

March 15, 2016

We would like to announce the call for proposals for the 2016 American Educational Studies Association Conference.

Please note: AESA membership is deliberating conference dates and location. Updates to this call will be made as soon as a decision is reached.

Conference Theme: Love, Labor, and Learning Under the Gun: A Call for Education Writ Large with Visionary Pragmatism

Under the gun names literally and figuratively the situation of love, labor, and learning in the face of Second Amendment militancy and murderous white supremacy across the U.S.; xenophobic walls, border patrols, occupations, and deportations; fundamentalist terrorism, mercenary militarism, and climate wars; worldwide violence of every kind against diverse LGBTQ people and other women and children; toxic water, air, and land; and speciesism—as well as union-busting, tenure abolition, program cuts and shutdowns, high-stakes testing, surveillance, micro-aggressions, school-to-prison pipelines, and forceful privatization of public education at every level. For young people and their educators, the challenges of loving, laboring, and learning to live under the gun are at once personal and political. No matter whom the U.S. elects as its next President [after or while] we meet, ironically amid ongoing international centennial celebration of John Dewey's *Democracy and Education*, the interdisciplinary educational studies community will continue to engage under-the-gun challenges as labors of love and as labors for learning—disarming labors both practical and intellectual. They demand critical historical consciousness as well as nuanced intersectional understanding of education's practical complexities and conceptual problems in changing cultural contexts. They call upon educators' imaginative capacities for ethical leadership, civil action, curricular and pedagogical artistry in behalf of peace and justice.

We call for submissions that reflect “the creative tension between vision and pragmatism” that Patricia Hill Collins in *Another Kind of Public Education* has called “visionary pragmatism,” as well as what Jane Roland Martin has called “education writ large,” which exceeds school or campus boundaries to include encounters between individuals and cultures that change one another for worse or for better. Note a new category of submission this year—action meetings—for organizing leadership strategies to resist, disarm, and transform under-the-gun domination. We invite submissions that investigate past educational and cultural creativity living under the gun, that describe and analyze both under-the-gun contexts and loving educational environments. We welcome also conceptual

inquiry that analyzes and reframes ethical connections among love, labor, and learning.

**MAY DAY SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** May 1, 2016. All proposals must be submitted electronically to the Online Conference System (OCS) via the AESA website. It will open April 1, 2016 (5:00 pm CST) and close on International Labor Day, May 1, 2016 (11:59 CST). MAY DAY is the final deadline, not a faux deadline! Participants must plan ahead to make this May 1st deadline. Notifications of proposals' acceptance or rejections will be sent on or before August 15, 2016.

Questions? Contact AESA President Elect/Program Chair Susan Laird at [laird@ou.edu](mailto:laird@ou.edu)

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