

SSRE/SGL Annual Conference 2026: June 17-19, 2026 at the St.Gallen University of Teacher Education (PHSG)

Education for a thriving and sustainable future

Call for Papers

The 2026 Annual Conference of the Swiss Society for Research in Education (SSRE) and the Swiss Society for Teacher Education (SGL), held under the theme **‘Education for a Thriving and Sustainable Future’**, warmly welcomes your participation. The conference will be held from June 17–19, 2026 at the St.Gallen University of Teacher Education and will open on the morning of June 17 with the SSRE Early Career Researcher Conference, featuring a special focus on *Meet the Editors*.

Global crises such as climate change, increasing social inequalities, geopolitical tensions, and technological transformations – for example in the field of Artificial Intelligence – are presenting education at all levels with profound challenges. In a rapidly changing and increasingly burdened world, it is no longer sufficient to understand education merely as a tool for solving current problems. Rather, education must create spaces for participation and co-construction – for a just, sustainable, and livable future.

Educational processes should empower people to take individual and collective responsibility, to understand complex societal developments, and to act actively for the common good. This requires intensive engagement with ethical, social, ecological, and political questions, as well as the fostering of transversal competencies such as critical thinking, diversity of perspectives, and agency. Education is thus understood as a driving force for social cohesion, resilience, and transformation.

The 2026 Annual Conference of SGBF and SGL is dedicated to the contributions of educational research and teacher education to shaping a thriving and sustainable future. The conference will discuss innovative, evidence-based, and interdisciplinary approaches that reconceptualize and further develop education in the context of sustainability, democracy, responsibility, and the common good.

We invite representatives of educational research and practice to submit contributions that address the conference theme from theoretical, empirical, or practice-oriented perspectives. Contributions on other current topics in educational research are also welcome.

The following formats are available: individual paper, poster, symposium, discussion forum, and design lab.

Important Deadlines for Submission and Registration

Submission period for contributions	September 23 – December 8, 2025
End of review period	February 2, 2026
Notification of review results	March 23, 2026
Early bird registration (reduced fee)	January 12 – April 20, 2026
Regular registration (standard fee)	April 21 – May 8, 2026

All submissions and later registrations are managed via ConfTool:

<https://www.conftool.pro/sgbf2026/>

General Information on Submissions

Submissions are usually made by the first author of the contribution. In addition, there is the possibility to participate as a co-author, chair, or discussant. For the formats *Discussion Forum* and *Design Lab*, contributions from educational practice are particularly welcome.

For all contribution formats, an abstract of up to 600 words (excluding references) must be submitted via ConfTool (<https://www.conftool.pro/sgbf2026/>). The abstract should address the following points:

- Theoretical background
- Research question
- Research design and methodology (if applicable)
- Results and their significance (if applicable)
- References (not included in the 600-word limit)

Please ensure that all co-authors or contributors register in ConfTool. When registering, please indicate whether you – if you hold a doctorate – are available to serve as a reviewer in the review process.

Formats

Paper presentation

Paper presentations may consist of original works with an empirical or conceptual focus. Review papers that summarize several research projects and contribute to theory development are also welcome. Each paper is allotted 20 minutes for presentation, followed by 5–10 minutes for questions and discussion.

Poster

Posters may be prepared by one or more authors and can present either completed or ongoing research projects. They are particularly suitable for showcasing interim results. Accepted posters will be presented in poster pitch sessions and discussed with participants. Authors are responsible for printing their poster in portrait format (A0).

For both papers and posters, the following information must be submitted:

- Author name(s) with institutional affiliation
- Title of the contribution
- Abstract (see “General Information on Submissions”)
- Five keywords and assignment to the categories provided in the ConfTool submission form

Symposia

Symposia bring together thematically coherent contributions from different disciplines or institutions. They consist of three or four individual papers, as well as a discussion, which may take place at various points within the format. A chair is usually responsible for organizing and conducting the symposium; co-chairing is possible. In total, 90 minutes are allocated for symposia with three papers, and 120 minutes for symposia with four papers.

For symposium submissions, please provide:

- Name of the chair (and, if applicable, co-chairs) with institutional affiliation
Optional: name of the discussant with institutional affiliation
- Title of the symposium
- Overall abstract (max. 600 words, excl. references)
- Explanation of the thematic framework and central research question
- Description of the planned contributions (without naming the authors)
- Outline of the planned structure and discussion phases

For each individual contribution within the symposium:

- Author name(s) with institutional affiliation
- Title of the paper
- Abstract (see “General Information on Submissions”)
- Five keywords
- Assignment to categories according to the ConfTool submission form

Discussion Forums

Discussion forums provide space for formats with a strongly discursive character – such as round tables or panel discussions. The focus is on intensive, scholarly exchange around a central question or controversy. Discussion forums are particularly suitable for contributions that do not fit into a traditional symposium format but foster interactive engagement with a specific topic.

For the submission of discussion forums, please provide:

- Name of the chair(s) or discussion leader(s)
- Title of the discussion forum
- Overall abstract (max. 600 words, excl. references) explaining the topic and central question. The individual contributions and/or roles of participants should be briefly outlined without naming authors. Additional information on the organization of the forum is also expected.
- Five keywords and assignment to categories according to the ConfTool submission form

Design Labs

Design Labs are experimental settings in which researchers, teachers, students, and practice partners collaboratively work on concrete challenges or future-oriented questions. The goal is the co-development of new ideas, models, interventions, or solutions. These labs promote co-creation, transdisciplinary exchange, and inquiry-based learning in real time.

Design Labs are particularly suitable for:

- Participatory and practice-oriented research
- Testing prototypes or educational innovations
- Collaborative work on socially relevant issues in the spirit of a “thriving and sustainable future”

A Design Lab is not primarily focused on producing finished results but emphasizes a reflective process in which dialogue, creativity, and collaboration are central. Contributions can employ a wide range of methods (e.g., scenario work, design thinking, open space, prototyping, role-playing, etc.). Innovative methodological approaches are explicitly welcome, including the use of artificial intelligence (AI) as a supporting tool or research subject. Each Design Lab is allocated 90 minutes.

For submission, please provide:

- Name(s) of the submitting person(s) with institutional affiliation
- Title of the Design Lab
- Abstract (max. 600 words, excl. references) including:
 - Objectives and thematic focus
 - Outline of the planned methodological approach
 - Information on the target audience and planned participation
 - Notes on spatial or material requirements
- Five keywords and assignment to categories according to the ConfTool submission form

Peer-Review Process (Double-Blind)

Each submitted contribution will be reviewed by two reviewers as part of a double-blind peer-review process. Based on these reviews, the scientific committee will decide on the acceptance or rejection of the submission.

To ensure the most suitable allocation of submissions to appropriate reviewers, authors are asked to select relevant keywords reflecting the content focus and themes, as well as the language of the contribution. If a clear assignment to thematic areas is not possible, the allocation will be based on the keywords provided.

Important: When submitting via ConfTool, please indicate whether you are willing to serve as a reviewer. This information is essential for planning and ensuring a fair distribution of the review process.

Submissions will be evaluated according to the following quality criteria:

- Relevance of the topic for research and/or practice
- Completeness and clarity of presentation
- Coherence and plausibility of the theoretical framework
- Clarity of the research question and methodology (if applicable)
- Quality of methodological approach and research design (if applicable)
- Consistency of theoretical and practical conclusions

Organization und Contact

Sponsoring Organizations:

- Swiss Society for Research in Education (SSRE)
- Swiss Society for Teacher Education (SGL)

Hosting Institution:

St.Gallen University of Teacher Education (PHSG)

Scientific Committee:

- [Prof. Dr. Christian Brühwiler](#) (St.Gallen University of Teacher Education, conference management, chair)
- [Dr. Catherine Ferris](#) (St.Gallen University of Teacher Education, conference management)
- [Prof. Dr. Antje Barabusch](#) (Swiss Federal University for Vocational Education and Training, board member SSRE)
- [Prof. Dr. Horst Biedermann](#) (St.Gallen University of Teacher Education)
- [Dr. Rolf Bossart](#) (St. Gallen University of Teacher Education, board member SGL)
- [Prof. Dr. Colin Cramer](#) (University of Teacher Education Thurgau)
- [Prof. Dr. Anne Frey](#) (University College of Teacher Education Vorarlberg)
- [Prof. Dr. Anja Gebhardt](#) (St. Gallen University of Teacher Education)
- [Prof. Dr. Sibylle Minder Hochreutener](#) (Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences)
- [Prof. Dr. Alain Pache](#) (University of Teacher Education Vaud)
- [Dr. Wolfgang Sahlfeld](#) (University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland)
- [Prof. Dr. Sabine Seufert](#) (University of St.Gallen)
- [Prof. Dr. Franziska Vogt](#) (St. Gallen University of Teacher Education)

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