



# SUBMISSION GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS

## 36th Annual APPE International Conference

Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown: March 4-7, 2027

Online: April 2, 2027

Theme: Examining Ethics and Power

Submission Deadline: Monday, October 5, 2026 (11:59 p.m., ET)

Notifications: No later than December 19, 2026

Submit Here: [appe2027.exordo.com](https://appe2027.exordo.com)

Learn More: [appe-ethics.org/conference](https://appe-ethics.org/conference) // [contact@appe-ethics.org](mailto:contact@appe-ethics.org)

### THEME/TOPICS

This year's theme, **Examining Ethics and Power**, invites critical reflection on the ethical dimensions of power across professional, institutional, and global contexts. We encourage proposals that explore how power dynamics shape ethical decision-making; how power manifests in professional practices; how institutions perpetuate or prevent harm; and how ethical frameworks can clarify what is at stake as well as expose, challenge, and transform unjust power relations.

Power structures social, political, organizational, and interpersonal relations. Violence—whether physical, structural, symbolic, epistemic, or institutional—often emerges from, reinforces, or obscures the workings of power. Ethical analysis is essential for understanding how power is exercised, resisted, justified, and contested; how its proper use is often not recognized, as well as how the misuse of power is often normalized, hidden, or confronted in professional and public settings.

In addition to the special focus, we welcome submissions from all areas of practical and professional ethics. See more about [topics of interest](#).

### 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 INSTRUCTIONS

The corresponding author (presenter) must submit through the APPE abstract management site Ex Ordo at the following link: [appe2027.exordo.com/](https://appe2027.exordo.com/).

You will have the option to select from the following conference tracks:

- In person, March 4-7, 2027 | Pittsburgh
- Online, April 2, 2027

Submissions made in Ex Ordo 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 must be prepared for blind review (no identifying author information or institutional affiliation) and 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. When relevant, a separate reference page should be submitted.

The corresponding author will need to include the names, institutional affiliations, and email addresses of all the authors of the submission. Please check the box for any additional **presenting** authors (this also includes panel presenters, author critics or poster presenters), or they will not appear as such in the program.

Submitters will also be asked for the top ranked topic(s) that align with your submission, whether you need a screen and projector, and if you know of any scheduling conflicts. Please identify these to the best of your ability when submitting.

## PRESENTATION FORMAT

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

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

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.

## SUBMISSION CATEGORIES

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

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 at least one other presentation in a 60- or 90-minute time slot.

We ask presenters **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).

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.

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

## 2. Case Studies and Pedagogical Demonstrations

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 at least one other presentation in a 60- or 90-minute time slot.

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.

## 3. Poster Presentations

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.**

## 5. Author Meets Critics

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.**

The abstract should include the title of the book and the names and institutional affiliations of all the authors of the book.

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, 2026.**

Books should be sent to:

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

We encourage authors 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 copy of the book).

## 6. Authors Reception

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

The abstract should include the title of the book and the names and institutional affiliations of all the authors of the book. You will need to choose the in-person conference option when selecting this presentation style.

We encourage authors to participate in both the Authors Reception and Author Meets Critics sessions. If you are only submitting for this format, the same requirement is needed to submit your book for review. See instructions for the Author Meets Critics format, above. Please submit online proposals for these separately, but send only one copy of the book.

## 7. Workshops/Professional Development

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.

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 (please include whether your preference is 60 or 90 minutes), explain the outcomes desired, and should be detailed enough to enable a reviewer to assess the merits of the proposal.

## 8. Pre-Recorded Flash Presentation

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 online conference program. Flash presentations will be available for viewing by the in-person and online 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 online conference option when selecting this presentation style.

### SCREEN/PROJECTOR

In an effort to provide more opportunities for discussion-based presentations that rely less on the usage of technology, and to reduce costs of the conference, there will be several "tech-free presentation rooms" at the conference. These rooms will have audio and microphone capabilities but will not have a screen and a projector. **When submitting you MUST request a screen and a projector for your presentation if you plan on needing one. If you do not select a screen and a projector you will be assigned to a room without these capabilities.** (We will give you the opportunity to change this response once you have been accepted into the conference, but this initial information helps us plan for the number of rooms needed.)

### TOPICS OF INTEREST

We welcome proposals addressing the theme from a wide range of perspectives, including (but not limited to):

- Analysis of structural, systemic, and institutional power
- Professional authority and the exercise of power
- Ethics of policing, punishment, incarceration, and state exercise of power
- War, militarization, terrorism, and political violence
- Power and social media
- Power dynamics in family and social life
- Responsible use of power in the workplace
- Whistleblowing, resistance, and ethical dissent
- Power dynamics in healthcare, social services, education, and law
- Data, surveillance, AI, and technological power
- Epistemic injustice, silencing, and testimonial harm
- Ethics of leadership, governance, and institutional accountability
- Restorative justice, nonviolence, repair, and ethical responses to harm
- Teaching ethics in contexts shaped by power and violence

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

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

## 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, 2026.** 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. online 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, 2027 and at that time any scheduling conflicts must be provided. You will also be reminded of your decision for a tech-free or tech-assisted room and given the option to adjust your response.

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION/HOTEL INFORMATION

All presenters must be registered for the conference no later than February 15, 2027, or they will be forced to forfeit their place on the schedule. Online registration will open by February 1, 2027 and all presenters must be registered by March 31, 2027. In person conference registration is now open. ([Register here.](#))

There are student scholarships and need-based scholarships to help cover registration fees. Stay tuned for more details.

The conference hotel is the Grand Wyndham Pittsburgh Downtown. [Learn more](#) about the hotel, Pittsburgh, and how to make your hotel reservation.

## 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 will receive free registration to this year's APPE Conference, and will be invited to share their presentation as a Poster or an Individual Presentation during the conference, if desired. *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 this year's APPE Conference, and will be invited to share their presentation as a Poster or an Individual Presentation during the conference, 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.](#)

**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 6, 2027, and invited and encouraged to participate in the awards ceremony at the in-person conference.

**QUESTIONS**

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