



SSEA December 2023 Newsletter

News

Holiday Message from the President

President's Message

Dear SSEA Community, Colleagues, Friends,

I hope this message finds you well and in good health, and that you are continuing to pursue knowledge in all its forms. As we approach the festive season and the end of 2023, I am excited to reflect on the progress we have made in the last six months. The leadership team, governing council, and appointed committee chairs have worked hard to drive our society forward. I am deeply grateful for everyone's dedication to our society.

We have achieved some important milestones on which I would like to update you. We had our first in-person conference in San Diego this year in June (co-chaired by Meredith Hope and Alan Meca) and we have launched our new website. Abby Goldstein and Lisa Gaudette did a fantastic job in getting our new website up and running. Carolyn Barry, our new president-elect, has been doing exceptional work with the Topic Networks. Elizabeth Morgan is working on strengthening the bonds between us and our sister society, the International Society for Research on Identity (ISRI).

The leadership is excited to welcome new governing council members, Luzelle Naude, Daysi Diaz-Strong, Deeya Mitra, and Selma Ndatimpililwa Uugwanga, whose expertise will be invaluable to our organization. We are also working towards actively strengthening ties between our governing council and appointed committees. Our new Mentorship program, chaired by Deeya Mitra, is contributing to the development of our emerging scholars in a more structured way. Our webinars/events committee, chaired by Melissa Fenton, is engaging members with thought-provoking discussions on emerging adult themes from all around the world. Together with Communications, chaired by Robert Teese, and Membership, chaired by Juan Zhong, our appointed committees are continuously seeking for opportunities to create a more engaging member experience. Therefore, we would like to encourage you to

reach out to the leadership with any ideas and suggestions on how we might accomplish this.

The last half-year was also a year of crises at a global level. We acknowledge the impact that catastrophes and war have on the lives of many of our members and the emerging adults with whom we work, and we hope for healing and peace on all sides of this conflict. We hold room for the possibility that our scientific endeavors help promote a deeper shared understanding, support for one another, and wellbeing.

As we look toward the new year, we're more committed than ever to advancing knowledge, fostering inclusivity, and promoting excellence. We want to make our society more inclusive, engaging, and accessible.

I would like to end by referring you to our upcoming conference in Charleston, South Carolina. Julia Passini (chair), Itzel Eguliz (co-chair), and the conference program committee are excited to offer a diverse and enriching program that fosters collaboration and intellectual exchange. I want to express my deepest gratitude to all our members for their support. Your contributions make our community vibrant and our societal impact meaningful.

Sincerely,

Byron G. Adams, SSEA President



Have you seen our new website yet?

SSEA

http://



WEBSITE LAUNCH

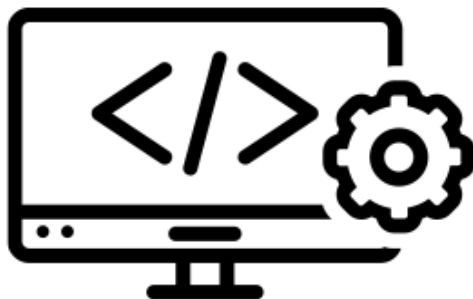
Dear SSEA Community,

We are thrilled to share some exciting news with you — the launch of our brand-new website!

After months of planning and hard work, we are excited to present a more user-friendly and secure platform for SSEA members. All membership renewals will now go through our new website. For current members, logging into the **member portal** will provide personalized access to exclusive member content, including information and communication from your Topic Networks.

We invite you to explore the new website at www.ssea.org. Your feedback is invaluable to us, so please don't hesitate to share your thoughts and suggestions.

EXPLORE NOW



Conference Updates

SAVE THE DATE

SSEA 2025

12th Biennial Conference

June 4-6, 2025 Charleston, South Carolina

Topic Network Updates

Open Calls for Members to Join Different Topic Network and Committees

As we grow as a society, we are looking for members from diverse and international backgrounds to help us become more engaging, inclusive and accessible and sustain these values through active participation:

Why Join Us?

- **Make a Difference:** Your efforts will directly contribute to the success and growth of our society. Be a part of something meaningful.
- **Flex Your Skills:** Whether you're a social media expert or a social butterfly, there's a spot for your unique talents to shine.
- **Connect with Cool People:** Join a team of like-minded individuals who are passionate about emerging adults and making and sustaining our positive impact.

How to Apply:

Have a look at one of the calls below and if you think they might be right for, send an email to LGaudette@clarku.edu with the subject line "SSEA Newsletter - [Position of Interest]."

Tell us a bit about yourself and why you're interested.

Appointed Committee Open Call

The SSEA is looking for some awesome folks to join one or more of our Appointed Committees. We seek to create stronger connections between our committees as we service our society. Therefore we would like to invite members to consider

Open Positions:

- **Mentorship:** Help emerging scholars develop by structuring and formalizing the new mentorship program with Deeya Mitra and Selma Ndatimpililwa Uugwanga
- **Communications:** Help steer our communication ship and keep everyone in the loop about the amazing things happening at SSEA through X (formally twitter), Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram with Robert Teese and Dalal Katsiaficas
- **Webinars/Events:** Help create experiences that our members won't forget through webinars and online events Melissa Fenton and Daysi Diaz-Strong.
- **Membership:** Help us grow our community and make sure everyone feels at home with Juan Zhong and Luzelle Naude.
- **Conference Committee:** Help shape our flagship event and make our

Let's make SSEA even more awesome together!

Emerging Scholar Topic Network

Co-Chairs Open Call

The SSEA is looking for **two to three** enthusiastic members to serve as co-chairs for the Emerging Scholar Topic Network, to serve with the existing co-chairs Deeya Mitra, Selma Ndatimpililwa Uugwanga, and Melissa Fenton (outgoing) to facilitate different activities within the Topic Network based on the needs of emerging scholars.

As one of the flagship and most engaging Topic Networks in our society, new co-chair will be:

- Working collaboratively to conceptualise and create new activities, tools, or other programs to facilitate emerging scholar networking and skill development.
- Planning and support for programs and events.
- Specific roles matched to skillsets and interests, such as communications, such as communications and website updates.

We are excited that within our roles as co-chairs, we will have the chance to develop the leadership skills of emerging scholars.

The ESTN will offer a few exciting and informative events where members are welcome to participate and attend!

- February - Panel Discussion: Overcoming Perfectionism in Academia
- April - Panel Discussion: Resilience in Academia
- May - Emerging Scholar TN: Work in progress: Registration required.

Panel Discussions are open to all membership attendance. Participation in the ESTN Work-in-Progress will require registration and further details will be shared in the coming months.

Feel free to let us know any events/socials you would like to have from the ESTN by emailing us at emergingscholar.ssea@gmail.com

Webinars/Event Committee

In fall 2023, SSEA began hosting monthly webinars exploring different research areas in emerging adulthood.

In October, Dr. Elizabeth Morgan presented an overview and update on her 2013 article in the journal *Emerging Adulthood* that described contemporary issues in sexual identity in emerging adulthood.

You can watch a recording of the webinar here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i55dJpFEYsM> on the SSEA YouTube Channel: @SSEA-youtube.

In November, Emma Kirwan presented her research exploring emerging adults' experiences and views of loneliness. Her slides can be sent to members upon request and will be shared on the website. We are planning webinars for Spring 2024 and welcome suggestions for topics and presenters representing the diversity in SSEA. If you have suggestions, please share them with Melissa Fenton at melissa.fenton@colostate.edu. We hope you can join us for more learning and conversation in 2024!

Here is a link to the SSEA YouTube Page for links to all recorded content:
<https://www.ssea.org/ssea-youtube/>

Thank you for your continued support,

Melissa

Mentorship Program

In March 2023, we launched the SSEA Mentorship Program, an initiative aimed at fostering a community of scholars. Our goal is to facilitate connections among graduate students, early career scholars, international scholars, and seasoned members of the organization. This program serves as a platform for professional development and structured guidance, with unwavering support from the SSEA Governing Council.

Notably, the Mentorship Program opens avenues for researchers keen on engaging in international collaborations, particularly in the realm of working with the emerging adult population globally. Over the past year, we've hosted monthly virtual panels and coffee session check-ins. These panels delved into topics such as mentoring in academia, navigating the challenges of academic life, preparing for the competitive job market, and an upcoming panel on December 7th centered around achieving work-life balance in the academic sphere.

Furthermore, our members had the opportunity to come together during a Mentorship Social at the 11CEA in San Diego, solidifying the sense of community and collaboration. We have a series of virtual panels and coffee sessions coming up in 2024.

Please email us at mentorship.ssea@gmail.com if you would like to join the mentorship program.

Best,
Deeya Mitra & Selma Ndatimpililwa Uugwanga



Member Spotlight

Conference Chair for Charleston, South Carolina 2025: Julia Sorensen Passini, Ph.D.



I received my Ph.D. in lifespan developmental psychology from North Carolina State University in 2023. My dissertation examined identity distress in graduate student emerging adults and compared it to a community sample of the same age who did not pursue graduate school.

Identity formation is a personal passion of mine because it's the root of a person. Even being asked to write this spotlight made me think about the plethora of research behind the question, "Who are you?" How do you choose to describe yourself to a new person? What qualities shine on the surface? And how closely does that align with how you really feel? Identity and emerging adulthood go hand-in-hand.

Namely, I describe myself as a researcher, a writer, a friend, and an emerging adult. With these building blocks of my own sense of self, I am honored and excited to act as co-chair for the upcoming Conference of Emerging Adulthood in Charleston, South Carolina, in June 2025.

Together with the conference committee, our goal is for everyone to feel like themselves and meet like-minded researchers. We plan to continue promoting a sense of belonging by creating opportunities for both emerging and established researchers to connect with each other.

Personally, I want this conference to be memorable and engaging, and with an excellent committee, we will do our best for that to happen. Feel free to let us know if you have any ideas about how we might do this, and we look forward to seeing all of you in Charleston in 2025!

Julia

Journal Updates

emergingADULTHOOD

Special Issue Call for Papers:

Social Media Use and Biopsychosocial Adjustment during Emerging Adulthood

Social media use is central to the everyday life of contemporary emerging adults. Many studies have shown that social media use is linked to biopsychosocial adjustment, with frequent use being linked to indicators of maladjustment. However, social media use may be associated with positive adjustment as well. Notably, the underlying mechanisms involved in the relationship between social media use and biopsychosocial adjustment during emerging adulthood remain unclear. Moderators involved in this relationship also have not been thoroughly considered.

Given the omnipresent role of social media use in the lives of emerging adults, Emerging Adulthood is devoting a special issue focusing on the relationship between social media use and biopsychosocial adjustment during emerging adulthood. Manuscripts may address a wide variety of indicators of biopsychosocial adjustment (e.g., psychological, interpersonal, physical health, financial). Papers examining mediators and/or moderators involved in this relationship are especially welcome.

All manuscripts must focus on the emerging adult developmental period (ages 18-29) and adopt a developmental perspective. Studies may use quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-

methods approaches. Studies using novel research methods and/or advanced statistical techniques are preferred.

Manuscripts should be submitted online at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ead> as either an empirical article (40 page limit) or a brief report (15 page limit), and should be prepared according to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Seventh Edition. In the cover letter, make sure to state that the manuscript is being submitted for the Social Media Use Special Issue, and in the submission portal, select the Social Media Use Special Issue option.

For additional information, refer to the journal's submission guidelines at <https://journals.sagepub.com/author-instructions/EAX> or contact Christine McCauley Ohannessian at christine.ohannessian@gmail.com.

The submission deadline is March 1, 2024 (although earlier submission is encouraged). Manuscripts submitted for this special issue will undergo the standard peer review process. Of note, submitting authors may be asked to serve as reviewers for this special issue.

Call for Submission to the Journal of Emerging Adulthood:

Our flagship journal is looking for fresh insights in a few key areas; researchers with a specific focus in the following areas are encouraged to submit their manuscripts for consideration in the journal.

1. Substance use and abuse
2. Behavioral health - depression, anxiety, ADHD, etc.
3. Sexuality and related issues, LGBTQ+
4. Career plans and related issues
5. Social media use

Apart from these themes, the journal welcomes themes in any area of emerging adulthood.

<https://journals.sagepub.com/home/eax>

SSEA Membership

Join the SSEA

SSEA membership is open to researchers, students, educators, policy makers, and practitioners interested in development during this period of life. Members contribute to building SSEA, a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the understanding of development in emerging adulthood (ages 18-29) through scholarship, education, training, policy, and practice. To join SSEA, visit the membership section on our webpage - <https://www.ssea.org/membership/>



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