

Call For 2027 SSAR Symposium Proposals

Thematic symposia at the SSAR Annual Meeting allow researchers to come together to present the latest research in an important or emerging line of research. Often, symposia result in proceedings and books. Symposia benefit SSAR by fostering interactions with the symposium participants, highlighting areas for further study, and informing us of the history and current state of the field.

SSAR will monetarily sponsor one symposium with funding of \$2000. We encourage organizers to consider publication of their symposium as an edited volume. Proposers who anticipate publication of their symposium proceedings should highlight this in the proposal and encourage presenters to prepare draft manuscripts prior to the meetings. The following guidelines are to be followed for a full or half-day symposium proposal.

Proposal Guidelines:

1. Three-page limit.
2. Symposium Title (or Topic).
3. Names and affiliations of the symposium organizers (phone number and e-mail address).
4. Description of the symposium, emphasizing scientific merit and novelty.
5. List of identified and potential speakers and titles.
 - a. Proposals with documented commitments from named speakers are likely to be more favorably reviewed.
 - b. Organizers are encouraged by the SSAR Board and will preferentially support proposals that include students, post-docs, and international presenters as speakers.
6. Description of how the symposium will broaden participation of people from a variety of backgrounds, who can bring new ideas to SSAR, especially if it includes people who wouldn't otherwise attend the conference. This goal can be achieved in one or more ways, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Highlighting topics related to fields of study seldom at an SSAR conference.
 - b. Striving to include presenters that are representative of SSAR's membership body, including speakers who may be new to SSAR or from/pursuing atypical career paths.
 - c. Offering supplemental activities related to mentorship, local outreach events (must be coordinated with the local committee), etc.
7. How will hosting this symposium benefit SSAR and its members?
8. Type and Length of symposium: SSAR (full day or half-day mini-symposium).
9. Anticipated outcomes: For example, news releases, outreach products, NSF proposals, publication in edited volumes. What arrangements have been made to realize these outcomes?
10. Budget: SSAR funding requested (max. \$2,000); a detailed budget description with justification (preferentially to support students, post-docs, international researchers) *; other funding sources and in-kind support if available - organizers are encouraged to apply for additional external funding (e.g., NSF) for additional support, including student support. Work-related social events that support the symposium can be proposed if they are open to a broad audience.

PROPOSALS DUE TO THE SSAR COORDINATOR by **15 March 2026**. (PDF format)

Gregory J. Watkins-Colwell, gregory.watkins-colwell@yale.edu

SSAR Symposium Proposal Review Process:

1. Proposals received will be sent for external review, and comments forwarded to the Local Committee and SSAR Board.

Reviewers are asked to address the following criteria:

- i. Relevance of the symposium to SSAR.*

- ii. The breadth of the topics covered and potential speakers.*
 - *Should a topic or someone be included that is not already listed?*
 - *Have the organizers provided evidence of an effort to recruit a diverse set of speakers?*
 - iii. Do the topics represent active science of good quality?*
 - iv. Would this symposium be of general interest with the ability to attract a broad audience?*
 - 2. Proposals will be discussed by the SSAR Board and the Local Committee.
 - 3. Decisions on SSAR symposium proposals will be made by vote of the SSAR Board, Symposium Coordinator, and the local committee based on all reviews received and comments made.

**Symposium organizers and participants for the SSAR monetarily sponsored symposia will be reimbursed for allowable expenses based on receipts submitted to the SSAR Treasurer that match the budget in the proposal. Requests for changes to the budget must be submitted 10 business days before the date of the symposium.*