

Gender, Diversity, and Contextual Influences throughout the STEM Pipeline

Call for Papers – Gender & STEM 2026 Conference

8th Biennial Conference of the International Network Gender & STEM

www.genderandSTEM.com

July 9 to 11, 2026: University of Salzburg, Austria

We invite contributions to the 8th biennial conference of the international *Gender & STEM* network. The conference aims to advance understanding of the multifaceted and interrelated factors that shape gendered educational and career pathways in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). These issues are gaining growing significance across a range of disciplines, each bringing distinct theoretical and methodological perspectives.

This interdisciplinary event brings together researchers, policy workers, and practitioners from fields such as psychology, education, sociology, and the various STEM disciplines. The conference seeks to foster theoretical and empirical dialogue, inform educational and organizational practices, and support evidence-based policymaking. It provides a forum to exchange ideas on diverse approaches, methodologies, findings, and intervention strategies related to gender and STEM.

We particularly welcome submissions addressing (but not limited to) the following questions:

- What factors shape the educational and vocational choices of girls/women and boys/men, such as course selection, apprenticeships, or study fields?
- How do significant influencers in young people's environments, such as parents, peers, and teachers, impact these choices?
- What roles can schools, socializing agents, and employers play in fostering girls' and women's interest in STEM education and careers?
- In what ways do broader societal systems, such as cultural norms, economic structures, or policy frameworks, contribute to the persistence or reduction of gender disparities in STEM?

We invite to submit for the following presentation formats via ConfTool:

- Symposium Presentations
- Individual Paper Presentations
- Poster Presentations

All submissions will be reviewed by two independent external reviewers. In addition, submitters will be asked to serve as reviewers for other submissions. At least one review will be conducted by a member of the international board.

Review Criteria:

- Significance of the research question or topic
- Conceptual and/or theoretical framework
- Appropriateness of the methodology
- Well-substantiated conclusions
- Clarity and organization
- Relevance to research in Gender and STEM

Submissions are open from June 30, 2025 to October 15, 2025.

Formats:

Symposium Presentations:

A symposium provides the opportunity to examine specific research issues, problems, or topics from a variety of perspectives. Symposia may present alternative solutions, interpretations, or contrasting points of view on a specified subject or in relation to a common theme. Symposia may also use a panel discussion format targeted at a clearly delineated research issue or idea. Symposia will be scheduled for up to 90 mins (e.g., 4-5 papers OR 4 papers and 1 discussant). Symposium proposals are encouraged to nominate a discussant and must nominate a chairperson. The organizer is responsible for arranging prior acceptance of all parties and planning the session to allow time for robust discussion and debate.

An overview of the symposium session must be provided in an abstract of maximum 150 words, to be written by the symposium organizer, addressing:

1. Objectives of the session
2. Overview of the presentation
3. Scholarly or scientific significance
4. Structure of the session

Following the 150-word overview statement, each presenter in the symposium must provide an abstract of up to 400 words (in-text references may be included, but no reference list is needed) as part of the symposium proposal.

Individual Paper Presentations:

An abstract for an individual paper presentation may not exceed 400 words (in-text references may be included, but no reference list is needed). Individual presentations with similar topics will be grouped together in a session of 90 min (4-5 papers) on the basis of the nominated keywords. The conference organizing team will appoint a chair from among the presenters, prior to the conference, who will be responsible for coordinating the presenters and leading discussion as well as ensuring that the session stays on schedule. Presenters are encouraged to allow time for rigorous discussion and the exchange of ideas as they prepare their presentations.

Poster Presentations:

An abstract for a poster presentation may not exceed 400 words (in-text references may be included, but no reference list is needed for the proposal). Poster presentations combine graphic display of materials with the opportunity for individualized, informal discussion of the research. The poster size is A0 (height: 120 cm, width 90 cm). The poster format is portrait/vertical position. Poster presenters will have the opportunity to introduce their poster during the times allocated to Poster Sessions.

Student Poster Award:

To acknowledge the work of junior researchers, a poster prize will be awarded to the best student poster, selected by the committee based on relevance, appearance and quality of content (clarity, design, methods, conclusions supported by results). Eligible applicants are students who are first (or sole) authors of poster presentations.

Other Formats (without submissions):**“Make a Pitch” Session:**

Participants seeking collaborators for new or ongoing research projects will be invited to present short, focused pitches. This session is intended to spark collaborations and innovative project ideas across institutions and countries. In March 2026, we will reach out to all registered participants to assess their interest in attending.

Confirmed Keynotes:

- **Catherine Riegle-Crumb:**
https://education.utexas.edu/faculty/catherine_riegle-crumb/
- **Prajval Shastri:**
<https://prajvalshastri.wordpress.com>
- **Heidrun Stöger:**
<https://www.uni-regensburg.de/humanwissenschaften/schulpaedagogik/team/prof-dr-heidrun-stoeger/index.html>

For all other information see: <https://gstem26.erz-salzburg.at>