JPS 2026 — CALL FOR PAPERS

The 55th annual meeting of the Jean Piaget Society will be held in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
May 28th – May 30th, 2026
"Using *Civic Science* to Understand and Promote Healthy Human Development"

Submission Deadline: January ~~9,~~16, 2026

Conference Theme:

Civic science is an approach to scientific inquiry that highlights scientists' responsibility as citizens:

- **to use science to assess and respond to problems faced by fellow citizens;**

- **to draw on the lived experience of citizens; and**

- **to engage citizens throughout the scientific process from design to dissemination.**

Although scientists employ a method (i.e., the scientific method) well designed to yield valid logical and generalizable inferences based on reliable empirical evidence, the application of this method always occurs within a context of values and assumptions. Civic science recognizes this context dependency, is responsive to citizens' perceived needs, supports citizens' autonomy and self-determination, and engages citizens in collective scientific collaboration; it is an inherently educational and democratic approach to science (Abbott et al., 2014; Árnason, 2012; Boyte, 2015). Indeed, civic science education is essential for fostering civic engagement (Levy et al., 2021; Ross & Fried, 2023), and as a shared practice of systematic scientific inquiry into social problems, civic science could serve as a central feature in a robust, evidence-based democracy (Dewey, 1910; 1916, Democracy and Education).

Science itself is a democratic enterprise that invites scientists to better understand the world by participating collectively in knowledge creation. Including non-scientists citizen's perspectives and voices in scientific inquiry, while maintaining scientific rigor, has the potential to improve the questions being asked and the implementation of results as well as to encourage popular appreciation of scientific evidence and accelerate scientific innovation (e.g., Spencer, 2015), particularly for the public good (Garlick & Levine, 2016; Galinsky et al., 2017). For example, whereas traditional intervention research typically aims to conduct independent evaluations of the efficacy of fully developed programs using a randomized controlled design, civic science aims to generate practical, locally relevant and sometimes new solutions to people's perceived needs through collaboration and the use of participatory methods. Importantly, it proceeds through an iterative, fast-cycle research and development (R&D) process focused on creating scalable and sustainable solutions to practical problems (e.g., Shonkoff & Fisher, 2013). In particular, civic science has considerable potential to advance inquiry into and intervention regarding complex (so-called "wicked") problems that are systemic and multidimensional—issues such as socioeconomic status (SES)-related and other differences in academic achievement and mental health (e.g., Reardon & Portilla, 2016).

Proposal Submission Information
Submissions on any topic in developmental science are welcomed and encouraged! We are using on-line submission forms. Full bibliographic references are not required, and tables and figures are not supported in the submission process. Proposals will be accepted in English only. You can make no more than 3 proposals with yourself as first speaker.

You can verify, update, or delete your proposal once submitted on member.Piaget.org until the submission deadline.

Submission Deadline is January 9th, 2026. Acceptance decisions will be available late February 2026. These will be sent by email and will be shown in My-Submissions for all submitters. Provisional scheduling of accepted submissions will be available in early Marc 2026 on the member website.

Paper Presentation Proposals (15–18 minutes) may be focused on either empirical findings or theoretical analysis. The program review committee will select individual submissions and schedule a series of Paper Sessions that include 3–5 papers on similar topics. These sessions will have a chair appointed by the program committee. A paper proposal should include a 250-word abstract (for publication in the conference program) and a 600-word summary (for the program review committee).

Poster Presentation Proposals may be focused on either empirical findings or theoretical analysis. The sessions are organized around broad themes derived from the posters selected for each session. Posters are mounted for display in a high-traffic area for the entire day of the session, but presenting authors need only attend their poster during the official session. A poster proposal must include a 250-word abstract (for publication in the conference program), and a 600-word summary (for the program review committee).

Symposium Session Organization Proposals (75-90 minutes) should describe 3-4 presentations organized around a single topic and may include a named discussant who will comment on the presented papers. We assume the submitter is the organizer and the chair. A symposium proposal requires only a 250-word abstract (for publication in the conference program) that describes the session as a whole. The organizer has to enter the names of all participating presenters with the titles of their individual presentations.

Symposium Session Contribution Proposals All the presenters in a symposium are required to upload their own title, 250-word abstracts (for publication in the conference program), and a 600-word summary (for the program review committee). They can indicate to which symposium they are contributing.

Discussion Sessions Organization Proposals (75–90 minutes) are intended to provide an interactive venue for exploring ideas that bear on the development of knowledge, broadly conceived. They may be formatted as debates, panels, or organized discussions; and may focus on any well-defined topic. Submissions must include a 250-word abstract (for publication in the conference program), and a 600-word summary (for the program review committee) that describes the topic and structure of the session and the role of each of the discussion leaders.

Discussion Session Contributions Proposals All the discussion leaders in a symposium are required to upload a brief 250-word bio/memo (for publication in the conference program). You can indicate to which Discussion session you are contributing.