

# SSEA2025

The 12<sup>th</sup> conference on emerging adulthood

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June 4 - 6, 2025  
Charleston, South Carolina, USA  
*Thriving in Complexity*

## Call For Proposals

June 4–6, 2025

Charleston, South Carolina

The Society for the Study of Emerging Adulthood (SSEA) invites proposal submissions for the 12th biennial conference. The goal of this conference is to convene a multidisciplinary and global network of scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to advance the study of emerging adulthood (18–29). The conference will take place at Hyatt Place and Hyatt House, Charleston, South Carolina, from June 4 to 6, 2025.

Please check the [SSEA website](https://www.ssea.org/conferences/south-carolina-2025/) for updates on Invited Speakers and Master Lectures in the coming months.

SSEA 2025

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Today's emerging adults are navigating an unprecedentedly complex era, facing challenges like a changing workforce, political polarization, and climate change. Despite these difficulties, many are thriving through activism, innovation, and a commitment to creating a better world.

<https://www.ssea.org/conferences/south-carolina-2025/>

# About the Conference on Emerging Adulthood 2025

The conference theme is **Thriving in Complexity**. Emerging adulthood is always a time of change, growth, and challenge, and today's generation is arguably experiencing this stage in an unprecedentedly complicated era.

They're entering a workforce drastically altered by the COVID-19 pandemic and a shift away from traditional employment; politics in many nations are polarized and divisive; wars and poverty are driving record-breaking forced migration; and climate change is a source of dread about the future for young people, with social media providing constant reminders about these issues.

As a result, some emerging adults do experience depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues – yet many are thriving. They are protesting perceived injustices, using technology to connect and create, and vowing to make a better world than their elders. Emerging adults are choosing diversity while they aim to defend their rights and the rights of others.

It is a time in which older people are not giving voice to others when we should be opening spaces where any voice can be listened to.

This conference will explore the challenges today's emerging adults face and the empathy, understanding, and passion that contribute to their resilience and even thriving.

## Timeline

Submissions open: September 18th, 2024

Submissions deadline: November 18, 2024 at 11:59 pm EST

Notification of decisions: December 16th, 2024

Questions? [coordinator@ssea.org](mailto:coordinator@ssea.org)

Expedited review:

- International travelers whose travel would be prohibited unless review was expedited are eligible to request expedited review upon proposal submission.
- Proposals submitted for expedited review should be submitted no later than October 10th.
- Expedited review notifications will occur by November 14th.

Please note: There will be an additional call for submissions in January 2025 for pre-conference programs to be held on June 4, 2025, including collaborations with the [International Society for Research on Identity](#).

**Are you ready to submit?**



<https://ssea.submittable.com/submit>

Questions? [coordinator@ssea.org](mailto:coordinator@ssea.org)

# Selection Criteria for Proposals

- 1) The focus of the proposal should address Thriving in Complexity within emerging adulthood (18-29 age range).
- 2) We especially encourage submissions related to the conference theme that give attention to the factors and contexts associated with **Thriving in Complexity** in emerging adulthood, including positive cultural and psychosocial development.
- 3) We also encourage submissions that explore a range of health and wellness topics in underrepresented populations from a strengths-based perspective and international perspectives. However, other topics will also be given full consideration.
- 4) Proposed topics should be important in the study of emerging adulthood.
- 5) Empirical research studies using quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods are all encouraged. Here, the appropriateness of the method to the research question(s) will be taken into account. Cross-disciplinary collaborations and submissions are also encouraged.

*Please note: There is a limit of two submissions by the same first author.*

## Formats

Proposals consistent with the conference theme are encouraged, but all proposals will be given full consideration. Submission formats are described below. Examples of previously accepted proposals can be found in the [2023 Conference Program](#), starting on page 13.



**Are you  
ready to  
submit?**



<https://ssea.submittable.com/submit>

# Formats

## Individual Poster Session

- 1) Individual Posters will be presented during general poster sessions. These sessions offer an opportunity to share empirical findings with a wide audience of conference attendees. We want to improve Poster Presentations with innovative poster designs that invite us to discuss and share our results, so authors of accepted proposals will receive resources for maximizing the impact of their design and discussion points.
- 2) Submissions for poster presentations should include a proposal of no more than 300 words containing the following:
  - a) Title
  - b) Introduction to the research question(s)
  - c) Description of method(s)
  - d) Results
  - e) Brief discussion and/or implications
  - f) Proposals may contain up to two figures, tables, charts or graphs (a reference list is not required).

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## Individual Paper Session

- 1) Individual paper proposals are encouraged to present empirical findings from new lines of research that are not yet published. If possible, instead of individual paper presentations, authors are encouraged to build symposia with topic network members (described below).
- 2) These standalone individual papers will be organized into thematic sessions by the conference organizing committee, each including 3 to 4 presentations in an hour-long session.
- 3) Submissions for paper presentations should include a proposal of no more than 500 words containing the following:
  - a) Title
  - b) Introduction to the research question(s)
  - c) Description of methods
  - d) Results
  - e) Brief discussion and/or implications
  - f) Proposals may contain up to two figures, tables, charts or graphs (a reference list is not required).

*Please note: If an individual paper proposal is not accepted, authors may consider delivering the content as a poster presentation in our innovative, discussion-focused sessions.*

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## **Paper Symposia**

1) A paper symposium includes a series of presentations focused on a common theme. The session may consist of:

- a) 3 papers and a Discussant who summarizes and comments on the presented papers, OR
- b) 4 papers without a Discussant.

2) A Chair should be designated for each symposium who organizes the paper presentations and facilitates a Q&A following the presentations.

3) Paper symposia will be scheduled for 75 minutes. Each paper and the discussion will be allotted 15 minutes for presentation; 15 minutes will be reserved for a Q&A period to be led by the Chair. Individuals interested in finding other presenters to form a symposium are strongly encouraged to get involved with a relevant [SSEA Topic Network](#).

4) Submissions for paper symposia should include a proposal of no more than 500 words for each presentation that contains the following:

- a) Title
- b) Introduction to the research question(s)
- c) Description of method
- d) Results
- e) Brief discussion and/or implications
- f) Proposals may contain up to two figures, tables, charts or graphs (a reference list is not required).

5) Additionally, paper symposia must include an integrative statement of no more than 500 words prepared by the Chair. The integrative statement will include a (i) title of the paper symposium, (ii) a rationale for bringing the papers together, and (iii) a discussion of the themes the papers address.

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## **Roundtable Discussion Sessions**

1) Discussion sessions are intended to be an interactive forum for an exchange of ideas, rather than presentations of research findings. Discussion sessions may focus on topics that are related to theory, method, practice, and/or policy. Each session may have a maximum of three panelists and must have a moderator. Each session will be allocated 60 minutes for discussion among the panelists and 30 minutes for discussion with the audience.

2) Discussion sessions should not include individual presentations from the panelists, and the use of PowerPoint slides is strongly discouraged. Rather, the moderator should prepare a series of questions to be posed to the panelists for discussion. Submissions for discussion sessions should include a proposal of no more than 500 words that describes the topic and rationale for the session, at least three discussion questions to be addressed by the panelists, and a brief description of the background and expertise of the participants.

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## Innovative Sessions

Innovative sessions are intended to encourage discussion, debate, and/or collaboration. These sessions are meant to enhance the experience of SSEA conference attendees and provide a format that allows for a unique and engaging conference-going experience. Each session will be allocated 90 minutes. Some examples include, but are not limited to:

- a) A fishbowl session where 2-3 participants engage in a debate on a critical topic in the center of the room and then invite audience members to participate.
- b) A networking session where participants engage in structured interactive sessions around a common theme. Organizers would pick a theme and structure opportunities to connect with scholars doing similar work.
- c) A work in progress session in which three to four participants present their ongoing research. These sessions may focus on the work of graduate students or senior researchers.
- d) Another session type of your choosing.

Innovative session proposals must include the following information in a 500-word abstract:

- a) Identify session leaders with clearly articulated roles.
- b) Provide a detailed description of the session goals.
- c) Provide a detailed description of the focus of the session in terms of theory, method(s), community partnerships, mentorship, professional development, or other themes.
- d) Describe the intended audience for the session (e.g., emerging scholars who are entering the job market).
- e) Space requirements for the session (i.e., room size and/or equipment necessary).

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## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS PRESIDENTIAL SYMPOSIUM/INNOVATIVE SESSION

Following the 2023 Presidential Address by current SSEA President Byron G. Adams on how we might strive towards inclusive, participatory, and co-creative practices in emerging adulthood research, we request submission for the 2025 conference themed "Thriving in Complexity" to be considered either as part of a Presidential Symposium or a Presidential Innovative Session.

We are requesting submissions that highlight advances in emerging adulthood research, particularly those that use inclusive, participatory, and co-creative approaches. If you would like your work to be considered for the symposium or have a creative idea for engaging with the topic as an innovative session, please indicate your interest when submitting your proposal on the submission site. We would like to emphasize that submissions that are not accepted for this symposium/innovative session will still be evaluated for individual submission.

**Are you  
ready to  
submit?**



<https://ssea.submittable.com/submit>