

55th SPE National Conference Description & Proposal Information

UNCERTAIN TIMES: Borders, Refuge, Community, Nationhood

March 1-4, 2018 | Philadelphia Marriott Downtown | Philadelphia, PA

Hosted by *The University of the Arts*

Ours is a time where borders and division continue to challenge our very understanding of humanity. The opportunity to share on an international level is as close as the screens we hold in our hands, and yet, in a time of prolific imagemaking many lens-driven stories remain unseen. For every picture story brought to light, too many struggle for exposure. The power of images to ignite the rally cry for change are the same images that encourage empathy and stewardship, and these images come from every aspect of the photographic world—documentarians, conceptual artists, and citizens with their mobile devices. SPE's 55th National Conference, *Uncertain Times*, will address questions of globalization, migration, territory, refuge, community, identity, nationalism, and internationalism, and will evaluate the contribution of photographic practices seeking to humanize and reveal these topics. The conference will focus on the ways in which photographic media are implicated in demonstrating both moments of crisis as well as moments of resolve. This is a call to convene critical producers, thinkers, and thoughtful spectators of photography to unpack the meanings of the layered dimensions of the human story in the 21st century.

The Society for Photographic Education seeks proposals that address how these critical issues are explored through a creative and interpretive lens. Photographers and critics have extensively documented and questioned territoriality and identity, as well as crisis and the movement of people whether adventurers, casualties of war, or economic migrants. What can photography reveal? What issues can it raise? What remains underexposed?

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

SPE welcomes proposals from photographers, writers, educators, curators, historians, and professionals from other fields. Topics are not required to be theme-based, and may include, but are not limited to, imagemaking, history, contemporary theory and criticism, multidisciplinary approaches, new technologies, effects of media and culture, educational issues, funding, and presentations of work in photography, film, video, performance, and installation.

Eligibility: SPE members and nonmembers are eligible to submit one (1) proposal for consideration. Individuals who have presented at two SPE national conferences since 2015 (New Orleans) are not eligible. This also applies to co-presenters and/or panelists.

Presentation Formats:

- **Dialogic** (15 min) presentations where artists with complimentary, or, sometimes contrasting subject matter will be grouped together during a 60-75 min block; those proposing will be given the opportunity to select this as an option in addition to a standard track
- **Graduate Student** (18 min) – short presentation of your own artistic work and a brief introduction to your graduate program (must be enrolled in graduate program at time of submission)
- **Imagemaker** (45 min) – presentation on your own artistic work
- **Lecture** (45 min) – presentation on historical topic, theory, or another artist's work
- **Panel Discussion** (90 min) – active discussion among panelists (max: 3), moderator, and audience to discuss a chosen topic
- **Teaching & Learning** (45 min) – presentations, workshops, demos that addresses educational issues, including teaching resources and strategies (syllabi, videos, assignments, readings, class prep/setup, and PowerPoint presentations); curricula to serve diverse artists and changing student populations; seeking promotion and tenure; avoiding burnout; and professional exchange

Membership Requirements: Current membership is required for all participants of accepted proposals. All presenters, co-presenters, panelists, and moderators will have 10 days to join SPE or renew their membership once acceptance notifications are sent out.

Conference Registration Discount: Accepted presenters are eligible to receive a discounted rate on conference registration. (Co-presenters/panelists for graduate, dialogic, imagemaker, lecture, and teaching & learning presentations are NOT eligible for discounted rates). Panel discussion format presentations are eligible for up to four discounted registrations (one moderator and up to three panelists).

Special Award Details: Applicants to the Imagemaker track will be considered for the SPE Imagemaker Award, a cash award granted to a first-time imagemaker presenter who demonstrates outstanding achievement as determined by the peer review committee. Additionally, Imagemaker Award recipients will be given the opportunity for a one-month residency at PLAYA, in southern Oregon, within the calendar year. Applicants to the lecture track will be considered for the SPE Award for Excellence in Historical, Critical, and Theoretical Writing.

The International Conference Grant is awarded to three of the highest-ranked international proposal submissions, regardless of category. This prize offers full conference waiver and complimentary one-year membership.

How to Submit:

- SPE conference proposal submissions are conducted using SlideRoom, an online review system. Applicants must register and submit all required proposal materials on the SlideRoom website using SPE's portal.
- Visit <http://spenational.slideroom.com> and follow the instructions provided.
- Complete the submission form, including presenter(s), a 3,000-character (about 500 words) abstract (precise summary of presentation content), and a biographical summary for each intended presenter (max: 750 characters each).
- Upload media (max of 20 files) – this may include images, video, and audio.
- Submit \$10 fee.

Selection Process: All submissions are reviewed by a 10-member peer review panel, which forwards recommendations to the 2018 Conference Committee. The National Board's Executive Committee approves the final conference program to ensure the broadest representation of concerns in the field. You will be notified by September 1 on the status of your submission.

Visit www.spenational.org for full conference proposal description.

Submission Deadline:
June 1, 2017, 11:59 pm EDT

Questions? Please direct any inquiries to the SPE Office at 216-622-2733 or events@spenational.org.