

# Foreword

Welcome to San Francisco and the 94th Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association. We gather as an association to share and construct knowledge, to promote dialogue across academic differences, to further and deepen connections within our scholarly community, and to be in fellowship with friends and colleagues old and new. The meeting features over 6,000 presenters in more than 2,400 sessions, representing the breadth and depth of education research today.

The theme of this year's meeting is "Education and Poverty: Theory, Research, Policy, and Praxis." As we developed the theme, we considered multiple forms of poverty and impoverishment, among them economic, moral, aesthetic, and intellectual. We focused on the ways that education can be seen as a route out of poverty, but also can be implicated in perpetuating cycles of impoverishment in local communities, across a nation, and around the world. The Annual Meeting Program Committee and AERA members together met the challenge of considering complex relationships between education and multiple forms of poverty. The program reflects their good work. We locate these discussions of education and poverty in the context of the last two AERA meetings, which focused on education research for the public good (2011) and interpretations of "to know is not enough" (2012). Applying those lessons to questions of education and poverty leads to research and theory that can be used in service of a more equitable, just, and humane society.

Unless otherwise noted, all sessions are open to every Annual Meeting attendee. We encourage all of you to attend a few sessions that take you out of your comfort zone, in both subject matter and point of view. One purpose of a conference such as this is to engage in new dialogues and stretch our thinking, to learn from one another. The conference is also an excellent opportunity to hear about new ideas, methodologies, theories, and policies from some of our field's most respected scholars and practitioners.

In keeping with the theme, we selected as a local community partner GLIDE, an organization with a 50-year history as a "radically inclusive, just and loving community mobilized to alleviate suffering and break the cycles of poverty and marginalization" ([www.glide.org](http://www.glide.org)). Located across the street from the Hilton Union Square, GLIDE strives to meet material, spiritual, and community needs of children and adults through programs in wellness, growth, spirit, and leadership. The mission and actions of this organization give life and meaning to our conference theme. You can get to know the work of GLIDE by touring its programs, volunteering, joining Sunday celebration services, or attending the AERA presidential session led by the founders, Reverend Cecil Williams and Janice Mirikitani. If you would like to sign up as a volunteer or donate to the learning lab, visit the AERA website ([www.aera.net](http://www.aera.net)), click "2013 Annual Meeting Details," and scroll down to "Social Justice Activities With Glide Memorial Church."

We also come together this week to conduct the business of the Association, thanks to the work of hundreds of volunteer leaders in the divisions, SIGs, and committees and in publications. Through their year-round activity these volunteers propel the field ahead and explore and express the diversity of thinking within the Association.

We hope you will join us at the AERA-wide Awards Luncheon on Monday, where we will celebrate the accomplishments of our colleagues in education research—those early in their careers and those who have made outstanding contributions across a lifetime.

Finally, we invite you to take part in some of the activities planned to encourage new ways of thinking about scholarly and community interaction. Check out the film festival. Hear colleagues in a nontraditional format at the AERA ED Talks, or learn in a flash at 5-minute IGNITE presentations. Join a daily cashmob to support local businesses. Network at the Edutopia AERA Meetup. Make your voice heard in the discussion about AERA's new open access publishing venture.

You can follow AERA on Twitter at @AERA\_EdResearch ([Twitter.com/AERA\\_EdResearch](https://twitter.com/AERA_EdResearch)). Join the conversation about the 2013 Annual Meeting by using the hashtag #AERA13 and by following @AERA13 ([Twitter.com/AERA13](https://twitter.com/AERA13)).

We hope that your experience of the Annual Meeting will challenge and inspire you to new ways of thinking about education and poverty and, more generally, about education research and scholarly discourse.



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