



# CALL FOR PAPERS

Joint  
PA and SSE  
Meeting

Accessing the Exceptional,  
Experiencing the Extraordinary

June, 2016

**T**he 35th Annual Conference of the Society for Scientific Exploration (SSE) and the 59th Annual Convention of the Parapsychological Association (PA) will be held at the

newly renovated Millennium Hotel in Boulder, Colorado, from Monday, June 20, 2016, through Thursday June 23, 2016. A welcoming reception and registration is planned for Sunday evening, June 19, and an additional day for workshops, Friday, June 24, 2016. Although each organization has its own purview and style, the program will be fully integrated. Dr. Roger Nelson is the Executive Program Chair, working with his two co-chairs, Dr. Chantal Toporow for the SSE, and Dr. Renaud Evrard for the PA. The program will be a synergetic mix of presentations from PA and SSE members, and there will be no concurrent sessions. We will keep the meeting to 4 days by selecting the best submitted papers, and by using dynamic poster sessions as well as evening sessions for panels and special presentations.

The program theme describes the mission common to both organizations: **ACCESSING THE EXCEPTIONAL, EXPERIENCING THE EXTRAORDINARY**. Invited speakers will help define thematic topics to be developed further by members of the SSE & PA. The program will include papers assessing progress and issues, both scientific and social/political, in areas of longstanding

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interest to both societies. All conference sessions will be held at the Millennium Hotel. A poster session is included to accommodate work that requires extended discussion, and to encourage young researchers to present their work.

A program booklet will be published containing abstracts of all papers and posters. This requires both PA and SSE members to provide a long abstract of 300 to 500 words (about one page of single spaced text), which summarizes the main points of the paper including its intended goals and conclusions. A link to a template is provided below.

## Preparation

For SSE members, Titles and Abstracts for papers and posters should be submitted electronically as an attachment to the SSE co-chair, Dr. Chantal Toporow, [SSEaspiringexplorers@gmail.com](mailto:SSEaspiringexplorers@gmail.com). For PA members, full papers should be submitted electronically as an attachment to the PA co-chair, Dr. Renaud Evrard at [convention\\_program@parapsych.org](mailto:convention_program@parapsych.org). The Title should be short and informative and should be followed by author name and affiliation, email and contact information.

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# Accessing the Exceptional

Submissions will be a full paper for PA members, or a long abstract for SSE members. In both cases, we require an abstract of 300 to 500 words for inclusion in the convention booklet. Please use this template for creating your abstract: <http://tinyurl.com/pyff9mz>

PA program committees have generally required full papers to encourage later publication, and the combined committee will accommodate this tradition. For convenience and consistency, full papers should be submitted using this template: <http://tinyurl.com/ndfnknk>

SSE program committees require a long, detailed abstract of the submitted paper to review, and for inclusion in the program booklet. The SSE's Journal of Scientific Exploration solicits full papers based on conference presentations. Note that for SSE submissions, Associate and Student Members must be sponsored by SSE Full Members.

## Submission Deadline

The cut off date for submissions is **March 15, 2016**. We expect the program to be full, and submissions received subsequent to that date will likely not be considered. Authors will be notified of the review result (i.e., acceptance or rejection) and any applicable comments, by **May 15th, 2016**.

## Submission Categories

Floor presentations will include full papers (30 minutes, including 10 minutes for questions and comments) and research briefs (15 minutes, including 5 minutes for comments). We also invite proposals for posters (to be presented in a dedicated poster session) and panel discussions. Panels may be submitted only by Professional and Full members.

This joint conference is seeking original, high impact research papers on original topics, and expository papers that promote improved scientific understanding. We welcome papers addressing factors and issues that unnecessarily limit the scope of scientific inquiry. The Program Committee will not consider proposals for research that has not yet been carried out, nor will the Committee consider papers already published in English prior to the Convention. Recent papers that have been published in a language other than English are acceptable provided that the paper is translated and submitted in English.

Papers will be selected on the basis of novelty, synergy, technical merit, presentation effectiveness and impact of results as they relate to the overall conference theme. Papers related to the theme of the conference will be grouped with relevant invited talks when possible. At least one author of the submission must attend and present at the Conference.

Anyone may submit a paper, research brief, or poster for consideration by the Program Committee, but priority will be given to members of the PA and/or SSE. Contributed papers by Full members of the SSE and all members of the PA on any topic of interest to the memberships are welcome. Student and Associate SSE member submissions must be sponsored by Full members.

Professional or Full Members may propose a symposium or panel discussion. This year we will have a special form of panel called a Science Court, in which issues are treated as if the audience is a jury deciding on the quality of arguments. Panel discussions are intended to maximize spontaneous, debate style interactions among panelists and between panelists and the audience. Panels can range from 60 to 90 minutes, and the organizer should provide for substantial discussion time. Proposals must include a summary sheet that lists the panel title, chairperson, panelists, order of presentation, and time allotments, as well as a short abstract (~100 words) from each panelist.

Papers submitted for presentation should be accompanied by information about any special audio-visual aids required. We will have video projection for power point. Please bring a copy of your presentation on

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a USB thumb drive. If a paper has multiple authors, please indicate which author will give the presentation. *In absentia* presentations, either pre-recorded or by a non-author will be allowed only in exceptional circumstances. Indicate in a cover letter or email the presentation category for your paper (full paper, research brief, poster, panel).

Abstracts of accepted papers will be published in the convention booklet and on the PA and SSE websites, and videos of the convention presentations will be uploaded to a section of the websites available only to members. Selected presentations may be made available in a publicly accessible part of the website, with author permission. The first author's email address will be published in both places.

## Poster Session

Some authors may prefer to present their work as a poster presentation. Poster presentations provide an interactive one-on-one discussion of work that is particularly amenable to visual displays (e.g., demonstration of equipment or techniques), or highly technical papers that cannot be communicated effectively in a brief lecture format to a general scientific audience. Copies of photographs and other materials to be used in the poster may be included with the submission. A short synopsis of the motivation, methodology, and conclusions should be included on the poster, with emphasis on outcomes. For posters, an abstract should be prepared and submitted in accordance with the paper submission process and indicate the preference for a poster presentation. The PA sub-committee requires a full paper for a poster submission.

If a poster is accepted, the available poster board will measure 1m width and 2m height. We recommend that poster pages use sharply focused, concise text, and high quality figures and illustrations. Simple but precise materials work best. The poster pages must be printed beforehand and brought to the meeting. We will supply materials to mount the poster.

