

42nd Annual Conference Call for Submissions

Malibu, California
June 11-14, 2026

News from the SEPI Program Chair about the 2026
Annual Conference in Malibu, California

Conference Theme:

Connection Within, Between and Beyond



Call for Submissions

SEPI is an international, interdisciplinary organization of practitioners and scholars exploring the benefits of integrating ideas from multiple perspectives and promoting alternative ways of meeting the needs of our clients. SEPI also advances the integration of practice and research

The Society for the Exploration of Psychotherapy Integration (SEPI) invites submissions for the 42nd Annual Conference to be held at Pepperdine University in Malibu, California from Thursday, June 11 to Saturday, June 13, 2026. Pre-conference workshops will be held the morning of June 11. We are excited to work in partnership with beautiful Pepperdine University on the Pacific coast in Malibu.

Connection Within, Between and Beyond

Our proximity to pain and suffering, however skillfully held, can draw us into its depths. In order to take care of ourselves, it is imperative that we draw from the

restorative and regenerative benefits of connection, one of the most potent forces in health and healing. This conference is not only for the people we serve, but for ourselves too.

The theme for the SEPI 2026 conference, *Connection Within, Between and Beyond* recognizes the significant role that connection plays in the process of psychotherapy and other therapeutic modalities. We invite presenters to demonstrate how their work can be applied to both patients and practitioners. Jeffrey Kottler and Jon Carlson's book, *The Client Who Changed Me* (2005) illustrates the significant and often life changing ways in which therapists have been changed by their clients. This conference expands on their work and others by exploring the necessity of connection beyond the therapeutic relationship too. We welcome presentations that touch on the significant impact our work can have on us when we are also exposed to the reality of complex trauma, secondary trauma, vicarious trauma, survivor's guilt, prolonged grief, moral injury, etc...

The conference committee seeks to encourage submissions featuring many types of collaborative partnerships:

- **Connection across generations, communities, cultures and countries:** We welcome submissions that highlight cultural factors and feature presenters from different generations, communities, cultures and countries.
- **Connection across practitioners, academics and researchers:** We welcome submissions that feature and encourage active collaboration and provide opportunities for members from all areas of our field to learn from one another
- **Connection across disciplines:** We welcome submissions and presenters from disciplines beyond psychotherapy
- **Connection across theoretical orientations and treatment modalities:** We welcome submissions that focus on the integration of theory and practice from different orientations and modalities.
- **Connection across individual, dyadic and group modalities:** We welcome submissions for our work with individuals, couples and groups.

PROGRAM FORMAT

We encourage the participation of practitioners and scholars from all psychotherapy traditions and disciplines to attend our 2026 conference. The program will consist of **pre-conference workshops, panels, structured discussions, mini-workshops, individual papers, and posters**. There also will be plenary panels and the SEPI president's address.

We wish to underscore that:

- SEPI is particularly devoted to facilitating dialogue among participants. As such, all presentations as usual allocate ample time for audience participation and discussion. Consideration of this will be important to all submissions.
 - We encourage the use of videotaped sessions, verbatim transcriptions, demonstrations, case presentations, or other methods that ground the dialogue, clarify practical considerations, and demonstrate clinical application. Please be sure to secure client's informed consent for the ethical use of session material.
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TYPES OF PRESENTATIONS

PANELS/SYMPOSIA (75 minutes)

A panel/symposium is a formal presentation that ideally includes three (3) presenters and one (1) discussant, leaving time for audience participation. Each panel will/must have a moderator who will introduce the presenters and topics, monitor time allotments, and guide audience participation.

STRUCTURED DISCUSSIONS (75 minutes)

Please note that the moderator of a discussion group is responsible for confirming at least two other individuals' participation and for organizing all aspects of the presentation. Film, videotape, music, artwork, or other forms of media can also be used to stimulate discussion.

MINI-WORKSHOPS (75 minutes)

Mini-workshops are designed primarily for practitioner audiences and focus on skill development or experiential involvement. Preference will be given to workshops that include multiple presenters. A workshop "summary sheet" (overview of the topic) and handouts (if applicable) should be available to participants. A pointed focus is desirable due to the short nature of these workshops. **Only a limited number of mini-workshops will be possible during the conference.** Due to the fact that mini-workshops are the most competitive format, and the vast majority will not be accepted, we therefore **strongly** encourage anyone submitting a mini-workshop to consider submitting other types of presentations as well.

INDIVIDUAL PAPERS (15 minutes)

This category includes research, theoretical, and clinical papers that are not part of a panel/symposium. The program committee will form accepted papers into panels. However, we **strongly** recommend that instead of submitting individual papers, you try to create a panel yourself by seeking out other people doing similar work and recruiting a discussant. The likelihood of acceptance is higher for panels than for individual papers. For this purpose, you are encouraged to use the SEPI listserv or Facebook.

POSTERS

Posters are graphic representations of the results of studies or tools to help in decision-making. Interested attendees have one-on-one discussions with the presenter whose work is displayed. Poster dimensions should approximate 91 x 122 cm (or 36 x 48 inches). Many attendees appreciate receiving a handout that summarizes a poster's findings.

DEADLINES AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

LIMITS ON FIRST AUTHORSHIPS

There is a limit of two first-author presentations at the conference. A total number of presentations including other forms of participation, such as discussant, moderator, or second authorship, should not exceed five. All presenters will be subject to the usual registration fee for the conference.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS AND DEADLINE

The submission deadline is January 15, 2026 You will be submitting online through the SEPI Conference submission portal. Please go to the submission portal

<https://sepi.mymeetingsavvy.net> and follow the instructions.

The program committee will send notices of acceptance and a preliminary schedule for the program by February 15, 2026. This should allow you to make travel plans if needed in time. Please note, as always, SEPI members will receive a discounted rate on the conference registration fee.

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND ATTENDANCE

Certificates of attendance will be provided to all attendees and will be downloaded after the conclusion of the conference from our conference website. Continuing Education for psychologists will be provided by an APA-approved CE Sponsor. Only those who pre-register for CE and who pay the CE fee will be provided Continuing Education credits and certificates.

CONFERENCE LANGUAGE

Please note that presentations must be given in English. Please rest assured that perfect English is NOT a requirement; however, presentations must be understandable to English speakers.

REVIEW CRITERIA

All submissions are rated for rigor (scientific, clinical or theoretical), scope of coverage, relevance to psychotherapy integration, and consistency with the meeting theme. Mini-workshops are additionally rated for presenter qualifications and usefulness of the training objectives. Proposals must be sufficiently detailed to allow evaluation of these criteria.

TRAVEL AWARDS

Student travel stipends

Six student stipends not to exceed \$500 each are available to defray costs for students who are presenting at the conference in person. To qualify for a stipend, students must be the first author, present a paper in person during the Istanbul conference, and must be SEPI members. The submission portal provides an opportunity for students to indicate that they are interested in being considered for a travel stipend.

Paul L. Wachtel Travel Grants

Up to two travel grants not to exceed \$1000 each **are available to support travel to the conference by SEPI members and SEPI fellows**. Travel grants will only be given to those who are attending the conference in person. Please note that SEPI student members are not eligible for these grants. To apply, please go to the awards section of the SEPI website: <https://www.sepiweb.org/Wachtel-Grant>. The deadline to apply for the Paul Wachtel Travel Grant is February 15, 2026. Application form is posted on the website.

We hope to see you in Malibu in June 2026



Kristin Osborn
SEPI 2026 President and Program Chair

SEPI Program Committee

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