

What are the 21st century myths surrounding photography and the American Dream? What is the function of these myths—whom do they serve and why? What is the role of race and class in the American Dream? What can photographs do in the 21st century beyond occupying the space of “art”? What role do photographs of “America” play in creating negative and positive myths beyond our shores regarding life and opportunity in the United States? What are the “photographs not taken,” and what do photographers need to know to make them? What are the new fiction and non-fiction texts across genres and disciplines, informed and inspired by these photographs, that need to be written? What are the social, historical, and cultural literacies required to write them? What role can photography play in making sense of this challenging time in the story of the United States? And where do we go from here?

Photographers, scholars, educators, thought leaders, political and organizational leaders, and consumers of images all wrest meaning from the dynamic visual literacies of past and present to shape our future. What are our responsibilities in representing, interpreting, and sharing the visual language of photography? We will gather in Cleveland—home to some of the world’s largest community conversations about how to make our communities more resilient and just—to answer these and many other questions concerning *The Myths of Photography and the American Dream*.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Local, national, and international photographers, artists, activists, scholars, educators, students, art directors, journalists, picture editors, curators, historians, writers, thought leaders, and citizens are invited to gather in Cleveland, Ohio, to engage the American Dream and photography as two powerful myth-making forces.

We seek speakers who will address the conference theme through 15-minute public talks and 40-minute panels in a dynamic conference structure that will offer thought-provoking, myth-busting and clarifying content. Selected presentations will be complimented by formal breakout sessions to provide opportunities for in-depth dialogues between speakers and conference attendees.

Eligibility: SPE members and nonmembers are eligible to submit one (1) proposal for consideration. Individuals who have presented at two SPE annual conferences since 2016 (Las Vegas) are not eligible. This also applies to co-presenters and/or panelists.

Presentation Formats:

- Graduate Student (15 min) 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 (15 min) presentation on your own artistic work
- Lecture (15 min) presentation on an historical topic, theory, or on another artist’s work
- Teaching & Learning (15 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
- Panel Discussion (40 min) active discussion among panelists (max: 3), moderator, and audience to discuss a chosen topic

Membership Requirements: Current SPE 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, 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.

The International Conference Grant is awarded to three of the highest-ranked international proposal submissions, regardless of category. This prize offers a 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 a biographical summary for each intended presenter (max: 750 characters each).
- Upload a two-minute audio abstract of your proposed conference “talk.” We want to hear how concise, comprehensive, and compelling you can be using two of the 15 minutes that will be allotted to each presenter.
- Upload images and/or video (max of 15 files).

Selection Process: All submissions are reviewed by a 10-member peer review panel, which forwards recommendations to the 2019 Conference Committee. The SPE 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, 2018, on the status of your submission.

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

Submission Deadline:
June 1, 2018, 11:59 pm EDT

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

SPE, 2530 Superior Ave. E, #407, Cleveland, OH 44114, www.spenational.org