



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS

35th Annual APPE International Conference

Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch: March 5-8, 2026

Virtual: April 10, 2026

Theme: What Do We Owe Each Other?

Submission Deadline: Monday, October 6, 2025 (11:59 p.m., ET)

appe-ethics.org // contact@appe-ethics.org

DEADLINE

The deadline for all submissions in all categories, for both the in-person and virtual components of the 35th Annual APPE International Conference is **October 6, 2025**. For submission categories that include items to be sent by mail (e.g., author submissions), a postmark of **October 6, 2025** will suffice.

SUBMISSION FORMAT

Submissions should contain:

- A clear and concise statement of purpose
- An explanation of why the topic is important for professional and applied ethics
- An explanation of how the proposed presentation relates to previous publications or research on its topic
- A summary of, and examples supporting, the argumentation.

Abstracts should be no longer than 350 words. Abstracts significantly shorter than 350 words may be declined by reviewers due to lack of content of the above bullet points. Any relevant references do not count toward the word limit.

In order to provide maximum participation opportunities, generally no more than one individual presentation per person will be accepted. There is no limit to participation in co-authored presentations and panels, as long as space is available.

We invite proposals in the following categories:

- Individual Presentations (includes awards)
- Case Studies and Pedagogical Demonstrations
- Poster Presentations
- Panel Discussions
- Author Meets Critics
- Authors Reception
- Workshops/Professional Development
- Pre-Recorded Flash Presentation

Please read the following instructions carefully before submitting.

PRESENTATION FORMAT

You will have the option to select one or both of the following conference tracks:

- In person, March 5-8, 2026 | St. Louis
- Virtually, April 10, 2026

Posters and Authors Reception categories are available only for the in-person conference. Pre-recorded Flash Presentations will be part of the virtual conference, and presenters will record them on their own. All other submission formats can be presented virtually as well as in person.

It is not likely that your presentation will be accepted for both the virtual and in-person tracks. If you select both, it simply indicates your willingness to be considered for both presentation formats; we will treat the in-person selection as the first choice. Our virtual offerings will be limited—we want to encourage as many in-person presentations as we can accommodate.

Please note: The APPE RISEsm Pre-Conference will also be accepting submissions through our conference management platform. Select that track only if you would like to be considered for that option, which will be in person on **March 5, 2026**. More details will be announced for that call soon.

THEME/TOPICS

This year, the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (APPE) invites proposals for its annual conference that explore the question, **What Do We Owe Each Other?** In today's complex world, what are our ethical responsibilities to each other? How do these responsibilities shift in times of crisis and catastrophe, or across our professional or personal lives? How do we stand up for what's right—when it matters most, and when it seems to matter least?

In addition to the special focus, submissions are welcome from a variety of interest areas, including, but not limited to:

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| • Agricultural and/or Environmental Ethics | • Military Ethics |
| • Behavioral Ethics | • Media and Journalism Ethics |
| • Bioethics, Health, and Medical Ethics | • Moral Theory |
| • Business Ethics | • Research Integrity |
| • Education Ethics | • Science, Technology, and/or Artificial Intelligence Ethics |
| • Engineering Ethics | • Social and Societal Ethics |
| • Law and Government Ethics | |

Topics could include:

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| • Cancel culture | • Obligations to future generations |
| • Climate change | • Parental rights (e.g., in education, medicine) |
| • Dis- and misinformation | • Political and election ethics |
| • Ethics in the economy | • Privacy and social media |
| • Ethics of repair, reparations | • Public health and competing economic interests |
| • Free speech in the academy | • Systemic bias and social justice |
| • LGBTQI+/queer ethics | • Unhoused/housing insecurity |
| • Military human rights initiatives | |
| • Monuments and public honorifics | |

WHO SHOULD SUBMIT?

We encourage submissions from both academics and professionals. Whether your work draws from scholarly research, applied practice, field experience, or innovative projects, presentations should aim to foster critical ethical inquiry and thoughtful dialogue—not promotional content or sales pitches.

SUBMISSION CATEGORIES

1. Individual Presentations (*Includes Paper Award Submissions*)

Description:

Individual program sessions are designed for the presentation of original scholarship, research and ideas, practice-based insights, or applied ethical work, and are approximately **30 minutes in length** including presentation **and** audience discussion. Accepted individual presentations will be paired with another presentation in a 1-hour time slot.

Presenters are asked **not to read full papers aloud**. Presenters should begin with a brief oral summary of their work (15-20 minutes) that highlights the key insights, arguments, cases, or findings. Following the summary, presenters will invite questions and engage in an open discussion with the audience (10-15 minutes).

If you would like your paper to be considered for an award, see additional submission information in the [Awards](#) section below. Award categories include:

- **Best Formal Paper by an Early Career Scholar:** \$500 prize
- **Best Formal Paper by a Graduate Student:** \$500 prize and free conference registration
- **Best Formal Paper by an Undergraduate Student:** \$250 prize and free conference registration
- **Clifford G. Christians Ethics Research Award:** \$250 prize
- **National Ethics Project's Ethics Education Award:** \$500 prize

Early Career Papers and Graduate Student Papers should be no longer than 5,000 words.

Undergraduate papers should be no longer than 3,000 words. References are not counted in the word count. The National Ethics Project's Ethics Education Research Award has a 3,000-word limit. *Please put the word count on the first page of the submission.*

The Clifford G. Christians Ethics Research Award has no word limit.

Submission Instructions:

The corresponding author must submit the following items through the APPE abstract management site Ex Ordo at the following link: <https://appe2026.exordo.com/>.

1. A title and a 350-word (maximum) abstract prepared for blind review (no identifying author information or institutional affiliation). Abstracts should explain why the topic is important for professional and applied ethics and how it relates to previous work, scholarship, or practice in the field. Abstracts should provide a brief overview of the topic to provide context for the audience. They should also clearly state the thesis/main contribution, insight, argument, or case the presentation will explore.
2. The names, institutional affiliations, and email addresses of all the authors of the submission. Please check the box for any additional presenting authors, or they will not appear as such in the program. Please remember that all presenting authors must register for the conference.
3. When relevant, a separate reference page should be submitted.

2. Case Studies and Pedagogical Demonstrations

Description:

Submissions in this category focus on innovative teaching techniques, innovative use of the creative arts, and case studies for topics of particular interest in practical and applied ethics. Sessions will be 30 minutes in length including presentation, question and answer, and discussion. Accepted presentations will be paired with another presentation in a 1-hour time slot.

Submission Instructions:

The corresponding author must submit the following items through the APPE abstract management site Ex Ordo at the following link: <https://appe2026.exordo.com/>.

1. A title and a 350-word (maximum) abstract prepared for blind review (no identifying author information or institutional affiliation). Abstracts should explain why the topic is important for professional and applied ethics and how it relates to previous publications or research on its topic, and should include a brief overview of the topic to provide context for the audience. They should also clearly state the thesis, argument, and contribution of the proposed presentation.
2. The names, institutional affiliations, and email addresses of all the authors of the submission. Please check the box for any additional presenting authors, or they will not appear as such in the program. Please remember that all presenting authors must register for the conference.
3. When relevant, a separate reference page should be submitted.

3. Poster Presentations**Description:**

Authors show current work in progress or finished results as a poster or display using a mix of graphics and text. Posters will be displayed at a special Poster Presentation Event that gives authors an opportunity to introduce their work and answer questions from attendees. [Read this information](#) regarding the size and scope of poster presentations.

You will need to choose the in-person conference option when selecting this presentation style.

Submission Instructions:

The corresponding author must submit the following items through the APPE abstract management site Ex Ordo at the following link: <https://appe2026.exordo.com/>.

1. A title and a 350-word (maximum) abstract prepared for blind review (no identifying author information or institutional affiliation). Abstracts should explain why the topic is important for professional and applied ethics and how it relates to previous publications or research on its topic, and should include a brief overview of the topic to provide context for the audience. They should also clearly state the thesis, argument, and contribution of the proposed presentation.
2. The names, institutional affiliations, and email addresses of all the authors of the submission. Please check the box for any additional presenting authors, or they will not appear as such in the program. Please remember that all presenting authors must register for the conference.
3. When relevant, a separate reference page should be submitted.

Notes: Authors do not need to submit the completed poster. There is no A/V support for poster presentations. Authors need to print and bring (or mail) their own posters. More details will be provided upon acceptance.

4. Panel Discussions

Description:

This category is for sessions with multiple presenters. Panel organizers should keep the panelists' formal remarks brief to provide adequate time for questions and discussion with the attendees either during or at the conclusion of the panel presentations.

Panels with two to three presenters will receive a 60-minute session. Panels with four or more presenters will receive a 90-minute session (these will be provided as long as space is available). Panel discussions of recently published books that include the book's author should be submitted under "Author Meets Critics," below.

Note: There are only a limited number of 90-minute concurrent sessions. In order to avoid panelist scheduling conflicts, presenters should consider limiting their involvement in multiple panel submissions with 4+ presenters.

Submission Instructions:

The panel organizer (corresponding author) must submit the following items through the APPE abstract management site Ex Ordo at the following link: <https://appe2026.exordo.com/>.

1. A title and a 350-word (maximum) abstract prepared for blind review (no identifying author information or institutional affiliation). Abstracts should describe the overall topic for the panel, explain why the topic is important for professional and applied ethics, and clearly state the issues to be addressed by the panelists and their proposed contributions. This may include a description of the experience or expertise panelists bring to the presentation, but should not identify them. The abstracts should also indicate how the presentation time will be used and should be detailed enough to enable a reviewer to assess the merits of the proposal.
2. The names, institutional affiliations, and email addresses of all the authors of the submission. Please check the "presenting author" box for all of the panelists, or they will not appear as part of the panel in the program. (Final panelists can be confirmed after the proposal has been accepted.) Please remember that all presenting authors must register for the conference.
3. When relevant, a separate reference page should be submitted.

5. Author Meets the Critics

Description:

Authors discuss their recently published book with critics and audience members. Normally, two colleagues are asked to give brief prepared remarks with their commentary on the publication, as a prelude for further discussion with the author and session attendees. **APPE does not provide or identify critics. Authors are to select these colleagues and they must register for the conference.**

Authors are encouraged to participate in both the Author Meets Critics and the Authors Reception, if presenting in person (please submit online proposals for these separately, but send only one hard copy of the book).

Submission Instructions:

The corresponding author must submit an online presentation proposal **AND a hard copy of the book.**

1. The online proposal should be submitted through the APPE abstract management site Ex Ordo at the following link: <https://appe2026.exordo.com/>. This proposal should include the title of the book, the names and institutional affiliations of all the authors of the book, and a

350-word (maximum) summary of the presentation. Please remember that all presenting authors and critics must register for the conference.

2. A digital or hard copy of the book should be sent to Conference Committee Co-Chair Earl Spurgin by email or mail. This is required for acceptance by the regular submission deadline of October 6, 2025. Books should be sent to:

Earl Spurgin
1 John Carroll Blvd
Department of Philosophy
University Heights, Ohio 44118
espurgin@jcu.edu

6. Authors Reception

Description:

The Authors Reception provides an informal opportunity for authors to discuss their recently published books during a morning reception.

Authors are encouraged to participate in both the Authors Reception and Author Meets Critics sessions (please submit online proposals for these separately, but send only one hard copy of the book).

You will need to choose the in-person conference option when selecting this presentation style.

Submission Instructions:

The corresponding author must submit an online presentation proposal **AND a hard copy of the book**.

1. The online proposal should be submitted through the APPE abstract management site Ex Ordo at the following link: <https://appe2026.exordo.com/>. This proposal should include the title of the book, the names and institutional affiliations of all the authors of the book, and a 350-word (maximum) summary of the presentation. Please remember that all presenting authors must register for the conference.
3. A digital or hard copy of the book should be sent to Conference Committee Co-Chair Earl Spurgin by email or mail. This is required for acceptance by the regular submission deadline of October 6, 2025. Books should be sent to:

Earl Spurgin
1 John Carroll Blvd
Department of Philosophy
University Heights, Ohio 44118
espurgin@jcu.edu

7. Workshops/Professional Development (NEW!)

Description:

This category is designed for sessions that either provide professional development opportunities or will be delivered as a workshop. This could include a wide variety of formats and learning experiences, such as roundtables, breakout sessions, how-to tutorials, or other innovative approaches to hands-on learning. They should address a need or have a clear audience, provide a significant interactive component, and leave participants with clear takeaways.

Presenters will be able to choose between either a 60-minute or 90-minute session format, although their preference is not guaranteed due to limited 90-minute sessions.

Submission Instructions:

The session organizer (corresponding author) must submit the following items through the APPE abstract management site Ex Ordo at the following link: <https://appe2026.exordo.com/>.

1. A title and a 350-word (maximum) abstract prepared for blind review (no identifying author information or institutional affiliation). Abstracts should describe the overall topic, explain why the topic is important for professional and applied ethics, and clearly state the issues to be addressed/workshopped. This may include a description of the experience or expertise presenters bring to the presentation, but should not identify them. The abstracts should also indicate how the time will be used, explain the outcomes desired, and should be detailed enough to enable a reviewer to assess the merits of the proposal.
2. The names, institutional affiliations, and email addresses of all the presenters (authors) of the submission. Please check the "presenting author" box for all of the presenters, or they will not appear as part of the program. (Final presenters can be confirmed after the proposal has been accepted.) Please remember that all presenters must register for the conference.
3. When relevant, a separate reference page should be submitted.

8. Pre-Recorded Flash Presentation**Description:**

A Flash Presentation is one focused, disciplined pre-recorded video presentation (less than 20 minutes) that is either uploaded to the presenter's own website, YouTube channel, Facebook page, or other approved form of social media, or shared directly with APPE. With permission of the author(s), it will be made available through APPE's YouTube page. You can see an [example of a Flash Presentation here](#).

The presentation's title and author(s) will be included in the virtual conference program. Flash presentations will be available for viewing by the in-person and virtual conference participants at their convenience. There will not be time allocated in the program schedule for live chat and/or discussion. You are encouraged to include a slide in your presentation with contact details so people may engage with you directly during the conference and outside of the conference platform.

You will need to choose the virtual conference option when selecting this presentation style.

Submission Instructions:

The corresponding author must submit the following items through the APPE abstract management site Ex Ordo at the following link: <https://appe2026.exordo.com/>.

1. A title and a 350-word (maximum) abstract prepared for blind review (no identifying author information or institutional affiliation). Abstracts should explain why the topic is important for professional and applied ethics, how it relates to previous publications or research on its topic, and include a brief overview of the topic to provide context for the audience. They should also clearly state the thesis, argument, and contribution of the proposed presentation.
2. The names, institutional affiliations, and email addresses of all the authors of the submission. All presenting authors in this format must register for the virtual conference.
3. When relevant, a separate reference page should be submitted.

Note: Authors do not need to submit their video presentation in advance.

REVIEW AND NOTIFICATION

All submissions will be blind reviewed by APPE members with relevant expertise in the subject matter. Notifications for both acceptance and rejection will be sent no later than December 19, 2025. The Conference Committee reserves the right to select a proposal for a different type of presentation (flash, poster, etc.), if necessary, and to make decisions about in-person vs. virtual presentations as space allows. If reviewers provide comments and suggestions, they will be provided to the authors.

RSVPs for sessions will be requested by January 6, 2026 and at that time any scheduling conflicts must be provided.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

In person conference registration will open no later than September 15, 2025. All presenters must be registered for the conference no later than February 15, 2026, or they will be forced to forfeit their place on the schedule. Virtual registration will open by February 1, 2026 and all presenters must be registered by March 31, 2026.

For additional information, please contact the APPE office at contact@appe-ethics.org or call (765) 658-4164.

DESCRIPTION OF PAPER COMPETITIONS AND AWARDS

Individual presentations are eligible for the following awards:

A. Best Formal Paper by an Early Career Scholar (\$500 prize)

APPE is pleased to continue its competition for the best paper submitted by an Early Career Scholar in practical or professional ethics. An Early Career Scholar is defined as one who has received a Ph.D. or other terminal degree within the last eight years. *There is a 5,000-word limit on all submissions.*

B. Best Formal Paper by a Graduate Student (\$500 prize and free conference registration)

APPE is pleased to continue its competition for the best paper submitted by a current, enrolled graduate student in practical or professional ethics. Award winners also receive free registration to the 34th Annual APPE International Conference. *There is a 5,000-word limit on all submissions.*

C. Best Formal Paper by an Undergraduate Student (\$250 prize and free conference registration)

APPE is pleased to invite current, enrolled undergraduate students to submit papers on any topic in practical and professional ethics. Award winners will receive free registration to the 34th Annual APPE International Conference, and will be invited to share their presentation as a Poster or an Individual Presentation during the conference (or virtually), if desired. *There is a 3,000-word limit on all submissions.*

D. Clifford G. Christians Ethics Research Award (\$250 prize)

APPE is pleased to announce an annual call for papers to be considered for the Clifford G. Christians Ethics Research Award. Eligible submissions include work published in the previous year as well as papers submitted for presentation at the upcoming APPE annual conference. *There is no word or page limit on these paper submissions.* Submissions should interpret or address important theoretical issues in the broad field of communication ethics, including mass communication theory, relationships of media and technology and culture, responsibilities of producers and consumers of distributed communication products, or education in that field. All methodologies or mixed methodologies are invited. Preference will be given to work that advances the field of communication ethics in new and insightful ways, taking into account factors addressed by Clifford Christians during his prolific career. [Learn more.](#)

E. National Ethics Project's Ethics Education Research Award (\$500 prize)

APPE is pleased to announce an annual call for papers and research proposals to be considered for the National Ethics Project's Ethics Education Research Award. This award is sponsored by the Center for Leadership and Ethics at The University of Texas at Austin. Eligible submissions include a summary of

works published in the previous year or proposals and papers submitted for presentation at the upcoming APPE annual conference. *Submissions should include a brief 250-500 abstract as well as the complete research project and/or paper. There is a 3,000-word limit on all submissions.*

Submissions should address important issues in the broad field of ethics education research including relationships of ethics and curriculum requirements in education, responsibilities of institutions to develop and/or support ethics education, assessment of ethics education, and evaluation of effective ethics education curricula and materials. All methodologies, including mixed methodologies, are invited.

[Learn more.](#)

Submission Instructions:

1. Authors who would like their paper to be considered for an award must indicate this preference as part of the formal individual presentation submission process in Ex Ordo. (Follow instructions for individual presentations above, and select the award under Additional Information.)
2. Authors must upload a complete copy of their paper (in addition to the standard submission for the formal individual presentation category) by the submission deadline. Do not include any identifying information like name or institutional affiliation.
3. With the exception of the Clifford G. Christians Ethics Research Award, papers have either a 3,000- or 5,000-word limit. Please include the word count at the top of your paper submission.
4. A reference page should be included in the submission, but will not count against the word count limitation.

All award winners will be notified by January 1, 2026, and invited and encouraged to participate in the awards ceremony at the in-person conference.