



The Society for the Study of Human Development announces
the SSHD 2021-22 Conference Series

Macrosystem Challenges to Lifespan Human Development:
Advancing Conceptualizations, Methodologies, and Strategic Responses

Individuals' developmental trajectories and outcomes are affected by personal characteristics, behaviors, and experiences. These individual qualities do not emerge in isolation, however. They are co-created as part of a dynamic system which involves the distal, overarching macrosystem, described by Bronfenbrenner (1994) as "a societal blueprint for a particular culture or subculture [*including*] belief systems, bodies of knowledge, material resources, customs, life-styles, opportunity structures, hazards, and life course options." Macrosystems provide context for development, and do so differently across history, lifespans, and social groups.

Our contemporary macrosystem seems especially replete with threats. Some (like COVID) are newly emerging; others (like racism and environmental injustice) are long-standing, but increasingly visible to greater swaths of humankind. The theme of the SSHD 2021-22 Conference Series is designed to share and encourage scholarship that advances conceptualizations of macrosystem challenges; the methodologies that may be used to study them (e.g., new methods for data collection, analysis, or communication); or strategies that may be used to respond to such challenges (e.g., societal interventions, policies, or personal practices aimed at eliminating, reducing, or at least sidestepping negative consequences of a macrosystem threat).

The Conference Series will be held on **Zoom**. Events in the **invited program** will address some aspect of the macrosystem theme. **Submitted papers, posters, and symposia** may relate to the theme or to the more general [mission of SSHD](#) which promotes the study of human development:

- from a **lifespan** perspective,
- with an emphasis on **diversity** of people and contexts,
- using a variety of **disciplines**,
- employing **mixed methods**, and
- linking **theory and practice**.

We are especially interested in receiving conference submissions that support our commitment to [Emerging Scholars](#) and the [SSHD Diversity Science Initiative](#).

Detailed information about dates, programs, and submission procedures for the SSHD 2021-22 Conference Series will be posted by **June 15th** on the [conference page](#) of the [SSHD website](#). Submissions will be due **September 15th**. Program decisions will be sent by **September 30th**. Conference events will be held **online** beginning in November, and will be **FREE FOR SSHD MEMBERS** ([click to join or renew](#)).