



**WERA 2024 FOCAL MEETING IN COLLABORATION WITH BERA**  
**8-12 September 2024**  
**University of Manchester, United Kingdom**

The *World Education Research Association (WERA)* invites submissions for papers, posters, panel, and symposia for the WERA Focal Meeting to be held from 8-12 September 2024 at the University of Manchester, United Kingdom (UK). Founded in 2009, WERA will be celebrating its 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Focal Meeting in Manchester, UK. WERA is an association of major national, regional, and specialty education research associations dedicated to sharing scholarship, developing networks, and mutually supporting capacity building. WERA Focal Meetings are embedded in the conference of a WERA Member Association. The WERA 2024 Focal Meeting is an integral part of the 50<sup>th</sup> annual place-based conference of the *British Educational Research Association (BERA)* and consists of a programme of paper, poster, panel, and symposia sessions on topics of worldwide emphases and significance.

In general, the WERA Focal Meeting seeks to feature research that includes more than one country or is comparative, cross-cultural, international, or transnational in conceptualization, scope, or design. Paper, poster and panel submissions need to meet these criteria; symposia submissions can include papers from single sites or countries as long as the presentations combined are from different countries and the aims of the symposium are anchored in worldwide or global issues. Duplicate submission of the same paper, poster, panel, or symposium through the BERA and WERA online submission systems is not allowed. Papers, posters, panel, and symposia submissions are encouraged to synthesize knowledge worldwide over the last decade and anticipate future research trends and directions. Scholarly papers, posters, panel, and symposia who adhere to this call will be featured at the WERA 2024 Focal Meeting.

#### **Who Should Submit?**

Scholars and advanced graduate students worldwide whose research extends beyond a single-country site are encouraged to submit to the WERA Focal Meeting. Submissions may be submitted to be presented at paper, poster or panel sessions. Scholars wishing to organise symposia are also encouraged to submit. All abstracts submitted for review must please be written in English.

#### **Scope of the Focal Meeting**

The scope of the Focal Meeting is wide in its reach to include studies across the life span from early learning to workforce and adult as well as elderly education and that take place in formal and informal contexts of education and learning. The emphasis of the Focal Meeting is on papers, posters, panel, and symposia *with a lens that is worldwide in perspective*. Otherwise, there is no restriction on the education research topics appropriate for consideration, although priority will be given to submissions that focus on research and findings addressed to significant trends, issues, and challenges worldwide.

#### **Guidelines for Submission to WERA Focal Meeting**

Paper, poster, panel, and symposia submissions must be submitted in English through the online portal on the [WERA-BERA conference website](#) at “[Abstract submission](#)”. WERA submissions are only accepted online. Click “Abstract submission is now [open](#)” where you will be prompted to “[Sign in](#)”. You will need a BERA “[account](#)” (i.e. registration) to submit an abstract. You do not need to be or become a BERA member to submit a paper for the WERA Focal Meeting. Once you have signed in, you will be redirected to the [abstract submission page](#). On the abstract submission page, select the “**WERA Focal Meeting 2024**” event option and continue with your abstract submission.

The final deadline to submit is **31 January 2024; 23:59 United Kingdom (GMT+1) time (no further extensions or Call will be published)**

#### *Guidelines for: Individual Paper Submissions*

- 750 word abstract with an additional 250 words for references.
- Option to specify Student, Early Career Researcher, Teacher/Practitioner, Researcher Papers.
- Individual Papers will be grouped into coherent sessions of up to four papers in a 90 minute slot.
- These sessions will have the discussion at the end of the session rather than after each paper.
- The final presenter for each paper presentation slot will serve as the session chair.

#### *Guidelines for: Poster Submissions*

- 750 word abstract with an additional 250 words for references.
- Successful posters will either be physically displayed or available as an ePoster (this will be decided by the Committee).
- All posters (both physical and ePosters) will have the opportunity to deliver a 5 minute presentation during one of the sessions.
- There will be a prize for the best physical poster and best ePoster.

#### *Guidelines for: Symposium Submissions*

A WERA symposium provides opportunities, not afforded by a single paper, to examine a specific education research problem or topic through an international, comparative, or worldwide lens and to bring to bear diverse perspectives, intensive discussion, or a wide range of expertise. Symposium proposals are submitted by an organiser who may or may not be a chair, presenter, or discussant. A WERA symposium includes a chair and discussant and between three and five participants. Participants include all presenters and any discussants.

- 750 word abstract of the symposium, and must include the title and a paragraph about each paper (minimum of 3 papers and maximum of 5 papers in the symposium) in the symposium.
- There is an additional 250 words for references.
- The symposium as a whole must have a clear focus and each paper therein must be clearly related to the overall focus/theme of the symposium but also offer distinct perspectives.
- If your abstract does not include a paragraph under the title of each paper, this may be reviewed as an individual abstract. Successful symposia will be allocated a 90 minute session.

#### *Guidelines for: Panel Discussion Submissions*

- 750 word abstract with an additional 250 words for references.
- An opportunity for diverse ways of presenting and demonstrating a non-traditional approach to an academic presentation of research.
- These sessions will be 90 minutes.

#### **Peer Review of Submissions**

All submissions are peer-reviewed by the WERA Review Committee. Criteria include the *worldwide* significance of the research, clarity of the focus of the research, originality of the research, rigour of the research and significance of the research for education practice, policy or theory.

#### **Guidelines for Accepted Submissions**

Notification of acceptance decisions will be provided by **18 March 2024**. Presenting authors of accepted papers, posters, panel AND all participants in accepted symposia are expected to attend and register for the WERA 2024 Focal Meeting by **1 May 2024**. Accepted presentations will be place-based and virtual presentation is not possible. One individual abstract will be accepted per main author, which will be the highest scoring paper. Additional papers will only be permitted should there be sufficient space in the programme. You can still submit more than one paper. This does not apply if you are a co-author on other papers. Similarly, this does not apply if you have also been accepted for a symposium or alternative format session.

## Registration

Registration is available online on the [WERA-BERA conference website](#) at “[Registration](#)”. Registration for *Early Bird registrants* is available before 1 May 2024, 23:59 United Kingdom (GMT+1) time. Discounted rates will apply. Standard registration will end on 21 August 2024. Onsite registration rates will be open after 22 August 2024. Registration at the WERA Focal Meeting allows attendance at the BERA conference without registering twice. In addition, registration for the WERA 2024 Focal Meeting include one year WERA complimentary individual membership.

## Full Papers

Presenters do not need to submit full papers. Conference proceedings will not be published. WERA presenters with full papers can consider submitting to the *Global Perspectives on Education Research (GPER)*, a volume series of scholarly articles from WERA-related meetings and events published by Routledge on behalf of WERA. Subsequent to the WERA Focal Meeting there will be an invitation to all presenters to submit a manuscript for review and consideration in a next GPER Volume.

## International bursary opportunities

Information regarding bursary opportunities can be viewed on the [WERA-BERA conference website](#). The deadline for initial bursary applications is 27 February 2024.

## Important Dates for WERA 2024 Focal Meeting Call

September 2023	Submission starts
31 January 2024	Submission ends (no further extensions or Calls will be published)
27 February 2024	Bursary application deadline
18 March 2024	Decisions announced
1 May 2024	Early bird registration deadline
1 May 2024	All presenting authors to be registered
23 May 2024	Authors notified of preliminary date and time of presentation
21 August 2024	Standard registration deadline
22 August 2024	Onsite registration rate commence
8 September 2024	Pre-Conference Workshops
9-12 September 2024	WERA 2024 Focal Meeting

## Programme Directors

Liesel Ebersöhn, WERA President-Elect

Rocío García-Carrión, WERA Secretary General

For submission questions, please email [conference@bera.ac.uk](mailto:conference@bera.ac.uk)