

## **The School Psychology Research Collaboration Conference (SPRCC)**

### **Call for 2026 Early Career Scholar Participants**

We are excited to invite applications for the 2026 School Psychology Research Collaboration Conference (SPRCC), an opportunity for emerging scholars to build collaborative relationships with fellow early career colleagues and receive mentorship from advanced scholars in the field of school psychology. Sponsored by the Society for the Study of School Psychology (SSSP), the SPRCC is a mechanism to actively support the efforts of early career researchers who conduct psychological research relevant to education and the practice of psychology in schools. Such collaboration among early career and advanced scholars is designed to facilitate scholarship that addresses complex and important problems relevant to schools, students, and their communities.

In 2022 and 2024, the SPRCC was revised and transformed to better support early career scholars in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the persistent, systemic, and relational inequities for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) scholars. The 2026 SPRCC will maintain its emphasis on promoting equity and social justice and creating an inclusive space for participants with marginalized identities.

- The 2026 SPRCC will be held February 22-23, 2026, before the annual convention of the National Association of School Psychologists in Chicago, IL. It will be co-sponsored by the School of Education, Loyola University Chicago.
- Based on applicants' reports of their needs and interests (see application information below), we expect to organize two types of groups: (a) research area interest group, and (b) research process problem-solving group to facilitate a community of colleagues and mentors that leads to meaningful scholarship and active support. Groups will engage in collaborative scholarship and problem-solving with one another and advanced scholars throughout the 2025-2026 academic year.
- Catalyst scholars (i.e., advanced researchers in the field of school psychology) will be nominated by early career scholars and provided with ongoing support to facilitate their active mentorship, and to utilize best practices in mentoring, particularly across race and ethnicity and gender.
- At the 2026 SPRCC, early career scholars and catalyst scholars, who will have been working together remotely since Fall 2025, will have dedicated time for collaborative work and shared problem-solving and support related to research. We will provide opportunities for cross-group collaboration, support, and active brainstorming about school psychology scholarship. Additionally, facilitated discussion on equity and social justice issues will be provided, both within affinity groups and inter-racial spaces.
- Early career scholar participants will receive a reimbursement of their expenses (up to \$875) to facilitate their travel to and attendance at the 2026 SPRCC. Participants can also request up to \$350 in reimbursement for childcare costs incurred during their attendance at the SPRCC.

## **Eligibility**

Potential early career scholars should be professionals in their first 10 years after receiving a doctorate (i.e., no earlier than December 2015). We will also consider applications from those who received their doctorate outside of this window but have recently taken a position focused on scholarship (e.g., assistant professor). Scholars within the 10-year window who have already attended SPRCC but who believe they would benefit from additional mentoring or collaboration given unique circumstances (e.g., impact of COVID, change of position) may apply to attend this conference and should use their application materials to explain their interest in attending again.

Potential early career scholars should communicate their strong interest in contributing to psychological research relevant to education and the practice of psychology in schools. Additionally, scholars should articulate the ways their research contributes towards social justice. Relatedly, potential early career scholars should have time to actively engage in research activities and contribute to collaborative research activities. Applicants can illustrate that they meet this eligibility criteria by sharing information about their position (e.g., faculty appointment with expectation of research; postdoctoral appointment that includes time for independent scholarship, school-based position with sufficient time for research or applicant history of contributing to research while in this role). As needed, based on the number of applicants, the SPRCC committee will prioritize pre-tenured faculty in school psychology in reviewing applications.

## **Application**

To be considered for the SPRCC, please submit the application by completing the Google Form (available at this link: [2026 SPRCC Application Form](#)) and attaching the applicants' most recent curriculum vitae and a cover letter (< 3 pages). You can preview the full list of questions in the 2026 SPRCC Application Form at this link: [Application Form Questions](#). The deadline for application is **5PM PST on Monday, March 17, 2025**. Late submissions cannot be accepted due to planning timelines.

Summary of topics to address in the application:

- A description of the applicant's area(s) of research interest and the importance of these area(s) to advancing school psychology research and practice.
- A summary of the applicant's planned research efforts within the near future (i.e., 1-3 years).
- A summary of the applicant's prior experience in and support to conduct research (e.g., prior coursework, prior work on grant-funded project, limited structural support).
- A description of their interest in participating in SPRCC, including at least two explicit goals for themselves related to advancing their scholarship, promoting equity and social justice, collaborating with fellow early career scholars, receiving mentorship, engaging in problem-solving support, and fostering inclusive practice for research efforts, or other relevant areas.

- An indication that they have sufficient time to actively engage in scholarship in their current role (e.g., faculty appointment with expectation of research; postdoctoral appointment that includes time for independent scholarship, school-based position with sufficient time for research or applicant history of contributing to research while in this role).
- If the applicant attended a previous SPRCC, list which one was attended and describe how the applicant would benefit from the opportunity to attend the 2026 SPRCC.
- List of three keywords that capture the applicant's research agenda and three keywords that capture areas of research problem-solving support you wish to seek from the 2026 SPRCC.
- List of at least three advanced researchers in school psychology (i.e., researchers with a history of scholarship that contributes to psychological research relevant to education and the practice of psychology in schools) who the applicant would be interested in working with to advance their future research efforts.

### **More Information**

Please direct questions regarding the conference, eligibility, or application to the 2026 SPRCC Planning Committee at [sssp.sprcc@gmail.com](mailto:sssp.sprcc@gmail.com).

### **2026 SPRCC Planning Committee**

Chunyan Yang, Chair

Stephanie D'Costa, Co-Chair

Kai Zhuang Shum, SPRCC Committee Member

Lora Henderson Smith, SPRCC Committee Member

Bryn Harris, SSSP Committee Member

Michelle Demaray, SSSP Committee Member

Tai Collins, SSSP Committee Member