



WELCOME TO vCIES!

Following the cancellation of the onsite CIES conference in Miami due to the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), we are shifting to a virtual meeting space with the goal of providing an engaging and meaningful experience for everyone. We are grateful for your patience and support as the Society grapples with the challenge of transforming our cancelled onsite Annual Meeting into a new opportunity. The success of our virtual conference will depend on all of us working together and creating a common space – and purpose – as we build a dynamic, interactive, and inclusive conference.

HOW?

Decentralized, synchronous and asynchronous events and discussion forums on different online and social media platforms

Given the spontaneous nature of this transition, we see this as an opportunity to explore different online platforms and ways of organizing ourselves to continue the mission of the CIES ‘to contribute to an understanding of education through encouragement and promotion of comparative education and related areas of inquiry and activity.’ It is an opportunity to experiment with and explore different ways of engaging intellectually around the conference theme and the broader ideas we are passionate about. Therefore, we would like to keep the space open for **decentralized and organic experimentation** (led by the program planning committee, Standing Committees, and SIGs), while carefully documenting the broad variety of processes and mechanisms used for online engagement, as well as the outcomes, to inform future virtual programming and alternative conferencing possibilities.

The virtual conference will feature both **synchronous and asynchronous events**, many of which will be recorded, to promote as wide participation as possible, given the different time zones of CIES conference participants. We also anticipate discussion forums on Twitter, Facebook, and other platforms using **#vCIES** to stimulate scholarly exchange.

WHERE?

Connected by the living calendar and sharing content through the CIES information hub & content repository hosted by www.cies2020.org

While encouraging and supporting decentralized virtual organizing (see details below), the CIES 2020 conference planning committee will manage a [living calendar](#), which will contain information about all virtual events. All CIES conference participants will have access to the virtual conference calendar and will be able to add events and search for different people, sessions, and gatherings. CIES 2020 will thus act as an **information hub**, the first point of contact for people who want to know "what's on" today, and a **content repository** (online posters, video recorded sessions, etc.), even if events are being organized by many different people and units across the Society. We will mobilize social media to share information about the conference events with all CIES members, conference participants, and the broader audience.

WHEN?

March 15 to April 30, 2020... and beyond

The virtual CIES conference will begin on March 15, 2020 as originally planned and will continue throughout April, 2020. This will allow us to unfold as much of the conference program as possible into virtual space, while being mindful of different time zones and preparations necessary for online participation. We hope that the virtual space will also create a rhythm and a platform for a continued scholarly exchange after the official conference dates, encouraging ‘slow’ research and exchange of ideas on an ongoing basis.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CIES 2020 “Education Beyond the Human” originally envisioned a small virtual conference pilot, which includes thematic **online paper sessions** and **posters**. We invite you to take a look at the [Online Paper Sessions](#) with prerecorded presentations and join us for the live virtual discussions held March 23 and 25, 2020 to discuss the papers with presenters and invited discussants. [Virtual Posters](#) are accompanied by short audio recordings and include a discussion area for you to engage with the author(s) and each other. The keynotes and highlighted sessions will be live streamed. The audience will have an opportunity to join the sessions, see who else is attending, and participate in discussions. In addition to the planned virtual conference pilot, we will make our best efforts to extend virtual participation to the broader conference audience. The transition to vCIES may be bumpy and is likely to have some glitches. We therefore thank you in advance for your patience, understanding, and your willingness to support us in this complicated and experimental transition process. Please carefully read the information below to learn how to engage in transitioning to vCIES most effectively both as a SIG, Standing Committee, and/or an individual.

How Will Keynote Sessions Work?

Most of the keynote sessions will take place during the scheduled conference time (March 23-26, 2020), while some will be rescheduled to accommodate different time zones and schedules (please check the conference website for the most up-to-date schedule, which will include live online sessions and asynchronous keynote presentations followed by online discussions). All keynote sessions will be recorded and made available online for interested conference participants, as well as the broader audience (e.g., university lecturers and students, practitioners in the field, and the broader public who will be able to engage with the presentations both during and after the conference.

The vCIES 2020 conference will kick-off with the featured townhall event [Academic Conferences during Climate Crisis: Agora on Carbon Free and More Equal Conferencing](#). In response to the current situation, we will collectively engage in re-examining and re-imagining how we conceive and value academic conferences and scholarly engagements during climate crisis and the current global public health emergency that requires immediate action. After presentations by colleagues in related fields who have organized zero carbon conferences before, we will break out into working groups to discuss issues directly related to CIES (for more about discussion questions and discussion leaders click [here](#)). Agora will take place on Monday, March 23rd, 4-6 pm EST.

How Will Pre-Conference Workshops Work?

While some pre-conference workshops have been cancelled due to technical issues or pedagogical limitations of online space, 11 sessions will transition into the virtual workshops. If the workshop you were planning to attend was cancelled, please consider the possibility of joining a different workshop. We will share the updated schedule on the CIES 2020 website and revise it in real time over the next few days. Please check the website for the most up-to-date schedule.

How Will Hybrid Sessions Work?

We encourage all hybrid sessions to turn into fully online sessions that would be presented during the scheduled conference time slots. Please let us know if you are able to keep your original time slot, or if you need to cancel or reschedule your session. All hybrid session chairs have received an email with instructions about how to transition into the virtual space. If you have not received an email yet, please use [this form](#) to help us update the conference program.

How Will Poster Sessions Work?

All poster presentations will be transferred into the virtual conference space. We ask the poster presenters, and anyone else interested to turn their paper into a poster presentation, to upload their posters using this [link](#). During the period of the virtual conference, CIES board members, Committee and SIG leaders, and conference participants will post comments on the posters. Poster presenters will be able to respond to those comments. Please [see examples](#) of virtual posters already available on the CIES 2020 conference website as a part of the virtual conference.

How Will the SIG and Standing Committee Program Work?

We have asked SIG and Committee Program Chairs to self-organize into a virtual conference. SIG/Committee program chairs received an email from the virtual program committee with instructions for how to make changes in their programs and share the most updated information about SIG/Committee program events/activities on a shared calendar. SIG/Committee Chairs will communicate with their members regarding any changes. If SIG/Committee program chairs have not received an email from the virtual program planning committee by March 16th, please email Aryn Baxter (abaxter@uidaho.edu).

How Will the SIG & Standing Committee Business Meetings Work?

All SIG meetings should be conducted before the end of April, 2020. We encourage SIGs to meet virtually during the originally scheduled time, unless the schedule needs to be changed to accommodate the different timezone of the members. All schedule changes will be reflected in a shared program calendar. SIG leadership transition should occur as planned during this time. For more information, please contact Aryn Baxter (abaxter@uidaho.edu) and Haijun Kang (hjkang@ksu.edu), Co-Chairs of the SIG Committee Chair.

How Will the General Pool Program Work?

Everyone who submitted proposals for panel or roundtable sessions to the general pool is encouraged to transfer into the fully online panel/roundtable format. Please let us know if you are able to keep your original time slot, or, if you need to cancel or reschedule your session, please use [this form](#) to tell us about when you would like to present. If you submitted an individual paper to the general pool, you can choose to present online asynchronously in one of two formats (1) [poster presentation](#) or (2) [recorded video presentation](#). Please click the presentation format of your choice to submit your presentation **no later than April 10th**.

How Will Book Launches Work?

Unfortunately, we won't be able to accommodate the transition of the book launches fully online. We will, however, do our best to share the newly published books of CIES members on the conference website. If you would like to schedule your own book launches as podcasts or video recordings, please post on social media and we would be happy to help you share information more broadly.

How Will Film Festivalette Work?

The Spaces of Education in Film Festivalette will be held fully online. The films will be available through the CIES Conference password protected site, hosted on Vimeo Showcase. The films can be accessed for free until the end of April at any time that is convenient for the viewer (start time to be confirmed). We will host live Q & A's and discussions with the film's directors in English and additionally in Spanish when possible through zoom links added to the conference program. These discussions will be recorded and then posted online. Some films will also be available with Spanish subtitles when available and links to study guides specific to each film will be added on Conference site when available. In addition, we will host an online rerun of some of last year's Festivalette films around the theme "Reflections on the Meaning of Human Progress." More information coming soon!

How Will the Visual and Performance Art Sessions Work?

We are working with an art curator to help us transform visual and performance art sessions into digital art. While the digital option won't be possible for all art submitted to CIES 2020, we will do our best to share as much visual and performance art submissions as possible through the conference website. In addition, we will host an interactive and virtual engagement with the CIES 2020 (Virtual) Artist in Residence, Xavier Cortada, who will lead an interactive online activity [Letters to the Future](#) and create a participatory conference mural, highlighting intellectual exchanges around the conference theme. A Four Panel Mural will be created throughout the duration of the virtual conference and will be unveiled at CIES 2021 Seattle for conference participants to see in person. Stay tuned for more!

How Will Social and Professional Networking Work?

As a Society, we value the formal and informal opportunities to share and discuss our research, the moments and possibilities for social networking, and the opportunities for spontaneous intellectual exchanges. While we are aware that it is impossible to fully recreate such experience virtually, we would like to open new space for virtual social and professional networking, including virtual 'coffee breaks,' 'happy hours,' thematic 'conversation corners,' and other (in)formal exchanges among CIES members – during the conference times.

How Can I Engage Now?

For vCIES to work, we need you to jump in, take risks and get involved. **vCIES is child-friendly – please feel free to join in even if your kids might interrupt!** Find the CIES community on your favorite social media platform of choice using #vCIES. You can find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for regular updates. Send us a direct message if you have a social or networking event idea you are able to lead. We will be happy to help promote it! Be sure to stop by our website regularly to access conference related content and check out our [Online Paper Sessions](#) and [Virtual Posters](#) already available on the conference site. See you on the discussion boards!

Once again, we would like to thank you for your patience, support, and enthusiasm to help us transform CIES 2020 into the virtual program. We believe it is a great opportunity to experiment with the new modes of intellectual engagement - in a variety of formats - and we count on your participation to help us create a dynamic and inclusive virtual conference!

On behalf of our volunteer virtual conference program committee,

Iveta Silova, CIES 2020 Program Chair | Zsuzsa Millei and Robyn Read, CIES 2020 Virtual Program Co-Chairs
Janna Goebel, CIES 2020 Program Manager | Carly Manion, CIES 2020 Academic Program Coordinator