FAQs about the Social Research Social Justice Conference (SRSJ)

Q. How did the SRSJ Conference begin?

A. SRSJ began in 2003 as collaboration between faculty and students in the Department of Media and Communication at Muhlenberg College, with the goal to create a forum outside of their classes to discuss issues of social justice in a democratic society. The Conference continues to foster this initial vision, with a strong and consistent faculty, student and community representation from across the Lehigh Valley region.

Q. What types of student projects are typically presented at the conference?

A. Students projects represent a range of social science and humanities disciplines including sociology, media and communication, education, history, women’s studies, public health, American studies, political science, art, theater, psychology, international studies, environmental science and sustainability, and religion. To get an overview of the range of topics, visit our archives for past programs. We encourage submission of varying forms and types of projects including unique research papers, digital media stories, posters, roundtables, performances, and artistic works.

Q. How do I apply to participate in the SRSJ Conference?

A. To participate in the SRSJ Conference you must submit a proposal, which includes your title, institutional affiliation, faculty mentor, email address, title of the work to be presented, and 250-word abstract of your project. The SRSJ Call for Papers offers all pertinent information about the application process.

Q. The SRSJ Call for Papers asks that students identify a faculty mentor. What is the role of the faculty mentor?

A. The faculty mentor provides tutelage to students through the application and conference preparation process. S/he may oversee edits and revisions to the paper that will be presented, offer suggestions on the organization of a PowerPoint presentation or dance performance, give students guidance on the nature and organization of academic conferences, and/or provide expectations of professionalism.

Q. What should I do after I submit my proposal?

A. After you have submitted your proposal, your first step is to save the date of the conference. Once your proposal is accepted, it is expected that you will attend the conference, at least the panel to which you have been assigned, if not the entire conference.
**Q. When will the conference program be available?**

A. We offer students a preliminary program along with their acceptance letter to the conference by mid-March. The programs feature details on all conference events, including the plenary event and panel discussions (i.e. times, room locations, student participants and titles of their presentations, moderators).

**Q. What is the organization of the panels?**

A. Student projects are organized into panels according to common themes, with three or four student presenters per panel. Students will have approximately 10-12 minutes (up to 15 minutes if a three-student panel) to present their project, with time remaining at the end of presentations for a question and answer session.

**Q. What is the role of the moderator for research sessions and roundtables?**

A. The moderator has a three-fold role, introducing the panel and panelists, making sure that student presentations do not exceed the allotted time in the research sessions, and facilitating the question and answer session. The moderator should be prepared to offer connections from across the panel, ask questions to engage conversations, and facilitate the questions and answers. Moderators are selected for specific panels based on their professional expertise and interests.

**Q. Where is this year’s SRSJ Conference being held?**

A. SRSJ Conference is being held at Muhlenberg College in Moyer Hall. The program provides specific room numbers for each panel discussion. Below is a map of the College showing where Moyer Hall is located.

http://www.muhlenberg.edu/muhinfo/map.html

**Q. How do I get to Muhlenberg College?**

A. Muhlenberg College is located in West Allentown, and is easily accessible from Route 22. Below are car directions to the College.

http://www.muhlenberg.edu/main/aboutus/tour/directions.html

**Q. Where do I park at Muhlenberg College?**

A. Most of the parking lots at Muhlenberg College require a parking permit. There is ample street parking around the College where you may park your car. We recommend parking on Chew Street in the front of the College or on 23rd street, in between Chew and Liberty Streets.
Q. What type of technology is available in the classrooms?

A. All classrooms are equipped with “technology walls” featuring a computer (Windows 2000, CD-ROM, internet), laptop connection, VCR and/or DVD, TV tuner, and Document Camera/Overhead. The media is projected to a large screen from an LCD projector. The attached PDF file profiles a detailed list of equipment available in each room. We recommend that you bring an electronic copy of your presentation on a jump drive for use on the classroom computer. If you want to bring your own laptop, please make sure you have any needed adapter.


Q. How should I prepare for the technology needs of my presentation?

A. It is always a good idea to have a back up plan by printing out your presentation, emailing to yourself, and/or knowing your material well enough to speak extemporaneously. We also encourage you to arrive early (approximately 15 minutes) to set up technology for your presentation.

Q. What is the dress style for the conference?

A. We encourage you to dress in professional attire, which may include a suit, shirt/tie, dress, skirt, chinos or slacks.

Q. Is there a registration fee to participate or attend the conference?

A. There is no registration fee to attend the conference, but you are strongly encouraged to register in the lobby of Moyer Hall. Only registered participants will receive a name badge, which serves as a meal “ticket” for our continental breakfast and buffet lunch. Conference panelists will automatically be registered for the conference.

Q. Will food be available at the conference?

A. There is a continental breakfast and buffet lunch available to registered attendees, in Moyer Hall. There are also dining facilities available at the Seegers Union for all guests of the College at your own expense, including the Ilene and Robert Woods Dining Commons, Generals Quarters Food Court, Sandellas, Freshens, Java Joe Coffee Kiosk, and Cyclone Salads. See link below for hours and menus.

http://www.muhlenberg.edu/dining/locations.html
**Q.** What if I cannot stay for the entire conference?

A. We encourage participants to attend all Conference events and panel discussions, to learn from your colleagues from across the Lehigh Valley. You may attend selected panels and events as your schedule allows. We ask that you do your best to arrive to each panel discussion on time, and to remain there for the duration of the panel discussion.

**Q.** Who is sponsoring the SRSJ Conference?

A. SRSJ is sponsored by the Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges (LVAIC), the Department of Media and Communication at Muhlenberg College, the RJ Fellows Program, the Rita and Joe Scheller Endowed Chair Fund, and the Dean of the College for Academic Life.

**Q.** What is the 2012 plenary event for SRSJ?

A. This year’s plenary event is a talk by documentary filmmaker Mike Graziano about his film *Lunch Line* and a reception following, on Thursday, April 12 at 7 PM in Moyer Hall, Miller Forum. *Lunch Line* examines the challenges and possibilities of the national school lunch program by following six children from their school cafeteria in Chicago to the White House. *Lunch Line* will screen in full on Wednesday April 11 at 7 PM in Trumbower 130 followed by a discussion with Graziano, and preceded by a short documentary by Lehigh Valley high school students entitled “Inspiring Teachers to Inspire Us.”