



Call for Proposals
Labor and Employment Relations Association
LERA 73rd Annual Meeting
June 3-6, 2021, Virtual Event

A Transformational Moment?
Work, Worker Power and the Workplace in an Era of Division and Disruption

Wilma Liebman, LERA President-Elect and Program Chair

Next year's annual meeting will take place – **virtually!** -- in the throes of a unique and highly uncertain historical moment, with its separate and intersecting health, economic, and racial justice crises. With this theme, the meeting will seek to explore whether this moment will be transformational for work, worker power and the workplace -- especially given the deep divides and disruption that existed long before COVID-19. The three intersecting crises have thrust the lives of workers and working conditions into public discourse, more than at any time in decades. We invite program proposals that engage with our theme. For example:

- the pandemic's effects on employers, workers and the workplace (e.g. heightened risks for economic activity, essential workers, low wage workers, race and/or gender disparities, remote work, supply chains, unions, occupational health and safety imperatives), and comparative global responses;
- racial inequality and injustice and the workplace (e.g., wage inequality; the disproportionate impacts of the virus and economic crisis; police union reform; anti-racist work by labor unions and employers);
- macroeconomic disruption, technological disruption and the workplace;
- labor and employment policy and law reform in a polarized political climate; global governance of work;
- evolving worker mobilization and collective action (e.g., on climate, artificial intelligence, racial justice, as well as pay, health and safety and other working conditions, by unionized and non-union workers, including high tech workers and young workers; identity vs. class as the foundation of organizing).

These topics are suggestions only. We welcome proposals for sessions and individual papers addressing the annual meeting's theme. We seek contributions from a broad range of perspectives (incl. domestic and global, academic and practitioner -- worker, union, management and neutral) and disciplines (incl. but not limited to history, political science, labor and employment law, economics, sociology, industrial relations, human resource studies). We encourage proposals incorporating research, practice and policy; we also encourage a balance of gender, racial, and generational diversity among the proposed participants. LERA's mission and the wide range of expertise of LERA's community make it an ideal forum for exploring and debating competing and compelling ideas about a way forward. At this critical moment, dynamism and innovation in thought and action are badly needed. ***Deadline for session proposals and single paper/poster abstracts is November 15, 2020.***

Presentations may take a variety of forms: Symposia, panels, workshops, posters, skill-building debates, roundtable discussions, etc. The number of tracks and lengths of sessions depends on the quantity and quality of proposals. To encourage diversity of thought, participants may present only once per role on the annual meeting's program. At least one participant in each session -- and one author on each paper -- must be a LERA member. **Organizers are required to provide** a session abstract and description, a list and full contact information for all participants (confirmed or invited), as well as a statement on how the composition of the panel reflects diversity and inclusion (including gender, race, generation, perspective, etc.). All confirmed participants must register for the meeting.

Other paper competitions include **LERA Competitive Papers** (complete papers up to 30 pages) or the **AILR/LERA Best Papers Competition** (paper proposals up to 3 pages), and the special LERA Best Papers edition of the AILR Journal (complete papers up to 30 pages). Winning authors will be invited to present in special sessions at the meeting and may earn invitations to publish. ***Deadline: December 15, 2020.***

**If you have questions about this Call for Proposals, contact: LERAoffice@illinois.edu.
To submit an online proposal, visit the LERA website www.LERAweb.org/73rd-LERA-Call.**