

Family is a strong word...

We all have different family experiences and relationships that color the word and imagery evoked. Since the advent of photography to our current social media-saturated culture, photography is the very heart of how we represent and express our family values—privately, publicly, and sometimes controversially.

The concept of “family” has become increasingly inclusive, paralleled by a focus of growing public exchange. Photographers have been at the leading edge of this cultural shift by raising questions that ask us to consider, “Whose family values?” No matter the basis—governmental, legal, love, lineage, support, companionship, responsibility, or shared beliefs—family values figure heavily in how we express our relationship to the world around us.

In one form or another, many of us have a family photographic archive, and the “family album” of photographs is often listed among our greatest treasures. Technological changes in recent decades have altered the nature of that archive. Social media sites have become virtual photo albums. Instead of printed family photographs shared in the privacy of the home, images most often exist in the pixels of our screens and shared instantaneously across the globe. How has this technology impacted our notions of intimacy?

Photographs, more than ever, influence our daily lives. The camera—a designed companion of family vacations, holidays, and special events—is ubiquitous as nearly everyone carries a camera phone in their pockets at all times. The omnipresence of the camera has altered the nature of both the volume and the kinds of photographs we make in our personal lives and the way we should address the teaching and learning of photography.

SPE’s annual national conference is a bit like a family reunion. We come together to share images, to think, to inspire, to be inspired, and to discuss our photographic and teaching practices with the members of our photographic family. We will gather in one of the most “family friendly” places in the world, Orlando, Florida, to explore how family—intimate, blood, intentional or extended—has impacted our lives, our practice, our teaching, and our ever-changing social and photographic landscape.

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 2014 (Baltimore) are not eligible. This also applies to co-presenters and/or panelists.

Presentation Formats:

- **Graduate Student** (20 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, imagemaker, lecture, and teaching & learning presentations are NOT eligible for discounted rates.) Panel discussion format presentations are eligible for up to four discounted registrations (1 moderator and up to 3 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 the \$10 fee.

Selection Process: All submissions are reviewed by a 10-member peer review panel, which forwards recommendations to the 2017 Conference Committee. The National Board’s Executive Committee approves the final conference program to assure the broadest representation of concerns in the field. You will be notified by September 1 on the status of your submission.

Submission Deadline:
June 1, 2016, 11:59 pm EDT

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

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