



**seGD**

# Academic Summit

June 24-26, 2026

Virtual Event

## **Call for Extended Abstracts** February 20, 2026 FINAL Deadline

Peer-Reviewed Selection for Academic Summit Presentation  
and Full Manuscript Publication

# Call for Extended Abstracts

## Submission FINAL Deadline February 20, 2026 by 11:59 pm ET

SEGD (Society for Experiential Graphic Design) is soliciting submissions for the 2026 SEGD Academic Summit, a virtual event on Wednesday, June 24 and Thursday, June 25, 2026 at 12:30-5:00 pm ET. Interested authors will submit an extended abstract (500–1000 words), to meet the requirements outlined on the following page. The SEGD Academic Task Force will then perform an anonymous peer review to select the extended abstracts.

Once notified, authors will convert their extended abstracts into: (1) 20-minute presentation with slide deck, (2) will pre-record their 20-minute presentation to be aired at the Academic Summit, (3) will attend the virtual Academic Summit, and (4) will develop and submit a full manuscript that will be published in SEGD's online publication *Communication + Place*, an academic research journal.

The 2026 SEGD Academic Summit provides the opportunity to convene global educators, researchers, practitioners, emerging scholars and students from the field of Experiential Design (EXD) whose academic/professional research, curriculum innovation, and community outreach projects continue to impact the advancement of the EXD field. These practices include branded environments, digital experiences, exhibition, placemaking, public installation, strategy / research / planning, and wayfinding.

### Topic Areas

Building on this framework, SEGD is seeking paper submissions that address the following topic areas:

#### Defining Spatial Experiences

- Shifts in the definition of space, experience, and narrative
- Evolution of “phygital” experiences and spatiality
- Variables between privately owned public space (POPS) and public space

#### What is Experiential Design and what does it mean today?

#### Contested Design Histories

- Investigating the effects of diversity and inclusion initiatives in academia
- Addressing social justice/gender inequities through design education and practice
- Confronting historical narratives and messages and how that impacts our society
- Giving voice to the underrepresented
- The politics of storytelling. Why now? Why them? Why us?
- Government oversight and freedoms of access to choice of learning in interpretive design

#### Role of Technologies in Design Education

- Significant tools, technologies, and events that have impacted EGD/EXD history
- Harnessing the digital revolution for sustainable development and the future of design
- Ethical implication of open AI and generative tools in EGD pedagogy and practice

#### Pluriversal Perspectives in Design Education

- The pluriversal design perspectives, multiple worldviews, and diverse lived experiences
- Design research, education, curriculum development, and practice that interlinks situated concerns, climate change, and policy
- Skills and competencies that designers need to respond to global challenges
- Impact of social justice practices within local, national, and global communities
- Transdisciplinary: Design beyond the disciplinary boundaries

#### Inclusive Methods in Practice and Pedagogy

- Democratizing the classroom (encouraging peers to peer learning in addition to faculty led classrooms)
- Disrupting the power structures within the classrooms
- Learning and teaching innovation to encompass all sensorial and neurodivergent styles
- Blended learning and hybrid courses
- Co-design, community engagement, and participatory methods
- Developing intercultural competence and global perspectives

## Instructions

### Step 1: Submit Extended Abstract PDF - FINAL Deadline: February 20, 2026 by 11:59 pm ET

1. Submissions should be in the form of an extended abstract addressing one of the topic areas listed on page 2
2. Length requirement is 500-word minimum and 1000-word maximum
3. Submissions must contain the following:
  - a. **Introduction**  
(What central problem, research question, or contextual condition frames your project, and why is this topic significant to contemporary EGD?)
  - b. **Objectives**  
(What specific research questions, theoretical gaps, or professional challenges motivated and shaped your inquiry?)
  - c. **Literature Review**  
(What key theories, frameworks, and precedents inform your work, and in what ways does your project position itself within, challenge, or extend existing scholarship or professional practice?)
  - d. **Methods**  
(What methods were used as part of the process, research and/or syllabi creation?)
  - e. **Discussion**  
(How do you interpret the research results? How does it connect to literature reviews?)
  - f. **Conclusion**  
(What is the significance of your study? What is new? What impact does it have on future considerations within the field?)
  - g. **References using MLA format**
    - Research and Citation Resource: [Purdue Owl Citation generator](#)
    - MLA guidelines for citing AI: <https://style.mla.org/citing-generative-ai/>
  - h. **Supporting Images**  
(6-8 visuals) with complete captions to support the extended abstract
4. Submit final PDF through the [2026 SEGD Academic Summit Abstract Submission Portal](#) google form.
  - a. **Extended Abstract PDF File Naming Format Requirement**  
“LastnameFirstinitial\_abstract\_SEGD\_AS2026.pdf” [i.e. SmithR\_abstract\_SEGD\_AS2026.pdf]
  - b. **No Identifying Information Allowed in Extended Abstract**  
Your submitted abstract **must not** include any identifying information (such as your name or your institution/organization) anywhere in the content, including the main extended abstract text, cover sheets, captions, figures or visual aids. When using the submission portal noted above, your name and contact information are automatically linked when you upload your Extended Abstract PDF. The reviewers will not see your identity, but SEGD will be able to associate each submission with its author and will have access to your provided contact information.
  - c. **Gmail/Google Account**  
The official submission portal for the 2026 SEGD Academic Summit Call for Abstracts requires a valid Gmail/Google account to upload your abstract. If you do not have one, please create a free Gmail/Google account to complete your submission. If this requirement presents a significant barrier, please contact [segd-forms@segd.org](mailto:segd-forms@segd.org) and copy (cc) [academic@segd.org](mailto:academic@segd.org) for assistance by February 10, 2026.
  - d. **Agreement**  
By submitting an extended abstract, authors of selected extended abstracts commit to the deadlines and delivery of required assets outlined below, agree to attend the virtual Academic Summit on June 24-25, 2026, and agree to submit step 6 - full manuscript.

### Step 2: Acceptance Notification - March 20, 2026

The Academic Task Force will perform an anonymous peer review and scoring of all submitted extended abstracts to select the submittals that best represent the Communication + Place journal. If selected, you will receive email notification of your extended abstract's acceptance by March 20, 2026.

### Step 3: Selected Author Confirms Receipt and Provides All Co-Authors - March 27, 2026

Selected authors shall acknowledge receipt of extended abstract's acceptance and will provide all co-author contact information to [academic@segd.org](mailto:academic@segd.org) at that time. The “Speaker Presentation Slide Template” and “Zoom-Video Recording Guide” will be provided by SEGD to selected authors to support Step 4 efforts.

**Step 4: Tech Check + Submit Final Presentation and Recording - Due May 29, 2026 by 11:59 pm ET**

If your extended abstract is selected, you will need to submit a visual presentation slide deck as well as a 20-min pre-recorded video of you (and your co-authors, where applicable) formally presenting these slides using the “Speaker Presentation Slide Template” and “Zoom-Video Recording Guide” referenced above, as well as a completed Speaker Agreement. Submissions must have the right to utilize all visual aides included in the digital slide presentation, the recording, and the step 6 - full manuscript. Authors will submit a completed image release form to signify that the author has rights to all supplemental visual materials.

All selected authors will participate in one 45-minute virtual group tech check prior to May 29, 2026. Date and time options will be shared with selected authors.

**Step 5: Attend and Participate at the 2026 SEGD Virtual Academic Summit - June 24-25, 2026**

All selected authors are expected to attend and participate in the 2026 SEGD Academic Summit, a virtual event hosted over two-half-days typically from 12:30-5:00 pm ET. Submitted pre-recorded videos will be aired by SEGD, followed by a live, moderated Q+A session featuring authors and curated moderators. SEGD will assign authors to their moderated Q+A session. Additional information will be provided by SEGD.

**Step 6: Submit Full Manuscript - Due July 24, 2026 by 11:59 pm ET**

All selected authors will also submit a full manuscript with images/diagrams and cited sources for publication using the Communication + Place Journal Template and Style Guide that will be provided. See page 5 for a “Brief” of the Communication + Places Style Guide. View a previous Communication + Place publication [here](#).

## Brief

### Step 6 - Brief of the Full Manuscript Communication + Place Style Guide

*(Note - Complete Style Guide will be shared in Quarter 1 of 2026)*

As noted on the previous pages, all authors submitting an extended abstract are also agreeing to all required deadlines and delivery of required assets identified on page 3, if their extended abstract is selected. In the interest in providing full transparency, this Brief of the Communication + Place Style Guide provides a high-level outline of expected length, formatting and requirements for the step 6 - full manuscript. SEGD will share the Communication + Place Complete Style Guide for the step 6 - full manuscript with all selected authors, during Quarter 1 of 2026.

#### InDesign Template

We require you to submit your step 6 - full manuscript in InDesign and PDF format. If the author of the selected extended abstract does not have InDesign to develop the step 6- full manuscript, please contact [liz@segd.org](mailto:liz@segd.org) to arrange an alternate format to submit your step 6 - full manuscript no later than May 29, 2026. Additional specifications are outlined below.

#### Length

All step 6 - full manuscript papers should stay within the recommended length, no longer than twelve (12) pages and no shorter than six (6) pages using the INDD template that will be provided by SEGD. The word count of your step 6- full manuscript paper should have a minimum word count of 4,000 and a maximum word count of 5,000.

#### Images and Visual Aids

We highly suggest papers contain many visual aids to support your written text such as images, charts, graphs and visual data. Please be sure to utilize best practices for these images and visual aids by adhering to print quality of at least 200-300 DPI at placed size in full manuscript. Please utilize the provided template for captions to credit and further explain any figures, images, photos, sketches, etc.

#### Image Release Form

You must have the right to utilize all images, charts, graphs and visual data included in the step 6 - full manuscript and the step 4 - final presentation and recording. Submissions must include a completed image release form to signify that the author has rights to all supplemental visual materials. This form will be provided to authors of selected extended abstracts to complete and return.

#### Paper Layout and Style

Authors will follow the 2026 Communication + Place Journal InDesign Template and Style Guide that will be provided to assist with the creation of your step 6 - full manuscript paper.

#### Cited Resources - MLA Format

The full manuscript in Step 6 requires MLA-formatted citations. For guidance, we have provided a link to the [Purdue Owl Citation generator](#) (footnotes must also be included), and the [MLA guidelines for citing AI](#).

*\*Details in this initial Brief are subject to change. The complete Style Guide will be shared in Quarter 1 of 2026.*

## Checklist

- Step 1: Submit Extended Abstract PDF - FINAL Deadline: February 20, 2026 by 11:59 pm ET**
  - By submitting an extended abstract, authors of selected extended abstracts commit to the deadlines and delivery of required assets outlined in this call for extended abstracts, agree to attend the virtual Academic Summit on June 24-25, 2026, and agree to submit step 6 - full manuscript.
  - Submission link: [2026 SEGD Academic Summit Abstract Submission Portal](#) (google form)
- Step 2: Acceptance Notification to Selected Authors by SEGD - March 20, 2026**
- Step 3: Selected Author Confirms Receipt and Provides All Co-Authors - March 27, 2026**
- Step 4: Tech Check + Submit Final Presentation and Recording - Due May 29, 2026**
  - Sign-Up and attend Tech Check
  - Submit Final Presentation and Recording
  - Submit completed Speaker Agreement
  - Submit completed image release form to signify that the author has rights to all supplemental visual materials
- Step 5: Attend and Participate at the 2026 SEGD Virtual Academic Summit - June 24-25, 2026**
- Step 6: Submit Full Manuscript - Due July 24, 2026 by 11:59 pm ET**
  - The full manuscript shall follow the Communication + Place Style Guide that will be shared during Quarter 1 of 2026. In the meantime, please see page 5 for a high-level "brief" of the Communication + Place Style Guide for reference.

## Questions

Email the SEGD Academic Task Force Chair, Joell Angel-Chumbley at [academic@segd.org](mailto:academic@segd.org) with questions.

