

29th ILA Global Conference

Building Community Around Differences:

Leadership Work, Shared Humanity, and the Global Context

CALL FOR PROPOSALS GUIDE

27-30 October 2027 | San Diego, CA, USA

INVITATION

We invite you to submit a proposal for ILA's 29th Global Conference, **"Building Community Around Differences: Leadership Work, Shared Humanity, and the Global Context,"** which will take place 27-30 October 2027 in San Diego, USA.

The 29th ILA Global Conference brings together researchers, educators, practitioners, and leaders across sectors and cultures to explore what remains distinctly human about leadership — and how leaders can engage disagreement with dignity, address power and inequality, and build communities, institutions, and futures together across differences.

Participants will leave revitalized — with new questions, evidence-based strategies, and tools to elevate their impact as they examine and influence positive change at individual, organizational, societal, and global levels.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **21 January**
  Final deadline: 11:59 PM PST (UTC-8)
  Call for reviewers deadline
- **31 January**
  Final deadline: 11:59 PM PST (UTC-8)
  Proposal submission deadline
- **4-19 February**
  Peer Review Period
- **23 February - 8 March**
  Stream Review Period
- **9-16 March**
  Program Team Review
- **20 March**
  Decision Notifications Sent

ILA'S 2027 GLOBAL CONFERENCE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

To submit your proposal, please visit the Global Conference CFP web page and follow the directions there.

ILA'S 2027 EMERGING SCHOLARS RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

To submit your proposal, please visit the Global Conference CFP web page and follow the directions there. ESRC details are provided on page 10 of this guide.

QUESTIONS? If you have any questions or need assistance with the Call for Proposals, please contact us at: **conferences@ilaglobalnetwork.org**

International Leadership Association

The International Leadership Association is a global community of leaders and leadership scholars, educators, and development professionals who share a vision of leadership for the collective good of people and planet. The ILA's purpose is to connect people worldwide to advance the practice and study of leadership for a just and thriving future, a purpose we accomplish through our mission of creating trusted spaces and relevant leadership resources. For more than 25 years, the ILA has convened extraordinary talent across sectors, cultures, disciplines, and generations. Learn more and join us at **ILAglobalnetwork.org**

BEING IN COMMUNITY WITH ONE ANOTHER

When we enter into the trusted space of the ILA, we are making a commitment to be in community with a diverse group of learners from around the world.

The most powerful lever for change is in how we relate to, and connect with, one another, especially across differences.

Connections are created and nurtured as we share our experiences and learn from the experiences and perspectives of others. This engenders a feeling of belonging that nourishes our creativity and advances our collective purpose of advancing the practice and study of leadership for a just and thriving future.

Being in community with one another at **ILA's Global Conference** is not just a vision, it is a leadership practice. Each person who enters this trusted space shares the responsibility to create an environment where everyone is respected and valued.

A NOTE ON PARTICIPATION

ILA2027 is an in-person conference. Virtual presentations are not available; all presenters are expected to present live in San Diego. We look forward to welcoming you there.

CONFERENCE POLICIES

Conference Model. Our conference operates on a community model where all participants — whether presenting or attending—register for the event. As a nonprofit membership organization, this approach allows us to keep costs reasonable while creating a space where everyone contributes to and benefits from our collective knowledge. We don't offer speaker fees or complimentary registrations because we see presentations as part of the collaborative exchange that makes our community valuable. All concurrent session presenters also participate in the broader conversation, learning from colleagues and connecting with peers. This model helps us sustain our programs while reinforcing that we're all here together, sharing our work and growing as a community.

Conference Registration is Required. If your proposal is accepted, all listed presenters and co-presenters, including those designated as chairs, are required to register and pay the full published conference fees by the deadline noted in the acceptance email. ***Non-registrants will be dropped from the program.*** Accepted proposals will not be scheduled until registration is complete. Registration rates vary according to student status, member status, and time of registration.

IMPORTANT: The ILA does not pay honoraria, reimburse expenses (e.g., travel, lodging, copying, poster production, etc.), or waive or discount conference registration fees. We do not have a special presenter rate.

Consent of Presenters. All participants listed in a proposal must give their consent to be part of the proposal prior to submission. It is the responsibility of the submitter to adhere to this rule for all individuals listed in the proposal. It is also the responsibility of the submitter to make sure participants are aware of the conference registration requirement (see above) prior to submitting and that adding a co-presenter to a session will not put them in violation of the Rule of Two policy (see page 3).

Scheduling Requests. The ILA does not take scheduling requests. If you submit to the conference, please be prepared to present at any time from 8:00 AM on 27 October – 5:30 PM 30 October. By submitting a proposal, submitters are confirming the availability of all presenting participants during the conference.

Submitting to the Emerging Scholars Research Consortium? Skip to page 10.

Rule of Two. To ensure broad participation opportunities, individuals may appear on up to two proposals. This helps us manage our review process efficiently and gives more members a chance to share their work. Thank you for helping us maintain this balance! If you are adding co-presenters to your submissions, please confirm with them that this will not be in violation of the Rule of Two.

PREPARE YOUR PROPOSAL

This guide will walk you through each proposal question, step-by-step. We recommend gathering all of the information in a document file prior to entering the proposal portal. This makes it easy to copy and paste and quickly go through the process once you are in the portal. *REMINDER: Do not include identifying information in any of the proposal fields (proposal title, short description, long description) or on an uploaded paper.*

ILA UTILIZES A 3-STAGE REVIEW PROCESS FOR ITS GLOBAL CONFERENCE

Stage One – Peer Review. Peer reviewers read and score each proposal on the evaluation questions listed below. This is a double-blind (anonymous) review.

Stage Two – Stream Lead Review. Stream leads decide which proposals to recommend for acceptance based on the proposal and on the reviews. Please note that during this stage, all Cafecito Roundtable proposals will be put into a separate stream and evaluated by the Cafecito Roundtable leads.

Stage Three – Conference Chair(s)/ Program Chair(s) and ILA Staff. Recommendations from the stream leads are considered as the team crafts a compelling overall program.

EVALUATION QUESTIONS

During Stage One, Peer reviewers will be asked to evaluate each proposal as follows:

On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being lowest and 5 being highest, rate the proposal on the following:

Innovation	Rate the proposal's level of originality.
Quality	Rate the proposal's coherence and clarity of design/structure/thought.
Rigor	Rate the proposal's use of evidence from experience and/or research.
Relevance	Rate the topic's importance to the field today.
Impact	Rate the potential of the proposal to stimulate future scholarship/practice/conversation.

Pro Tip: *Keep the review criteria in mind as you develop your proposal's short and long description. Ask your own peers to evaluate what you've written using the above criteria and provide you with feedback to make the proposal stronger.*

STEP 2: PRESENTER INFORMATION (Required)

Note: The word presenter (or speaker in the proposal platform's terms) is generic for any role where the individual is present and participating in the session such as presenter, panelist, host, facilitator, chair, etc.

Please have the following information available for all individuals listed on your proposal. For the purposes of the proposal submission process, only enter those people who are planning to be at the session in person in San Diego. If accepted, you may add non-attending co-authors at a later date.

- First and Last Name
- Job Title, Department (if applicable), and Organization
- Best Email
- Are you a student? Yes/No (Submitting Presenter Only)
- What best describes your career level? Early, Mid, Senior, Retired (Submitting Presenter Only)

Optional: Short Bio, Picture, personal website, LinkedIn URL

Pro Tips: *1) Note the recommended and/or minimum number of individuals for each presentation type on page 5. 2) Make sure all the individuals listed on the proposal consent to being included in the proposal and plan to attend the conference in San Diego and understand that conference registration is required at the published rates.*

STEP 3: PROPOSAL TITLE (100 characters max, including spaces) (Required)

Create a proposal title that accurately conveys your topic. Creativity is encouraged but not at the expense of clarity.

Pro Tip: *Resist the urge to use phrases from the conference theme "Building Community Around Differences: Leadership Work, Shared Humanity, and the Global Context," in your title.*

Cafecito Roundtables: If you are submitting to the Cafecito Roundtable presentation type, your title must be in the form of a question. See the expanded Cafecito Roundtable description on page 5.

STEP 4: SELECT YOUR TRACKS (STREAMS) (Required)

Choose two streams. We recommend choosing one from each of these two groups.

Select One Stream From Group 1: Business Leadership; Healthcare Leadership; Leadership and Coaching; Leadership Development; Leadership Education; Leadership Scholarship; Public Leadership.

Select One Stream From Group 2: AI and Emerging Technologies; Arts and Leadership; Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB); Ethics and Leadership; Followership; Indigenous and First Peoples Leadership; Leadership for Peace; Military/Uniformed Services Leadership; Philosophy, Religion, and Worldviews; Sustainability Leadership; Trust and Leadership; Women and Leadership

STEP 5: SELECT YOUR SESSION TYPE (Required)

Please note: ILA may accept your proposal contingent upon a change to your presentation format. See step 12 on page 7.

Cafecito Roundtable – Cafecito is a Spanish word meaning "little coffees," and is often used as an invitation to a chat over coffee. A Cafecito roundtable is a conversation or dialogue on a question a submitter proposes to convene and host as a roundtable. This is a time to connect and converse with curiosity over questions of leadership. See the expanded description below. **Hosts: 1-2.**

Traditional Roundtable – Where a Cafecito starts with a question, a Traditional Roundtable starts with the presenter's work. Traditional Roundtables blend a focused presentation with facilitated discussion, much like a small-group workshop. Presenters share their research, practice, or project in some depth, offering their perspective and the questions it raises, then lead attendees in exploring its implications together. No AV is provided; presenters may share visuals informally from their personal devices. **Hosts: 1-2.**

Panel – An informed 60-minute dialogue or debate by panelists with contrasting or complementary points of view, moderated by a chairperson, with time reserved for audience participation, questions, and comments. Short opening remarks by the panelists set the stage for robust discussion with each other and the audience. **Panelists: 3-5 plus one Chair.**
Note: Your panel must have at least 3 panelists registered and in attendance in San Diego or it will be cancelled.

Pecha Kucha – Chit-chat in Japanese, Pecha Kucha is a unique "lightning talk" presentation style consisting of 20 slides that are each displayed for 20 seconds, automatically progressing to the next one. This results in a total presentation time of 6 minutes and 40 seconds. Upon acceptance, each Pecha Kucha will be grouped together with up to 5 others and assigned a session chair and a dedicated volunteer to help with technology. See the expanded description below.
Presenters: 1-2.

Poster – A visual display of a paper, a research project, a developing idea, or a program or practice that is set up and hosted by the creator(s) during a poster session. During the poster session, the poster creator will host their poster by engaging with attendees who stop by the poster. **Presenters: 1-2.**

Presentation or Paper – A concise, oral presentation (~12 minutes) that shares best practices, model programs, case studies, theory building, research findings, pedagogy, etc. Upon acceptance, presentations/papers are grouped together with three other proposals to form one 60-minute session. A session chair will be assigned by the ILA who will keep time during the session and moderate joint Q&A at the end of the session. **Presenters: 1-3.**
Note: If you are submitting a paper, ***see step 10 (page 7)*** *on uploading your paper during the proposal process.*

Walkshop – You and 10-20 conference attendees gather at the conference hotel and then walk and talk as you make your way to different venues in the city. ILA helps suggest venues after acceptance or you may research and suggest your own! Note: Attendees who are not able to walk or roll the route and who require an accommodation, can travel there via taxi to join the conversation at the venue and be reimbursed by ILA after the event. **Facilitators: 1-4.**
Note: Walkshops are scheduled for 120 minutes to allow for movement to and from the location.

Workshop – An interactive 60-minute demonstration or experiential session on a leadership-related topic that is rooted in audience participation and active learning. Half or more of the time must be dedicated to experiential learning and innovative, active, audience participation focused on the development of capacities, skills, techniques, or proficiencies. **Facilitators: 1-4.**

STEP 6: AV AFFIRMATION (Required)

AV support is matched to each session type's purpose. All session formats receive full AV support (screen, computer, projector, and microphone) except Posters (including ESRC Posters), Cafecito Roundtables, Traditional Roundtables, and Walkshops. These are conversation-centered formats built for direct, face-to-face engagement, so they do not include AV equipment.

STEP 7: PROPOSAL SHORT DESCRIPTION (1,500 characters max, including spaces) (Required)

Your short description should convey why the topic is interesting and important. Be clear and straightforward. Your short description should concisely summarize the main point, central arguments, evidence, and/or experience you'll be delving into should your proposal be accepted. Keep ILA's multidisciplinary, multisector, global audience in mind and avoid specialized jargon.

Cafecito Roundtables Additional Instruction: In the short description field, discuss why your topic is important in the context of this year's conference theme *"Building Community Around Differences: Leadership Work, Shared Humanity, and the Global Context."* For more information see the expanded Cafecito Roundtable description on page 8.

STEP 8: KEYWORDS (Required)

List 3-5 keywords that summarize your topic.

STEP 9: PROPOSAL LONG DESCRIPTION (5,000 characters max, including spaces) (Required)

This is your opportunity to expand upon your short description with a more complete abstract of your proposal. If you choose to include quotations, please cite each author's name, but a full citation is not needed.

Please note the following recommendations for long description based on session type.

Workshops or Walkshops: If you are submitting a workshop or a walkshop, please include the key takeaways for attendees and a draft schedule of how you will use the time in the session.

Cafecito Roundtables: If you are submitting a Cafecito Roundtable, please provide some biographical details that demonstrate your investment in the question without revealing who you are. Do nothing else. To prepare more is to begin the dialogue without others and is antithetical to the purpose of the Cafecitos.

Inclusion of Biographical Information in Panels, Walkshops, and Workshops: Submitters are encouraged to provide biographical information in the long description that will help peer reviewers and the program team understand why you are qualified to lead a particular workshop or discuss the topic of a panel. To maintain the double-anonymous review, please do not include your name in this biographical information or things like titles of books you've written — be more generic.

STEP 10: UPLOAD YOUR PAPER (Optional)

If you are submitting a full paper, please upload a paper no more than 20 pages in length (including tables, figures, and references), double-spaced, with 1" margins in a Times New Roman 12 pt font or equivalent.

Leadership Scholarship Stream: If you are submitting under the presentation/paper format in the Leadership Scholarship stream, it is highly recommended that you upload a full paper for consideration.

STEP 11: ILA'S GENERAL PRINCIPLES (Optional)

ILA's General Principles for Leadership Programs offers five topical areas that leadership learning falls within. Please select the area within which your proposal best fits.

- Context
- Conceptual Framework
- Content
- Learning
- Metrics, Outcomes, and Assessment

STEP 12: ALTERNATIVE PRESENTATION FORMATS (Required)

Each year, we receive more excellent proposals than we have program slots available. If your proposal is recommended for acceptance but there are no remaining slots in your requested format, please indicate your flexibility:

- I would accept a Pecha Kucha (lightning talk) format
- I would accept a Poster format
- I would accept a traditional Roundtable (not a Cafecito) format
- I prefer to keep my original presentation format only

STEP 13: CONSENT TO TERMS AND CONDITIONS

I agree to the policies as listed in the Call for Presentations Guide. I also understand that by submitting, I agree to receive emails from the International Leadership Association.

STEP 14: REVIEW, EDIT, AND SUBMIT

Review your proposal and make any needed correction/edits, then click submit. You may log back into the portal and edit your proposal at any time prior to the CFP deadline of 11:59 PM PST (UTC-8), 31 January 2027.

SUBMISSION LINK
2027 Global Conference
Presentation Submission Portal



CAFECITO EXPANDED DESCRIPTION

As a professional association committed to the growth and development of its members and conference attendees, this year, ILA's Global Conference is reprising a new approach to the roundtable format. This year we will again be creating space for dialogue and connection via a Cafecito approach to roundtables. This change, first implemented in 2024, was in response to the desire people expressed over the years for increased opportunities to collaboratively examine the complexity within issues before us. Cafecitos will provide attendees with the opportunity to host collective conversations on topics, issues, or questions that matter to them. The ILA wishes to acknowledge Lifetime Achievement Award winner Juana Bordas for first bringing the idea of the Cafecito to us and to the organizers and participants of the 2023 ILA Dialogue Lab for piloting a program based on roundtable conversations.

What is a Cafecito? Cafecito is a Spanish word meaning "little coffees," and is often used as an invitation to a chat over coffee. A Cafecito roundtable is a conversation or dialogue on a question a submitter proposes to convene and host as a roundtable. This is a time to connect and converse with curiosity over questions of leadership. There will be two, 60-minute Cafecito Roundtable sessions, with dozens of roundtables offered in each, during the conference. Attendees may choose to attend 1 or 2 roundtables during each Cafecito.

Why Cafecitos? We want to create an architecture for engagement across our diverse group of conference participants. With conversation as the catalyst, we hope to spur learning connections that last beyond the conference. Cafecitos encourage respectful and engaging dialogue around questions that matter. Everyone's participation is essential in the dialogue, as the group listens together for insights, patterns, and deeper questions.

What isn't happening in the Cafecitos? Technology (e.g., laptops, phones, etc.), slide decks, handouts, speeches, presentations (and presentations disguised as conversations), performances, orations, etc.

What if I want to host a Cafecito? Submit your Cafecito Roundtable through the conference's call for proposals platform. Identify your idea, topic, or issue then craft and submit it as a question (in the proposal title field). In the short description field, discuss why that topic is important in the context of this year's conference theme *"Leadership in a Complex World: Innovations, Ethics, and Regeneration,"* In the long description field, provide some biographical details that demonstrate your investment in the question without revealing who you are. Craft your question, propose why it matters, talk about your investment in the question and submit. Do nothing else. To prepare more is to begin the dialogue without others and is antithetical to the purpose of the Cafecitos.

PECHA KUCHA EXPANDED DESCRIPTION

Chit-chat in Japanese, Pecha Kucha is a unique presentation style consisting of 20 slides that are each displayed for 20 seconds, automatically progressing to the next one. This results in a total presentation time of 6 minutes and 40 seconds.

How Pecha Kucha differs from "lightning talks." While "lightning talks" also offer opportunities for attendees to hear a lot of ideas in a short amount of time, Pecha Kucha has several advantages: 1) It keeps presentations concise, dynamic, and on time; 2) It minimizes distractions and maximizes engagement; 3) It helps speakers stay on-topic and prevents them from going off track and adding unnecessary details to their talks. While strict Pecha Kucha presentations rely mostly on images, in this context, you may include text, however we recommend keeping it minimal.

Should I do a Pecha Kucha? ILA has an official license for the Pecha Kucha format. There will be a dedicated support team in the Pecha Kucha sessions to emcee and ensure the technology runs smoothly. We recommend you watch these YouTube videos as you consider submitting to this presentation format.

- **How to Make a Pecha Kucha** — youtu.be/32WEzM3LFhw?feature=shared
- **Ann Marie Klotz's Pecha Kucha, "A High Heel in the Door: Lessons Learned from Female College Presidents," presented at ACPA.** youtu.be/XO3nLXpO3II?feature=shared
- **Lise Mathieu's Pecha Kucha, "Health Care Is About Leadership" presented at Health Talks.** Note: While the live audience was able to experience this Pecha Kucha, the recording was done such that the slides only appear for a few seconds each. So, you may wish to pause the video when each slide is shown. **youtu.be/HEMo6_hHKo4?feature=shared**

STREAM DESCRIPTIONS
For complete stream descriptions, please visit:
https://ilaglobalconference.org/conference-streams/

JOIN THEM IN SAN DIEGO

Sponsors and exhibitors are part of what makes ILA's Global Conference a place where ideas turn into connections. To talk about options, contact Theresa Royal Brown at troyalbrown@ilaglobalnetwork.org.







EMERGING SCHOLAR RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

As part of the Leadership Scholarship Member Community's mission to develop the quality of global leadership scholarship, we are offering the Emerging Scholar Research Consortium during the 2027 International Leadership Association Global Conference.

SUBMISSION LINK
2027 ESR Consortium

EMERGING SCHOLAR RESEARCH CONSORTIUM (ESRC)

Target Audience: Research Masters and Doctoral students at any stage of their program, and Faculty/Instructors/Assistant Professors (less than 3 years)

The ESRC matches participants with more senior International Leadership Association (ILA) members (e.g., Associate and Full Professors) to provide intellectual exchange and mentorship opportunities. Participants host their poster presentations at a special forum during the global conference. The first hour of the ESRC is open to all attendees. Conversations with an assigned mentor will take place during the second hour of the ESRC (closed to attendees). Breakout conversations with an assigned mentor follow the presentations.

Required for proposal: Title (100 characters max, including spaces), Stream selection (up to 2), Short Description (1,000 characters max, including spaces), Research outline (uploaded document of 1,000 words max), and What you hope to gain from participating (1,000 characters max, including spaces).

Required for the conference: Poster of your work (poster size and specifications will be shared with accepted participants).

ESRC PROPOSAL INFORMATION

- Title (100 characters max, including spaces):
- Stream
- Your Role:
  - Research Masters student
  - PhD student
  - Post-doc
  - Instructor/Lecturer
  - Adjunct Professor
  - Assistant Professor
  - Associate Professor
  - Practitioner
- Short Description (1,000 characters max, including spaces)
- Keywords
- What you hope to gain from participating (1,000 characters max, including spaces)

Please upload a word/pdf document of your research proposal using the following guide.

Word Length: 1,000 words (max)

- Overview of Research Proposal
- Theoretical Foundation/Conceptual Framework
- Research Questions/Hypotheses
- Proposed Methods
- Proposed Contributions (Theoretical/Practical Implications)
- Challenges
  - What theoretical issues need clarification?
  - What are the main problem areas with your proposed design and methodology?
  - What other specific questions would you like to ask?
- References (APA preferred, but as long as they are consistent)
- Optional
  - Figure showing model/framework
  - Interview protocol (if appropriate)
  - List of measures/items in measures (if appropriate)
  - Other information that you would like feedback on