

Heterodox Academy invites proposed sessions for the 2024 HxA Conference

- Concurrent sessions will include research presentations led by HxA members and other experts.
- This year's sessions will be fewer but longer (80 minutes) as compared to 2022, allowing a larger audience to go deeper on a given topic.
- A new format, the *Heterodox Conversation*, will showcase two experts with differing views in conversation with each other and the audience.
- Student research will also be exclusively showcased in a poster session.

Theme

The theme of our 2024 Conference is ***Principles in Action***. In a historic moment when the function and future of higher education is up for debate like never before:

- What are the principles, practices, and strategies that can make a concrete difference in promoting open inquiry, viewpoint diversity, and constructive disagreement?
- How can our institutions, our teaching, and our research better respond to challenges from politicization, groupthink, polarization, and more-as experts, advocates, and exemplars?
- What are the dangers, blind spots, and unintended consequences of an effort like this?

Topics

• Principles and Culture

As we convene near the birthplace of the Chicago tradition of academic freedom, what can classic academic principles and virtues teach us about today's controversies, and vice versa? Topics may include:

- Institutional neutrality. Who speaks *for* the university, and when?
- Free expression and academic freedom on campus
- Protests, shutdowns, expression, and intimidation
- Intellectual virtues and informal norms
- Questions of social (dis)comfort and free expression: tolerance, courage, self-censorship, shaming, and safety-ism
- Activist scholarship and the *telos* of academic disciplines
- Lessons from the Israel-Palestine debates and protests

• Making Change: Organizing, Policy, and Leadership

How can scholars, staff members, and students make a real difference—on campus, in academic disciplines, and in the academic professions? What works, what doesn't, and what might? Topics may include:

- Faculty and staff organizing

- University governance structures and how to use them
- Lawmakers, trustees, grantmakers, accreditors, donors: what they can/can't and should/shouldn't do
- Did Heterodox Academy fail? Evaluating multiple models for higher education reform
- Public policy issues in “red states” and “blue states” (e.g. DEI and “divisive concepts” laws, curriculum requirements, control of faculty hiring, boycotts and divestment)
- Public policy issues in Canada, the UK, and other nations
- Alternative models and institutions

● Elevating the Student Experience

Students don't go to college simply to express their opinions – they are supposed to be informed and challenged. How do we foster a culture of truth-seeking and constructive disagreement in the classroom, on campus, and beyond? Topics may include:

- Curricula, syllabi, and classroom teaching for critical thinking and self-awareness
- Dialogue and debate in the student experience
- The educational(?) influence of Student Affairs, at orientation and beyond
- Academic rigor in the college classroom
- Expression and truth-seeking at religious institutions
- Teaching HxA values in professional training: medicine, law, business, etc.
- Trends that matter: enrollment, debt, AI, gender imbalances, etc.

● Research and Open Inquiry

Which systems, structures, and sensitivities limit academic truth-seeking, and how can research do better? Topics may include:

- Taboo topics: what researchers can't ask and why it matters
- Journal editors, academic societies, and censorship
- Threats to open inquiry in the STEM disciplines
- Adversarial collaborations
- Academic culture and academic fraud
- Lessons from meta-science research for HxA members

● Viewpoint Diversity: University Admissions, Hiring, and Training

With local and national attention on higher education “pipeline” issues from student admissions to faculty tenure, how can we understand and promote the role of viewpoint diversity? Topics may include:

- New research on political, socioeconomic, and religious diversity in higher education
- Ways of embedding viewpoint diversity in programs and structures
- Challenges to viewpoint diversity as a concept and a value
- DEI statements and rules in admissions, hiring, and promotion

- Student admissions after the *Students for Fair Admissions* decision
- Reform ideas for faculty hiring, review, dismissal, tenure, and promotion

- **Open Call**

Although presentation spaces are limited, HxA also welcomes proposals for sessions that do not neatly fit in a category above. Topics may include:

- Professional development
- Practical tools and resources
- Exploring HxA issues in one discipline, region, or institution
- New data sets and research opportunities
- A “Heterodox Conversation” about a different academic topic of general interest between experts who disagree
- Other research related to higher education and topics of open inquiry, viewpoint diversity, and constructive disagreement

About the Concurrent Sessions:

Audience

Concurrent sessions will be attended by HxA members, including faculty across all disciplines and ranks; deans, chairs, and other administrative staff; students; and professionals in higher-ed-adjacent organizations. Many in this audience will be seeking practical advice, helpful stories of failure and success, and inspiration for their own work. In addition, we welcome other campus stakeholders, including college and university trustees, journalists, peer organizations, and alumni. Because our audience comes from a variety of backgrounds, presentations should be designed for broad accessibility, and avoid technical jargon and insider references.

Format

Sessions will run for 80 minutes, with up to 50-60 minutes of presentation and 20-30 minutes of audience Q&A facilitated by the presenter(s). Individual presentations should run up to 20 minutes.

Sessions should feature applicable material for our audiences and can range from discussions of theory or empirical studies to practical approaches. Presenters will be responsible for facilitation and time-keeping. Ample time for questions and discussion is highly encouraged.

Traditional academic presentations are welcome, as are interactive approaches (paired with audience discussion, live polls, and engagement with material). We seek four kinds of proposals:

- **Individual presentation or research talk:** We seek abstracts for 20 minute presentations from individuals that address one of the topics listed above. Accepted submissions may be grouped with two other submitted presentations in a traditional symposium at our discretion.

- **Full symposium:** We seek abstracts for symposia of three 20 minute presentations on a related topic, followed by discussion and questions with panelists and a moderator. Proposals should clarify the overarching theme of the symposium and how each presentation contributes to the theme.
- **Heterodox Conversation:** We seek abstracts for dialogues from pairs who **disagree** on an issue raised in our call and can model [The HxA Way](#) in their conversation. Their disagreement should be grounded in deep familiarity with the relevant scholarship. Conversation pairs can be from the same discipline or they can be interdisciplinary. Accepted Heterodox Conversations will be granted a full session to model discussion for 50 minutes, followed by audience questions about their discussion and rhetorical approaches for 30 minutes.
- **Student Research Posters:** Undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to submit poster presentations on empirical research on questions pertaining to open inquiry, viewpoint diversity, and constructive disagreement to improve academic research and higher education. **Accepted poster presentations will be included in our Friday evening Student Poster Session and Reception.**
 - Poster presentations should be readable by a general academic audience (please avoid disciplinary jargon or excessive niche citations), and include plenty of context for your methods (What were your goals? How did they change? What specific questions are you trying to answer, or not trying to answer? What obstacles did you face? How are you or your colleagues using the data gathered?)

Submission Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated by a team consisting of HxA staff on the degree to which they:

- Are relevant to the conference theme and/or [HxA values](#)
- Ground their claims in well-founded scholarship, philosophical argumentation, empirical evidence, or professional anecdotes illustrating successes and failures.
- Include practical implications, ideas, or tools that attendees can apply beyond the conference
- Abide by [The HxA Way](#)
- Provide a concrete/high-quality facilitation plan
- Are informed by the presenter's expertise and/or professional experience
- Add value for HxA conference attendees and members

How to Propose a Session

Heterodox Academy uses the online application platform Submittable to receive and review conference proposals. Applicants will be notified via Submittable or by email of decisions and other information pertaining to their proposal. Please note that if you're submitting a proposal for a symposium or HxConversation, you will also be asked to submit information from your co-applicant(s).

The following items will need to be submitted with your proposal:

- Lead applicant, title and institutional affiliation

- Presentation Topic and Format
- Proposal Abstract (200-400 words)
- Expected AV Needs
- Co-Applicant Contact Information (if submitting a proposal for a full symposium and HxConversation)

Submissions are due by **Wednesday, January 31 at 11:59 p.m. ET**. You will receive confirmation once your proposal is received.

During the review process, you may be asked to provide more information or answer clarifying questions, which does not necessarily indicate acceptance. Your timely response is greatly appreciated.

You will be notified about your proposal no later than February 16. Individual presentations or research talks will be assembled with other presentations into a symposium.

We regret that we cannot accept all submissions, even high-quality, interesting, and topical submissions from our members. We appreciate your time and interest in the 2024 HxA Conference.

[SUBMIT HERE](#)