

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

### **1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Ikeda/Soka Studies in Education**

*Uniting, Defining, and Advancing the Field: Perspectives, Practices and Possibilities*

August 9-11, 2018

DePaul University / Chicago, Illinois (USA)

The DePaul University Institute for Daisaku Ikeda Studies in Education is pleased to host the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Ikeda/Soka Studies in Education. As research and praxis in the field of Ikeda/Soka Studies in Education has grown rapidly worldwide, an international forum is increasingly necessary for established and emerging scholars to gather, substantively discuss the current state of, and actively and collaboratively unite, characterize, define, and advance scholarship in, the field.

Concerned with such topics as value-creating pedagogy, value-creating education, human(istic) education, Soka Education, global citizenship education, communities studies, human geography, human rights and peace education, values and value creation, dialogue, creativity, sustainability, interdependence and creative coexistence, people movements, intersections of religion/Buddhism and education, deductive reasoning, language and literacies education, academic achievement, knowledge and wisdom, and profound student-teacher relationships for social self-actualization and a meaningful and contributive life, the field of Ikeda/Soka Studies in Education coheres around historical, conceptual and empirical scholarship on the philosophies and practices of Japanese educators Daisaku Ikeda, Josei Toda, and Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, and the Soka/*sōka*, or “value-creating,” approaches they have enacted and inspired worldwide.

These philosophies and practices undergird the Soka kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, women’s college, and universities in seven countries across Asia and the Americas; inform non-Soka public and private schools and universities in various countries; and shape the practices and perspectives of thousands of educators and school leaders in diverse multicultural and multilingual contexts. Concomitantly, the past decade in particular has witnessed dazzling developments in the field of Ikeda/Soka Studies in Education, including: the establishment of numerous university-affiliated research initiatives and institutes, courses and degree programs, and local symposia and conferences; the publication of award-winning books, chapters, journal articles and special issues, doctoral dissertations, and new translations; and juried presentations, panels, and pre-conference sessions at annual meetings of (inter)national professional organizations, such as the American Educational Research Association (AERA), Comparative and International Education Society (CIES), the American Educational Studies Association (AESA), and others.

This 1<sup>st</sup> international conference, then, seeks to acknowledge and dialogically unite the important scholarship and praxis happening in local contexts, often by junior faculty and doctoral candidates who are geographically dispersed and working individually and/or in linguistic isolation. It is envisioned as an opportunity to examine both the intrinsic and extrinsic dimensions of Ikeda/Soka Studies in Education. By “intrinsic” we mean the historical and primary texts by Makiguchi, Toda, and Ikeda in Japanese and in the contexts in which they were written; by “extrinsic” we mean these texts and their ideas in translation and application in various contexts and disciplines. As the field emerges

as a foundation for teacher preparation and practice, and as a means of ameliorating increasingly complex and intersecting crises at local and global levels, Ikeda/Soka Studies in Education must recognize and articulate its nuanced and comparative particularities and uniqueness and reckon with conceptual and terminological assumptions, generalizations, and gaps that predispose it to critiques of “being everything and thus nothing.” It must maintain fidelity to its intrinsic dimensions while exploring extrinsic possibilities that are relevant to current and future demands and needs in education and human becoming worldwide.

In short, this inaugural conference provides a space for international scholars and professionals involved in Ikeda/Soka Studies in Education to present their work and engage in dialogue with others in the field. The conference will feature invited keynote presentations by leading scholars as well as submitted individual paper and panel presentations. We seek scholarly submissions on theory, empirical research, and text-based praxis of Ikeda/Soka Studies in Education in various contexts. These may include, but are not limited to, the conference theme and the above-mentioned topics.

### **Proposal Guidelines**

We invite two types of proposals: Individual Papers and Panels (3-4 individual presentations thematically grouped together). Each presentation, whether individual or included in a panel, will be limited to 18 minutes.

For *Individual Papers*, please include:

- Title of the presentation (13-word limit)
- Name and institutional affiliation of the presenter(s)
- 300-500-word Summary of the presentation (addressing key aspects of theoretical frames and/or arguments, primary/secondary literature used, research design and methods, findings and implications)
- Full references [APA or Chicago Manual Style]

For *Panels*, please include:

- Title (13-word limit) and 75-100-word Abstract of the Panel
- Title (13-word limit) and 300-500-word Summary of each presentation in the panel (addressing key aspects of theoretical frames and/or arguments, primary/secondary literature used, research design and methods, findings and implications)
- Name and institutional affiliation of respective presenters
- Full references [APA or Chicago Manual Style]

### **Submission Process and Timeline**

- Submit your proposal electronically to [IkedaInstitute@depaul.edu](mailto:IkedaInstitute@depaul.edu)
- Submission deadline is May 31, 2018
- Proposals are blind reviewed; notification of acceptance/rejection will be sent by mid-June
- Please send questions to [IkedaInstitute@depaul.edu](mailto:IkedaInstitute@depaul.edu)