

Brabazon Award for Evaluation Research
2019 Global Intergenerational Conference
Submission Deadline: February 22, 2019

Rationale for the Award

The intergenerational field has grown over the last many years, with programs growing far more quickly than the volume of quality research and evaluation. Several researchers have identified the shortage of evaluation and research data related to the processes and outcomes of intergenerational programs as an important issue to address. The Brabazon Award for Evaluation Research was developed to encourage all types of programs to explore and document the nature of the intergenerational dynamics that occur within them, and/or report on their measurable impacts.

For a field to develop fully, it needs to document what it has to offer society. In order to persuade policy makers that governments at all levels should invest in intergenerational approaches to public issues, they need to be convinced that the benefits are greater than those offered by alternative approaches. All submitted papers for this award will be considered for the *Evaluation Research Repository on Intergenerational Programs*, a repository available on the Generations United website. Studies collected together in this way should provide an important resource for researchers and policy makers; evaluation studies and research in general are often important foundations for policy development.

Policies regarding elders and their potentially valuable social roles are becoming more important with the increasing retirement of baby boomers and the growing impact of population aging. All that can be done to help provide a rational basis for the development of social policy in this area should be explored. Evaluation research of intergenerational programs will be one of the areas that will yield important results in the years ahead.

This award for evaluation research seeks to encourage existing intergenerational programs to document what is happening in their programs (processes) as well as the impacts found on participants and others. The wide range of existing programs offers a great but largely untapped resource. It is hoped that the award, combined with some encouragement to use supportive assistance from graduate programs at universities, and to build data collection into the structures of initial program development, will persuade program directors and staff that evaluations are both doable and affordable (and may help with their own fund raising efforts).

Criteria & Guidelines

- Evaluations of all types of intergenerational programs will be considered for the award;
- Evaluations must be completed during the three years prior to the award submission;
- The format of submissions was developed using standard research paper approaches, and will be used in the evaluation of submissions by the Evaluation Research Award Review Committee;
- The guidelines for the *Journal of Intergenerational Relationships* have been used in establishing the recommended length for submissions;
- Submissions can be published papers, papers submitted for publication, or papers not (yet) submitted for publication;
- If the award winning paper is one that has not yet been submitted for publication, it is expected that the paper will be submitted to a peer reviewed journal for publication;
- All papers will be reviewed anonymously by the Evaluation Research Award Review Committee;
- The award recipient will receive a check for \$2000 following the conference, will be expected to attend the conference and will have their paper added to the *Evaluation Research Repository on Intergenerational Programs* on the Generations United website;
- The Review Committee reserves the right not to present an award in any given year;
- All papers must be submitted by **February 22, 2019** by email to Emily Patrick (epatrick@gu.org) in Microsoft Word or PDF format. In addition to the paper, in the email, please include: your name, organization, address, email address, and phone number.

Brabazon Award for Evaluation Research Submission Format

Length

Using the standards of the *Journal for Intergenerational Relationships*, evaluation studies should be approximately 5,000 words, excluding the abstract and references.

Structure of Paper

1. Description of Program

Provide a one or two paragraph description of the program – relevant goals, outcomes and practices.

2. Abstract

Provide a brief summary of the paper, research methods and key findings.

3. Literature Review

A brief review of the intergenerational field and key literature that relates to your research question(s).

4. Research Question or Hypotheses

The research question can be linked to a specific hypothesis (e.g.: At-risk high school students who provide intergenerational services to older adults improve their attendance at school) or it can reflect a grounded (exploratory) research approach (e.g.: The research was designed to identify some of the challenges faced by low income rural families that are providing care for elderly relatives at home)."

5. Methods

Describe the research methods used in the evaluation. For example:

Quantitative: e.g., pre- and post-test with (or without) comparison group

Qualitative: e.g., ethnography, participatory action research, grounded theory

6. Data Collection and Description

Include information on measures used, sampling strategy (if applicable), and data collection methods (such as program record/document review, formal/informal interviews, participant observation, questionnaires, etc.).

7. Analysis

Methods used for analyzing data, such as two sample hypothesis testing, one way analysis of variance, regression analysis, content analysis, etc. Should we add some qualitative data analysis examples here?

8. Findings

Identify any findings of the study that relate to the research question(s) and specific hypotheses. Discuss and interpret the findings.

9. Limitations of Study

Discuss any strengths or weaknesses of the study, e.g., how might not having a comparison/control group affect the validity of your results?

10. Conclusions

Discuss the implications of your study for: theory or knowledge; policy or practice; and further research.