



American University of Beirut
Faculty of Arts & Sciences
Department of Education
Science and Mathematics Education Center (SMEC)

The Twenty Third Annual Science and
Mathematics Educators Conference (SMEC 23)
Beirut, Lebanon

March 5 and 6, 2022

Conference Theme:

“Reimagining Science and Math Teaching and Learning: Lessons Learned in Light of Online Teaching and the Pandemic”

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Science and Mathematics Education Center, Department of Education, American University of Beirut, will hold its Twenty Third Annual Science and Math Educators Conference (SMEC 23) on **March 5 and 6, 2022**. SMEC 23 conference will be online. The SMEC 23 Program Committee invites science and mathematics education university faculty members and science and mathematics teachers and coordinators from **Lebanon, Arab countries and beyond** to submit proposals for online presentations to be reviewed for possible inclusion in the conference program. Completed proposals (including cover sheet) are due on **December 15, 2021**.

Conference Theme and Session Formats

The SMEC 23 Organizing Committee invites proposals for online presentations dealing with all aspects of science and mathematics teaching and learning. However, **a theme that is being highlighted in this year’s SMEC conference is “Reimagining Science and Math Teaching and Learning: Lessons Learned in Light of Online Teaching and the Pandemic”**. Thus, the Program Committee is particularly interested in receiving proposals dealing with any of the many issues in the teaching and learning of science and mathematics that fall under this heading such as:

- Revisiting formats of Instruction: Lessons Learned from online teaching and the pandemic
- Importance of face-to-face talk and interaction in teaching and learning of mathematics and science
- Reading in relation to science and mathematical literacy in today’s digital age
- Flipped Classrooms in teaching and learning of mathematics and science

In addition to the highlighted theme, proposals are welcome from researchers and practitioners on all topics for the following presentation formats at the elementary, intermediate, secondary, and university levels for teaching mathematics, science or integration of the two subjects:

Innovative Ideas: All online innovative idea sessions will be 75 minutes in length. These sessions should be designed to engage participants in hands-on activities or demonstrations of how to make use of a particular innovative idea at either the school level (to improve overall programs) or at the classroom level (to improve student learning of a particular concept or skill). At least 2/3 of the session should be hands-on or significantly interactive.

Development Workshops: All online workshops will be 120 minutes in length. Through extended interaction and hands-on activities, workshop leaders should aim to develop particular knowledge and/or skills of teachers, coordinators, or administrators. At least 3/4 of the session should be hands-on or significantly interactive.

Action Research: All online action research presentations will be 30 minutes in length. In these sessions, researchers or school practitioners (teachers, coordinators or administrators) will present research that they have designed and carried out (or are in the process of conducting) at the school association, school, or classroom level either for the purposes of self-study or to deliberately test theoretical ideas in a practical setting. Presenters should also focus on how research results are used to improve practice (or plans for doing so). These sessions are not expected to be hands-on, however at least ¼ of the session should be designed to engage participants in interactive discussion.

Theoretical and Empirical Research Made Relevant for Practice: All online research into practice sessions will be 30 minutes in length. These sessions should be designed to inform participants about theoretical or empirical research studies (preliminary or final results could be presented) with a clear focus on the relevance of the research for school or classroom-based practice. In other words, the researcher must propose or demonstrate specific practical uses for the theory or empirical results presented. These sessions are not expected to be hands-on, however at least ¼ of the session should be designed to engage participants in interactive discussion.

Reports of National/International Research and Development Projects: All online project report sessions will be 30 minutes in length. The aim of these sessions is for principal investigators or project leaders to present a report of large-scale research and development projects at the national or international level. Projects could be at various stages of enactment; thus, reports could focus on project concept and design, interim progress or final results.

Reports of School Research and Development Projects: All online project report sessions will be 75 minutes in length. The aim of these sessions is for a team of teachers/ investigators to have a collective presentation on a completed or continuing school math and/or science education research and development project that is sponsored and undertaken by a particular school. Projects could be at various stages of enactment; thus, reports could focus on project concept and design, interim progress or final results. Written reports/papers will be eligible for publication in the official conference proceedings.

NEW Guidelines for Preparing Proposals

All proposals will be reviewed anonymously by the members of the Program Committee or external referees. Incomplete proposals will not be reviewed.

Each proposal must include (1) a completed cover sheet(s) (see attached), (2) a session synopsis and (3) an abstract. The synopsis of accepted proposals will be included as submitted in the conference proceedings that will be prepared after the conference. Authors will be given the opportunity to revise their synopsis before inclusion in the proceedings.

Synopsis. The merits of a proposal will be evaluated on the basis of the synopsis. The synopsis is basically a detailed description of the content and flow of the online session, i.e., how you will use the time in your session. The **synopsis must be 2-4 pages (single-spaced) in length**. This guideline indicates **both a minimum and a maximum**. The synopsis should show only the title of the proposal and the description of the session. **Author(s) information should NOT appear anywhere on the synopsis.** The synopsis should summarize the goals and objectives of the presentation; materials that will be used during the session; and a specific outline of the flow of the session, i.e., how all the session time will be used with specific descriptions of any activities or tasks with which participants will be engaged during the session. If the session is strongly linked to or based on specific research, then the research should be summarized and the link to practical educational settings should be clearly explained. A list of any reference materials (articles, books, chapters, etc) used for the session should be attached to the synopsis. Please feel free to ask for assistance as you prepare your synopsis.

For interactive sessions (i.e. Innovative Idea or Development Workshops only) synopses should be prepared as follows:

1. Introduction: Include a brief introductory section in which you introduce the topic of the session and its significance. This section can include reference to any research that backs up the teaching strategy being introduced, or the issues raised in this session.
2. Strategy: In this section describe the key aspects of the teaching, coordinating or administrating strategy(ies) introduced to participants during the session
3. Description of session: In this section describes the activities performed in the session: indicate the order of the activities, summarize each and mention the nature of participants' involvement.
4. Conclusion: Conclude your submission with suggestions or broad comments for those interested in applying the addressed strategy(ies) and/or tips for conducting a similar workshop.
5. References: If available provide a list of references that would be beneficial for further reading about the strategy(ies) presented in this session.

For research online presentations:

1. Introduction: Include theoretical background to the study and a review of relevant literature.
2. Method: Describe the participants, the instruments used, procedure, methods of data collection and analysis.
3. Results: Include the results of the study
4. Discussion and Implications for Practice: Provide a discussion of the study highlighting in particular the implications of the research conducted for practice.

Synopses not meeting these requirements will not be reviewed.

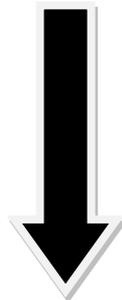
Abstract: If a proposal is accepted, the abstract will be published in the conference program and in the as well as in the final conference proceedings. Therefore, care must be taken in preparing the abstract using the following instructions as a guide. **ABSTRACTS NOT MEETING ALL REQUIREMENTS WILL NOT BE REVIEWED.** This could result in delaying the acceptance of a proposal or rejection of the proposal if deadlines are not met with a completed proposal. Please feel free to ask for assistance as you prepare your abstract (see contact list of persons available to assist).

1. *Submission*: Abstracts should be submitted on a SEPARATE PAGE.
2. *Length of Abstract*: **Limited to 250 words** (excluding title, proposer(s) name(s), institution(s), and country). All abstracts in excess of 250 words will be cut at the end of the sentence nearest the 250-word limit.
3. *Font*: Use Times New Roman 12 pt. font (all word processing software carries this font type).
4. *Titles*: The title should be clear and descriptive of the session and should match exactly with the title on your synopsis and on your proposal cover sheet. The title should be in **bold face type**.
5. *Author(s), Institutions(s), and Country*: Immediately follow the title with name(s) of the author(s), institutions(s), and country. Again, use **bold face type**.
6. *Abstract Text*: Skip one line after the name of the institution(s), and country. Begin the first word from the extreme left and type the entire abstract as a single paragraph. Do not exceed the 250-word limit. Please see the sample below.

Where to Send Proposals

A copy of the completed proposal including a cover sheet should be email ***no later than December 15, 2021*** to:

Rana Bassaj
smec@aub.edu.lb





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Cover Sheet for All Proposals

This form must be completed for all proposals. If there is more than one presenter, a separate cover sheet should be completed for each presenter. **Note that we need to communicate directly with the First Proposer so be sure that the contact information provided will allow us to do that.**

Title of Session:	Intended Audience: indicate whether math/science and for what level(s)

First Proposer Information:

Family Name	First Name	Institutional Affiliation
E-Mail Address	Telephone	Address

Name and address of co-author(s):

Family Name	First Name	Institutional Affiliation
E-Mail Address	Telephone	Address

Primary language of presentation: English Arabic French

Session Format (Please carefully read the descriptions of the session format types):

- Innovative Idea (75 minutes)
- Development Workshop (120 minutes)
- Action Research (30 minutes individual presentation time)
- Research Relevant for Practice (30 minutes individual presentation time)
- Project Report (30 minutes individual presentation time)
- Reports of School Research and Development Projects (75 minutes)