



Immersive Learning Research Network

VISION 20/20:

HINDSIGHT, INSIGHT & FORESIGHT IN XR & IMMERSIVE LEARNING

Serious Games • Medical & Healthcare • Workforce & Industry • Culture & Language • K-12 • Museums & Libraries • Special Ed • Geosciences • Data Viz

June 21–25, 2020
<http://immersivelrn.org/ilrn2020>

Technically co-sponsored by:  **IEEE** EDUCATION SOCIETY
 Hosted by:  **CAL POLY** SAN LUIS OBISPO

ILRN 2020: 6TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE IMMERSIVE LEARNING RESEARCH NETWORK
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA, USA

ORGANIZING A SPECIAL TRACK AT THE ILRN 2020 CONFERENCE

iLRN 2020: The 6th International Conference of the Immersive Learning Research Network will be an innovative, interactive gathering for a burgeoning global network of researchers and practitioners collaborating to develop the scientific, technical, and applied potential of immersive learning. It is the premier scholarly event focusing on advances in using virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), mixed reality (MR), and other extended reality (XR) technologies to support learners across the full span of learning—from K-12 through higher education to work-based, informal, and lifelong learning contexts. Scholars and professionals operating in formal education settings as well as those representing diverse industry sectors are invited to join us in San Luis Obispo to share their research findings, experiences, and insights; network and establish partnerships to envision and shape the future of XR and immersive technologies for learning; and contribute to the emerging scholarly knowledge base on “what works” for using these technologies to create experiences that educate, engage, and excite learners.

Proposals are sought from prospective organizers of Special Tracks for iLRN 2020 that resonate with the conference theme: [***Vision 20/20: Hindsight, Insight, and Foresight in XR and Immersive Learning***](#). As we continue our shared discovery of how to exploit the powerful learning affordances of these technologies in new, creative, and evidence-based ways, your particular inquiry focus and domain-specific projects may find richer context and deeper meaning within a Special Track! This is an opportunity to create a specialized forum for you and your colleagues to showcase and share leading-edge research and exemplary practice within this wide-ranging and interdisciplinary field.

Responsibilities of Special Track Chairs

iLRN 2020 Special Track Chairs are expected to apply the highest standards to promote, manage, and run their respective Special Tracks. Their responsibilities include:

- assembling a Track Program Committee consisting of reviewers with expertise in the topic area of the Special Track, and that includes coverage of all relevant academic disciplines;
- preparing and distributing the Track-specific Call for Papers and Proposals (a template and guidelines will be supplied);
- actively soliciting, through targeted invitations, paper and proposal submissions from scholars and scholar-practitioners doing work in the Special Track area;

- responding to inquiries from prospective authors and presenters interested in submitting papers and proposals to the Special Track;
- personally cultivating and supporting the development of Workshops, Special Sessions, and Panel Sessions in areas of current interest to the Special Track's target audience, to add to those proposed by others in response to the open Call;
- fostering the involvement of industry and the non-academic community—for example, through practitioner and nontraditional sessions run within the Special Track, as well as demos and exhibitions run as part of the wider conference;
- identifying opportunities for corporate and/or institutional sponsorship of the Special Track, where possible, and working with the iLRN Executive Board and/or iLRN 2020 Organizing Committee to secure such sponsorship;
- facilitating peer review of submissions to the Special Track in accordance with the policies, procedures, and timelines of the wider conference (i.e., consistent with the Main Track);
- keeping the iLRN 2020 Program Chairs in-charge of Special Tracks regularly apprised of progress on Call dissemination, paper/proposal submissions, and peer review for the Special Track;
- authoring a one- or two-page overview of and introduction to the Special Track (similar to a guest editorial preface for a journal special issue) in standard IEEE double-column format that will accompany the Special Track papers in the conference proceedings.

Special Track Policies and Requirements

- Each Special Track will be open to accepting the following categories of submission, which are a subset of those offered by the Main Track of the conference (please see the [conference website](#) for details on each):
 - Academic Stream – Full paper (6-8 pages) for oral presentation
 - Academic Stream – Short paper (4-6 pages) for oral presentation
 - Practitioner Stream – Oral presentation
 - Workshop
 - Special session
 - Panel session
- All Academic Stream papers as well as proposals for Practitioner Stream presentations and for workshops, special sessions, and panel sessions that are submitted to the Special Tracks must undergo rigorous double-blind peer review by at least three expert reviewers. The policies and requirements for submissions (and the evaluation of those submissions) to the Main Track also apply to the Special Tracks, and form a baseline quality standard for the Special Tracks. Acceptance/rejection decisions must have the concurrence of at least one of the iLRN 2020 Program Chairs prior to notifying the authors of the decision.
- The timelines for the Special Tracks, including deadlines for paper and proposal submissions, notification of authors, and camera-ready papers, will be the same as those for the Main Track.
- Program Committee members/reviewers may not serve in this capacity for more than one Special Track. (They can, however, review for the Main Track in addition to the Special Track.)
- At least one author of each Academic Stream paper accepted for the Special Track must register for the conference to present the paper. Each Academic Presenter registration for the conference covers one paper only; additional papers may be added to the registration for a supplemental fee. No single author may be the registered presenter on more than two Full or Short papers for oral presentation, even with the payment of the supplemental fees.
- For the Practitioner Stream and for Workshops, Panels, and Special Sessions, all presenters must register for the conference, but they may do so at the Practitioner rate, provided they will not also be presenting any Academic Stream papers. No per-registration or per-author limits or supplemental fees apply for the Practitioner Stream, Workshops, Panels, and Special Sessions.
- Each Chair of the Special Track may be an author of no more than one Academic Stream paper in the Special Track. (This does not apply to the Practitioner Stream or to the Workshops, Panels, and Special Sessions.)

- Special Track Chairs are not permitted to be part of the review process for their own papers and proposals; those submissions must be handled exclusively by the other Chairs of the Special Track, or by the Program Chairs of the broader conference. In fact, no author listed on a submission should be privy to any correspondence or discussions relating to the submission while it is undergoing review. When communicating the review outcome to the authors, the integrity of the double-blind peer review process must be upheld by refraining from revealing the reviewers' identities as well as any comments and other information the reviewers have stipulated should remain confidential.
- A Special Track must have at least five (5) accepted and registered Academic Full and/or Short papers in order to be included in the conference program. Special Tracks that do not meet this quota will be canceled, and their papers will be reassigned to the Main Track of the conference or to another Special Track at the discretion of the iLRN 2020 Program Chairs. There is no quota for the Practitioner Stream or for Workshops, Panels, and Special Sessions.
- One Chair of each Special Track will receive a complimentary registration for the conference, provided the Special Track attracts at least five paid full registrations from among the presenters of papers accepted for the Track. For each additional five paid full registrations, an additional Chair will receive a complimentary registration, up to a maximum of three complimentary registrations per Special Track.

Publication, Abstracting, and Indexing

All accepted and registered papers in the Academic Stream that are presented at iLRN 2020, whether as part of the Main Track or a Special Track, as well as all extended abstracts describing the Workshops, Panels, and Special Sessions presented at the conference will be published in the conference proceedings and submitted to the IEEE Xplore® digital library. Content loaded into Xplore is made available by IEEE to its abstracting and indexing partners, including Elsevier (Scopus, EiCompendex), Clarivate Analytics (CPCI—part of Web of Science) and others, for potential inclusion in their respective databases.

In addition, Special Track Chairs are encouraged to negotiate with the editors of Scopus and Web of Science-indexed journals opportunities for selected authors to submit expanded versions of their papers for consideration by those journals. This could, but may not necessarily, entail the creation of a special issue arising from the Special Track.

Important Dates

Deadline for submitting proposals to organize Special Tracks	2019-10-28 2019-11-11
Special Tracks selected and Special Track Chairs notified	2019-11-04 2019-11-14
Calls for Papers and Proposals for each Special Track released	2019-11-12 2019-11-19
Paper and proposal submission deadline	2020-01-06
Notification of review outcomes	2020-03-23
Camera-ready papers for proceedings due (Academic Stream); Camera-ready session descriptions for proceedings due (Workshops, Special Sessions, & Panels); Final abstracts for conference program due (Practitioner Stream)	2020-04-06
Presenter registration deadline	2020-04-06
Conference opening	2020-06-21

Preparing and Submitting a Special Track Proposal

Proposals should contain the following sections, in the specified order, and must not exceed 2 US Letter-sized pages (excluding Appendices):

1. **Title:** A concise title for the Special Track.

2. **Description:** A one- or two-paragraph description of the focus and scope of the Special Track, which will form the basis of the Call for Papers and Proposals. It should also include an explanation of why the Special Track is timely and important, its relevance to the iLRN community, and how it relates to the conference theme. Importantly, the description must clearly communicate to prospective authors/presenters and attendees why the Special Track would be of interest to them.
3. **Suggested Topics:** A list of 8-10 topics that are indicative of the desired breadth of coverage of the Special Track.
4. **Invited Speakers:** If the Track will include invited speakers, please provide details. Will the invited speakers submit papers for peer-review and potential inclusion in the proceedings?
5. **Partner Organizations:** Will the proposed Special Track be organized and marketed in cooperation with another scholarly or professional society/association? If so, briefly explain how the partner organization's mission and activities complement those of iLRN, and why they are a good fit for the Special Track. What will their contribution/s be, and have you obtained the support of the organization's leadership?
6. **Promotional Strategy:** How will you solicit and encourage submissions to the Special Track? Will you approach individual scholars and/or research groups to encourage them to submit, and if so, whom do you plan to target? Also include, as an appendix, the list of venues or channels
7. **Review Process:** An outline of how papers and proposals submitted to the Special Track will be evaluated, including any specific review criteria that will be applied in addition to those used for the Main Track.
8. **History of the Special Track:** If the Special Track has been run before, please include information about when and where. Provide links to any programs and/or proceedings associated with past offerings of the Special Track.
9. **Sponsorship:** Have you identified and/or approached any potential sponsors for the Special Track? If so, please provide details.
10. **Appendices** (*not included in page count*)
 - Names, affiliations, and short biographies of the proposed Chairs of Special Track, including a description of their qualifications and experience in the topic area, and past experience in organizing/facilitating research meetings.
 - A list of national and international societies/associations, institutions, email lists, forums, social networks, and other channels through which the Special Track Call for Papers and Proposals will be disseminated.
 - A tentative Program Committee (PC) listing for the Special Track, with an indication of whether each person listed has already agreed and/or expressed interest to serve as a PC member, their primary discipline/s (e.g., computer science, learning sciences/educational technology, game studies), and key terms describing their specific areas of expertise that are relevant to the Special Track. PC members should be prepared to review up to two papers or proposals for the Special Track, and are not permitted to serve on the Main Track PC or on the PCs for any of the other iLRN 2020 Special Tracks.

Please submit your proposal in **PDF format** via the conference's EasyChair system at <https://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=ilrn2020> , making sure you select "Special Track Proposal" as the submission type. Proposals will not be accepted via email.

Contact

Questions regarding proposing an iLRN 2020 Special Track may be sent to the Program Chairs in-charge of Special Tracks, Johanna Pirker and Andreas Dengel, at ilrn2020.specialtracks@immersivelrn.org.

Inquiries regarding the iLRN 2020 conference more broadly should be directed to the Conference Secretariat at conference@immersivelrn.org.