



NVERGESM

An Immersive Experience in
Transdisciplinary Societal Problem Solving

CALL FOR SESSION PROPOSALS

WHY CONVERGE?

Historically, “people” oriented disciplines have been siloed from “technical” areas. Even within science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), there are silos that isolate social and behavioral sciences from engineering, computing, natural, and physical sciences. Society is plagued with disparities in healthcare, infrastructure, the environment, criminal justice, and other areas because we haven’t taken an inclusive and holistic view of solving social problems.

CONVERGE aspires to bring together individuals from academia, industry, the non-profit sector, government, and communities that include educators, students, poets, artists, engineers, scientists, policy makers, performers and more. The aim is to exemplify convergence, that is, ***how different ways of thinking, doing and knowing come together to improve societal problem solving.*** It is designed to foster knowledge exchanges, new collaborations, and immersive experiences to advance knowledge in areas of national need, inextricably linked with principles and practices of justice, equity, diversity and inclusion (JEDI).

We invite you to submit a proposal for the inaugural **CONVERGE**, which will be held on **August 2-4, 2023** at **Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor at Camden Yards**.

Questions?

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EXAMPLE SESSION TOPICS

Some possible topical areas are identified below. Session ideas can span multiple topics. Adding other topical areas is permissible as well, as long as they strongly demonstrate convergence.

- Artificial Intelligence
- Arts for Social Change
- Assistive Technologies
- Autonomous Technologies
- Biotechnology
- Decision Making, Risk and Management
- Digital Twinning
- Equitable Infrastructure
- Ethics
- Healthcare
- Information and Security Technologies
- L-STEM (Law, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)
- Safety, Preparedness and Emergency Response
- Smart and Connected Communities
- Social and Economic Mobility
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics)
- Sustainability and Resilience
- Team Science and Partnerships
- Workforce Development
- Additional Topical Areas Not Listed Here





90-MINUTE SESSIONS

These sessions are flexible. Creativity is strongly desired. Proposals may be for full or partial 90-minute sessions and may include panels, groups of presentations, individual presentations, performances, mini-workshops, or other types of delivery methods that are appropriate for this amount of time. Regardless of the proposed session/delivery type, we are seeking to create engaging sessions.

Panel sessions should include no more than three panelists plus a moderator. They should be designed to be conversational with audience interactions at multiple points rather than “round robin” style panels in which the moderator asks a question that each panelist answers in succession, with audience questions reserved for the end.

Conference-style presentations should be no longer than 20 minutes each (to allow for three per 90-minute session) and should be delivered with the structure and style of a “TED Talk” rather than a rigid “talking head” delivery. Submitters may propose three 20-minute presentations as a single 90-minute session. They may also propose independent 20-minute presentations, which the planning committee will group into 90-minute sessions.

Performance and demonstration sessions that include storytelling, spoken word, visual arts, and other means of expression are of great interest. Submitters are encouraged to include the URL of a video example of the performance, if available.

Full length papers are not required for 90-minute sessions; however, presenters may choose to submit full length papers to be peer-reviewed and published in **CONVERGE** proceedings. Abstracts for these sessions – regardless of type – may also be included in **CONVERGE** proceedings.

Videos of **CONVERGE** performances and demonstrations may also be included with appropriate permissions.

Submissions will require:

- Type of Delivery (panel, presentation, performance, mini-workshop, etc.)
- Presenter(s)/Performers and Affiliation(s)
- Co-Authors/Creators and Affiliations
- Abstract (500 words or fewer)
 - What societal challenge is being addressed?
 - How is it being addressed (methods, creative process, design process, other approaches)? Be sure to describe how convergence is actualized.
 - Who is addressing it (disciplines, organizations, backgrounds, communities, others involved)?
 - What are the results/impacts (or anticipated/preliminary results/impacts)?
 - What are the implications (society, industry, education, other)? In other words, to whom does (or should) this matter and why?

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POSTER & DEMONSTRATION SESSIONS

Undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral scholars are invited to present their work (research, creative works, design projects, etc.) during a 45-minute session. To optimize engagement, these sessions **will not** be held concurrently with other event activities. All attendees will be invited to stop by, giving students the opportunity to network with people who might be future collaborators, graduate school advisors and/or employers. Abstracts for these sessions – regardless of type – may be included in **CONVERGE** proceedings. Videos of **CONVERGE** demonstrations may also be included with appropriate permissions.

Submissions will require:

- Title of Poster or Demonstration
- Presenter and Affiliation
- Co-Presenters and Affiliations
- Abstract (500 words or fewer)
 - What societal challenge is being addressed?
 - How is it being addressed (methods, creative process, design process, other approaches)? Be sure to describe how convergence is actualized.
 - Who is addressing it (disciplines, organizations, backgrounds, communities, others involved)?
 - What are the results/impacts (or anticipated/preliminary results/impacts)?
 - What are the implications (society, industry, education, other)? In other words, to whom does (or should) this matter and why?

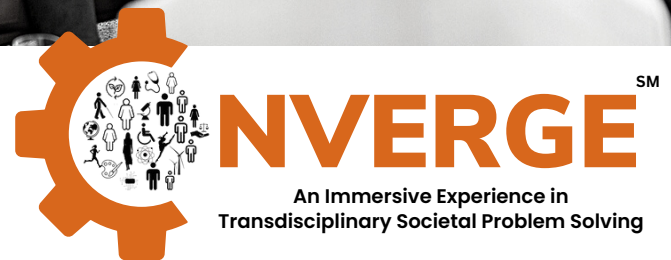


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30-MINUTE SESSIONS



All prospective attendees are invited to propose to participate in two different types of concurrent 30-minute sessions – Convergence Corners or PechaKucha presentations. Abstracts from these sessions may be included in **CONVERGE** proceedings.

Convergence Corners. These are informal, small group discussion sessions led by one or two individuals. The emphasis here is on discussion. Think about how you might sit in a lounge and have a discussion with a group of people who share common interests. The topic and structure of the session should allow attendees to engage actively in discussion, question and answers, knowledge exchange, etc. without the need for slides, videos or other presentation tools. Discussions about future collaborations and funding opportunities would be of interest here as well. Anticipate ~15-20 attendees in each session.

Submissions will require:

- Title
- Discussion Leader(s) and Affiliation(s)
- Session Objective(s)
- Abstract (250 words or fewer, including means of audience engagement)
- Intended Audience (disciplines, roles, sectors, etc.)

Questions?

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30-MINUTE SESSIONS

Pechakuchas. These are short talks that require exactly 20 slides that are each presented in exactly 20 seconds with automatic timing transitions. There will be two to three PechaKuchas per session, with brief question and answer periods at the end of each session.

Submissions will require:

- Title
- Presenter and Affiliation
- Co-Authors and Affiliations
- Presentation Objective(s)
- Abstract (350 words or fewer, including disciplines involved)
- Intended Audience (disciplines, roles, sectors, etc.)

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SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

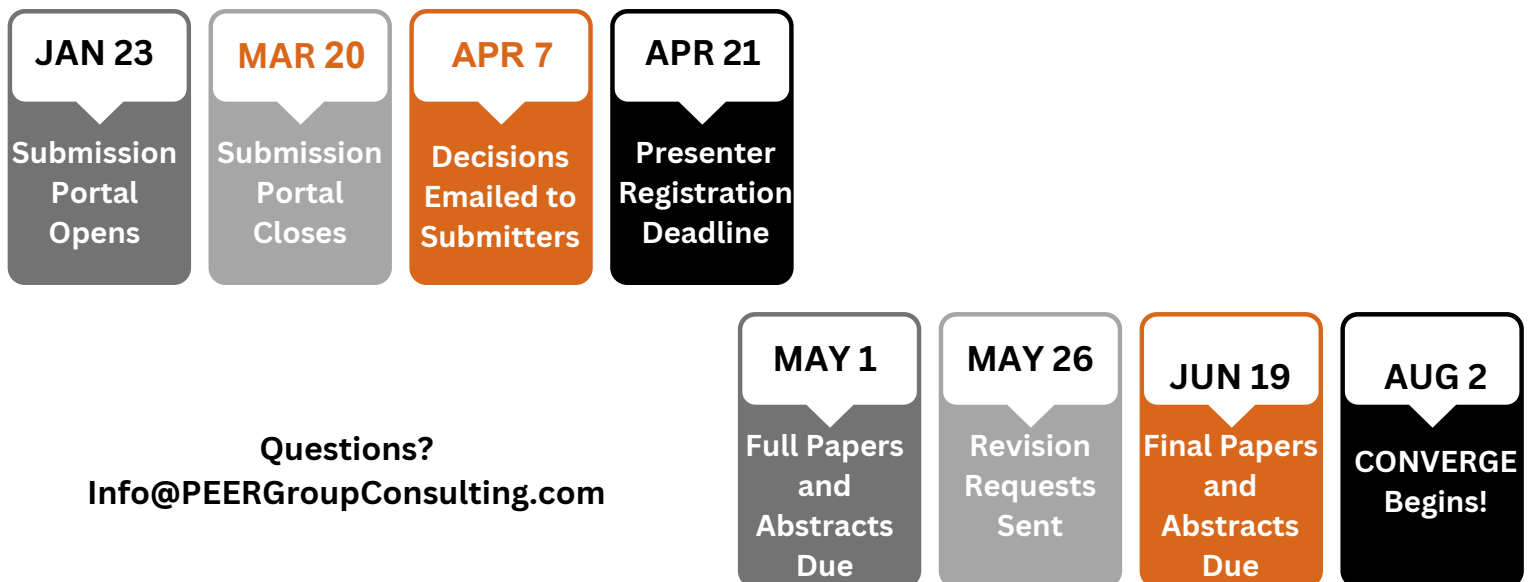
All proposals must be submitted through the **CONVERGE website**. The portal contains the requirements for each type of submission. **Because the number of sessions of each type will be limited, you are encouraged to submit ideas for multiple sessions to optimize having at least one of yours selected.**

Abstracts will be available on the **CONVERGE website** at the time of the event. Proceedings will be available after the event.

Please note the following:

- At least one presenter/performer per submission must register for the event by **April 21, 2023** for the submission to be included in the **CONVERGE** program schedule.
- Presenters/performers will receive a discounted rate when they register by **April 21, 2023**. Presenters/performers who register after this date will pay the rate in effect at the time they register.
- All presenters/performers of final approved sessions must be registered to participate in the event and session.

IMPORTANT DATES



Questions?
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