

Human Science Institute Conference
Call for Presentations
September 27 - 30, 2017
Salt Lake City, Utah
<http://humanscienceinstitute.org>

**A Difference That Makes a Difference:
Systemic Change for Environmental and Social Justice**

Recent social and political events in the United States and in other Western democracies have surprised and shocked many of us committed to “creating a humane and ecologically sustainable future.” We use the phrase “a difference that makes a difference,” drawn from work of anthropologist and systems theorist Gregory Bateson, to guide our discussion on facilitating change that goes beyond immediate problems to changing the way we think about and engage with today’s complex issues. Broadly, our theme is about how can we bring forth systemic change that protects the rights of individuals and communities and the natural world upon which we depend?

Please join us in considering how we can create more transformational and effective collective efforts at this historic juncture in our national story, at this time of global tumult. Whether you are an educator, researcher, non-profit administrator, social service worker, social or environmental activist, green business entrepreneur, therapist, etc., what systemic perspective and efforts are you encouraging to create change that will be “a difference that makes a difference?”

Here are some examples of questions that might be considered:

- How does Bateson’s notion of a difference that makes a difference open a path toward ecological intelligence and social reforms?
- How can social movements focus the energy of concerned citizens on the underlying systemic foundations of the status quo?
- Can business reach beyond “sustainability” to protecting human and natural environments that are the context and foundation of commerce?
- What are the implications of Bateson's approach to overcoming pathologies of epistemology and to reframing social issues?
- What is the relationship of the status of women to environmental justice?
- What is the impact of climate change on the social crisis of migration?
- What role can democracy play in creating the context for progressive change?
- What is the relationship between global warming and intersectional racism?
- How does Systems Practice inform your work?

Your response to the theme **“A Difference That Makes A Difference: Systemic Change for Social and Environmental Justice”** may be addressed from a variety of perspectives, for example:

- A philosophical or theoretical reflection on Bateson’s approach to “difference that makes a difference” and how to identify such differences as they may present themselves in various social and environmental issues.
- A report on a current or completed research study, a community project, or other creative endeavor that engaged individuals or groups in efforts that achieved systemic change.
- An analysis of a specific social or environmental issue and an action plan that engages an individual, group, or community to respond from a systemic perspective.

Whatever the specific topic, your presentation should illustrate perspectives drawn from the Human Science tradition. That is, your response should be grounded in an appreciation of diverse ways of knowing, cognizant of different cultural contexts and alternate perspectives, and focused on responding to real world problems. Please see our mission statement at <http://humanscienceinstitute.org> for insight into our approach to Human Science scholarship and practice. See also *Human Science Perspectives*, vol.1, #1 for a more complete introduction to our approach to scholarship, research, practice, and social change: <https://humanscience.institute/journal/index.php/HSPerspectives/login>.

Proposal Submissions

Follow the guidelines below and submit your proposal by **June 26, 2017**:

For individual presentations, submit a proposal with the title of your presentation, your name, discipline, physical address, contact information, and affiliation on the first page and an abstract (**no more than 250 words**) on the second page to allow for anonymous review. Individual presentations should not be more than 20 minutes and our preference is for discussion style presentations rather than reading papers. Presenters should discuss the major ideas or findings in their work in a manner that will engage participants. Individual presenters will be grouped with other presenters addressing similar themes. Time for questions will be included in the schedule and session leaders will facilitate the discussion.

For Panel presentations (3 or more presenters), or workshops (2 or more individuals) proposals, are also welcome. They will be scheduled for 1 and ½ to 2 hours depending on number of presenters and format. For panels or workshops, please also submit a proposal with the title of your presentation, names of chair and all presenters, their disciplines, physical address and contact information, and affiliations on the first page and an abstract on the second page (**no more than 250-500 words**) to allow for anonymous review.

Note: Please limit titles to 30 words and include 3 keywords for your presentation

Submissions that do not follow these guidelines will be returned.

We will be publishing selected papers in HSI’s journal “Human Science Perspectives.” If you wish to have a paper based on your presentation considered, please submit it no later than November 1, 2017. See the Submission Guidelines posted on the Institute website.

Please email your proposal as a Word.doc or Docx format document to info@humanscienceinstitute.org and insert “presentation proposal” in subject line.

After submission of the proposal, an email confirming receipt will be sent to the submitter within 3 days.

Final Due Date for Submission: June 26, 2017

Note: Proposals received prior to this date will receive prompt attention.

Notification of Acceptance: July 17, 2017

Presenter Attendance Confirmation: August 7, 2017

Presenter Conference Registration: August 16, 2017

Note: Early Bird registration for the conference ends August 16, 2017

Presenters are required to register for the Conference by **August 16, 2017** to confirm their acceptance and be included in the Conference Program. Accepted presenters who do not register by the deadline will not be included in the Conference Program. The conference schedule will be finalized on September 11th and no changes to the conference program will be made after this date. Register: <http://humanscienceinstitute.org>

Review: Please review your abstract prior to submitting it. The content you submit will be used for publication purposes.

Handouts: We suggest bringing handouts with you, but will list nearby vendors on the conference website.

Technology: Standard hotel audio/visual equipment will be provided.

