

The Academy for Educational Studies presents the

Critical Questions in Education Symposium

A blind, peer-reviewed national gathering dedicated to sharing and learning



October 30 – 31, 2017
Hotel Monaco
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Deadline for proposals: July 1, 2017

The CQiE Symposium is built around conversation—conversation oriented around a focused yet flexible theme question. The Symposium offers participants deliberate opportunities to talk, listen, and learn from one another—to think about how they might change or develop their thinking about teaching and/or teacher education as a consequence of what they have learned from engaging with others at the Symposium.

Symposium Theme Question

What vision of public education—and of the young people who will graduate from our high schools and colleges—should animate the work of teachers and school administrators, as well as that of teacher educators and their students?

We propose the theme question, above, in light of the continuing debate about the nature, conduct, and effectiveness of our public schools. This debate and the considerable social, political, economic and governmental pressure now placed on schools deserves scrutiny. We offer the following questions (below, and on the 2nd page of this Call) as suggestions for how the theme question might be approached:

- ✓ **Is there still a public purpose for public schools, K—12 through college? Is there still a public for the public schools to serve? What ends of education must our public schools pursue—now, and in the future? What authors help us think about this?**
- ✓ **Does the privatization of K—12 schooling by means of charter schools, vouchers, and educational entrepreneurship help us achieve the educational ends we desire? Or is privatization at odds with the ends of public schooling?**
- ✓ **What social, political, or economic influences must we consider as we create this lasting vision? What trends or “futures-thinking” is important to consider?**
- ✓ **If change needs to happen, how will it happen, who will lead it, and on what scale must it occur? And what, in particular, needs to change? Curriculum or instruction? Funding, standards, testing, teacher preparation?**

Open Topic

Come share conversations on the Symposium topic while presenting on an education-related topic of your choice.

Invited speaker:

Betsy DeVos

Secretary of Education

(Acceptance pending)

Other ways you might address the theme question:

- ✓ We encourage analyses of books and articles from major thinkers about the purposes of public schools and related topics. Which current or past authors should we be reading? Martha Nussbaum? Yuval Noah Harari? (See a discussion of Harari’s latest book [here](#)) [Hess and McAvoy](#)? Dewey? Rousseau? People from the corporate sector?
- ✓ Should we expand vocational or technical programs that match the job market and economic needs of our country? Has the argument for “liberal education” died and gone away?
- ✓ We invite serious and comprehensive studies of charter schools, vouchers, and private educational businesses and businesspeople. What effects, positive or negative, are private enterprises having on K—12 schooling, teacher education, and graduate education programs? What background do these new entrepreneurs have? What are the dangers or advantages when “tech companies” enter the education space? (See a discussion [“platforms”](#) that might resonate to the field of education.)
- ✓ What cultural, political, or constitutional clashes might occur, or what advantages might accrue, when parents use public money, through vouchers, to educate their children in private schools?
- ✓ What ways should teaching and learning change? Are things like inquiry learning, project-based learning, problem-based learning (and the like) helping us achieve the ends we desire?
- ✓ Is on-line education worth it? Are new educational technologies (and private educational technology businesses) helping students learn real and valuable 21st century skills, or are they erecting superficial educational ends that displace deeper and more meaningful purposes?

Another suggestion for presentations:

Secret Society for Lovers of Platonic Dialogues (!!)

Each year the (not really) Secret Society for Lovers of Platonic Dialogues (SSLPD) will think through the *Symposium* topic through the lens of a Platonic dialogue. This year that lens is the *Gorgias*—a masterful dialogue that examines the motives of those who want to have power and govern. And, of course, sections of the *Republic* reflect on this question, too. Propose a paper/presentation about the *Gorgias* or *Republic*.

The organizing committee seeks participants who offer well-considered and reflective analysis or evaluation. Original research, research review, scholarly efforts, eloquent advocacy, or reports of inspiring practice—all are welcome.

- **Individual paper/presentation:** Single (or co-authored) papers or prepared presentations. The conference committee will group submissions based on commonality of theme or approach into a 60 or 75 minute session. Presenters will share the session, leaving time for discussion. The committee may arrange a poster session for graduate student submissions, depending on the number of proposals received.
- **Panel discussion:** Three or more presenters—named in the proposal—discuss alternative solutions, interpretations, or contrasting points of view on a specified subject or theme. Panels may be either 60 or 75 minutes in length, at the discretion of the organizing committee.
- **Book response:** Individual papers or panel presentation on a book, especially as it might relate to the theme question(s).

Proposal format

Please attach a proposal to an email, as directed below. Please send cover sheet and abstract in one file, not separately. Proposals are blind, peer-reviewed.

Cover Sheet—one page: The cover sheet will not be sent to reviewers.

1. Title of presentation
2. Format of presentation: Paper/presentation, Panel, or Book response
3. Information about person submitting the proposal
 - Name
 - Email address
 - Title and institution (indicate if graduate student)
 - Telephone number
4. Additional presenters: Information about each co-presenter
 - Name
 - E-mail address
 - Title and institution (indicate if graduate student)
 - Telephone number
5. 30-word description of your presentation for the printed program.

Abstract of presentation (not to exceed two double-spaced pages)--sent to reviewers

1. Title of presentation
2. Description of presentation: The proposal abstract must not contain anything that reveals the identity of individual(s) submitting the proposal. Proposals should clarify the objectives or purpose of the presentation, establish the importance of the topic, and indicate how the topic will be addressed.

The Conference Committee will review each proposal. The best proposals will articulate a clear objective and purpose as well as importance of the point of view to be expressed. Proposals need to show evidence of scholarly care, clear and effective argument, and/or a basis in research. Participants are welcome to submit multiple proposals. Only the person submitting the proposal will be notified of the acceptance of a paper, panel, or book response—that person must notify all other participants. **All participants to be listed in the conference program must pay the conference fee prior to October 9, 2017.**

Send Proposals electronically to:

academyedstudies@gmail.com

- Subject line: CQiE Symposium proposal
- Send all proposals as Word documents attached to the email
- Deadline: July 1, 2017

Technology Note: The Academy intends to provide screens and a presentation table (with power source) for each breakout room. Participants will need to provide all other equipment (computers, projectors, or other electrical cords, etc.) for their presentations.

Cost of the Symposium:

Presenters (Regular)	\$265
Graduate student presenters	\$150
Non-presenters—regular	\$265
Non-presenters—graduate students	\$150
All undergraduate students	\$ 50

- In order to keep their presentation spot, all presenters and co-presenters must pay the designated conference fee by October 9, 2017.
- The organizing committee also invites non-presenters to attend the Symposium. Group rates for K— 12 faculty and administrators are available.

Cost of hotel rooms:

The Symposium will be held at the beautiful Hotel Monaco in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. See their website: <http://www.monaco-pittsburgh.com/> The conference rate for hotel rooms is \$159 per night, double occupancy.

If you have any questions, please call or email:

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Please visit the Academy for Educational Studies website:

<http://academyforeducationalstudies.org/>