Stockholm University - Department of Education

ESREA Life History and Biography Network



Working with diversity in life history research using biographical and auto/biographical approaches

Elaborating on theory, epistemology, and methodology

LHBN Conference 3-5 March 2027

1st CALL FOR PAPERS

The conference is organised by ESREA Life History and Biography Network (LHBN), convened by Laura Formenti and Małgosia Malec Rawiński, and will be hosted at Stockholm University, Department of Education.

The conference seeks to provide an open and inclusive academic platform for the exchange of research using biographical and life history narrative approaches in adult learning and education. By elaborating on theory, epistemology, and methodology, the conference will discuss ongoing studies and approaches in Europe and beyond, and shed light on recent developments, emerging problems, and new discourses concerning adult learning. We invite international researchers to draw attention to the potential of epistemic diversity in using biographical and life history narrative approaches. We look for inspiring and innovative research methods and designs.

The conference seeks to unlock the network's boundaries, linking researchers, PhD students and educators from different academic traditions and countries, to elaborate on emerging theories and models, methodological issues and questions, linguistic and cultural dimensions in doing biographical, auto/biographical and life history research using narrative methods. This includes those forms of narratives that go beyond the spoken and written word, involving arts-based and sensorial investigations of diversity, such as figurative and abstract art forms, dance and walks, music and craftwork. The conference encourages intercultural and interdisciplinary dialogue among scholars who study adult learning in education, sociology, psychology, gerontology, and related fields.

Through dialogue and collective elaboration, the conference seeks to build epistemic awareness, reciprocal deepened understanding, and a strengthened feeling of a research community that recognises diversity and complexity as constitutive features in mapping biographical and narrative approaches.

The example themes of the conference are:

1. Narrative, biographical and participatory research on adult education and learning
2. Emerging theories and models in biographical research on adult life in various settings and spaces
3. Experiences of biographical methodology – finding new ways of elaborating narratively and figuratively
4. (Re-)conceptualising narrative, biographical and ethnographic data
5. Participatory methods in biographical research
6. The role of auto/biographical research and the biographical researcher - self-reflexivity, biographicity, and ethics
7. Working abductively - analysing and writing up biographical and narrative data.

Through plenary lectures, paper sessions, symposia, and workshops, the conference will shed light on recent developments, emerging problems, and new discourses concerning adult learning while fostering a society that values knowledge, participation, and learning at every stage of life.

Proposals: submission of abstracts

We welcome a variety of submissions related to the key thematic areas in the form of **paper presentations, symposia,** or **interactive workshops**.

All proposals should be drafted in Times New Roman, 12 pt. References according to APA 7. Language is English.

Paper presentations

Abstracts (300 words) should highlight the main epistemological, theoretical and methodological points of a completed or ongoing research, and list no more than 5 references.

Symposia

A symposium contains 3 to 5 interconnected presentations, each with its own title and author(s). The symposium proposal should have a title and a short general introduction (300 words) illustrating the overall theme, followed by the separate presentations according to the instructions for paper presentations.

Workshops

Workshops are intended to encourage interdisciplinary interaction and reciprocal learning, create spaces for creativity and collective exploration, and reflection through exchanging experiences and dialogue.

We welcome two types of workshops: (A) methodological workshops (e.g. focused on research interviews, data analysis, or a specific practice) and (B) workshops for discussing research ideas.

A. **Methodological workshops:** contributors are invited to submit an abstract (300 words) outlining the background and aim of the proposed methodology and the organisation of the workshop. Please insert clear instructions about specific needs related to space, materials, and maximum number of participants.

B. **Workshops for discussing (new) research ideas**: contributors are invited to submit an abstract (300 words) outlining the main idea, aims, research question(s), and preliminary expected outcomes of the workshop. The proposal is meant to create a collective mind with the participants, foster imagination, and co-design a biographical study based on the proposed idea. The organisation of the workshop needs to be clearly described, along with needed materials, and maximum number of participants.

Please send two separate files:

a) Proposal typology [paper, symposium, workshop A or B], title, author(s)' names, affiliations, and e-mails. Contact author. Add a short professional bio of each author in the third person (max 100 words each), that will be published online.
b) Contains: proposal typology, title, anonymised abstract. Abstracts will be published online.

The conference will be held in English. Online presentations are not planned.

Important dates

25 November 2026	Deadline for submission of proposals
20 December 2026	Acceptance of abstracts will be confirmed within this deadline
3 January 2027	Deadline for early bird registration (If the payment has not been received by this date, the higher fee will be applicable)
2 February 2027	Final deadline for registration and payment of the conference fee
3-5 March 2027	Date of the conference

Conference fees
Included in the conference fee, besides access to the conference, are 2 lunches, 4 coffee breaks, welcoming reception and the conference dinner.

Early bird on or before 3 January 2027

ESREA member - 3100 SEK
Non ESREA member - 3600 SEK
PhD Student - 2500 SEK

After January 2027

ESREA member - 3600 SEK
Non ESREA member – 4100 SEK
PhD Student - 3000 SEK

Scientific Committee

Agnieszka Bron	agnieszka.bron@edu.su.se
Rob Evans	rob.evans@t-online.de
Laura Formenti	laura.formenti@unimib.it
Hanna Li Kusterer	hanna.li.kusterer@edu.su.se
Małgosia Malec Rawiński	malgosia.malec-rawinski@edu.su.se
Anna Nørholm Lundin	anna.norholm.lundin@edu.su.se
Camilla Thunborg	camilla.thunborg@edu.su.se
Linden West	linden.west@canterbury.ac.uk

Organising Committee

Agnieszka Bron	agnieszka.bron@edu.su.se
Jolina Ekholm	jolina.ekholm@edu.su.se
Laura Formenti	laura.formenti@unimib.it
Hanna Li Kusterer	hanna.li.kusterer@edu.su.se
Małgosia Malec Rawiński	malgosia.malec-rawinski@edu.su.se
Anna Nørholm Lundin	anna.norholm.lundin@edu.su.se
Camilla Thunborg	camilla.thunborg@edu.su.se
PhD and MA students	

Background information

ESREA www.esrea.org

LHBN https://esrea.org/networks/life-history-and-biography/