groups to support interaction and discussion in the online context.

Individuals are free to submit more than one proposal but should be first author on only one proposal. Work in progress is welcomed.

Submission Process:

The deadline for submissions is **5:00pm on Thursday, October 7, 2021**. Please email your completed proposal to: mi@mcmaster.ca.

All proposals must include the following:

1. Submission Title
2. Submission Type
3. Indicate which subtheme(s) the abstract aligns with.
4. Author name(s), title(s) & contact information. Please indicate student authors with (*).
5. A brief abstract (no more than 250 words) that indicates the focus and objectives of the session. Proposals for workshops, long papers, and sandbox sessions should also outline the interactive methods that will be used.
6. An indication of technical supports desired for the session (e.g. technical support for breakout sessions). Please note that we will do our best to meet your needs but cannot guarantee that all requests will be met.

For additional information about the proposal submission process and conference details, please visit the [Innovations in Education Conference](#) website.

All proposals will be peer-reviewed, with reviewers taking the following criteria into consideration:

1) Appropriateness

The session does at least one of the following:

- Makes a unique contribution to teaching & learning and/or learning technologies research related to at least one of the conference sub-themes (e.g. Interdisciplinary Learning; Active and Flexible Learning Spaces; Learning Technologies; Scholarly Teaching; Innovative, Holistic and Inclusive Teaching practices)
- Considers how sub-theme issues are integrated and interpreted within partnerships in teaching and learning

2) Format

- The content/objective(s) of the session are clearly stated
- The session can be achieved within the proposed format (i.e., short paper presentation, workshop, poster, panel discussion, Innovations in Education sandbox);
- The interactive component has the potential to stimulate thinking and discussion

Authors will receive feedback on their submission(s) by **Monday, November 15, 2021**.

ADDITIONAL SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

- We are happy to offer this conference at no cost (i.e. no registration fee)!
 - By submitting an abstract, you agree to register for and to participate in the conference if your submission is accepted
 - By submitting, you are also giving the 2021 Innovations in Education Conference planning committee permission to publish the submission information, if accepted, in promotional materials related to the event
 - The abstract you submit will be the one included in the final conference program. No editorial changes will be made.
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