

Call For Papers - SMA 2026 Meeting
Tradewinds Resort, St. Pete Beach, FL
October 27-October 31, 2026 #SMA2026SPB
Program Chair: James Vardaman, University of Memphis (james.v@memphis.edu)

SMA invites submissions for its 2026 Annual Meeting. All submissions will be reviewed based on potential theoretical, empirical, and/or methodological contributions. Submissions may take the form of **papers, professional development sessions, or local engagement sessions**. All accepted submissions will be presented in person at the meeting. Please pay particular attention to the "Rule of 3 + 2" below, which applies to all submissions.

SUBMISSION AREAS AND TRACK CHAIRS

Track 1

Strategic Management

Track 1 seeks to understand firm performance by covering strategic decision-making processes, their antecedents/context, and their consequences.

Co-Chairs:

Chris Penney, University of North Texas
christopher.penney@unt.edu

Jihae You, University of Memphis
jyou1@memphis.edu

Track 2

Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Track 2 explores innovation and issues related to new ventures and family businesses.

Chair:

Jacob Waddingham, Texas State University
jwaddingham@txstate.edu

Track 3

Human Resources, Careers, and Development

Track 3 aims to understand the effectiveness of HR practices to facilitate organizational competitiveness and individual growth and performance.

Chair:

Jeff Haynie, Louisiana Tech University
jhaynie@latech.edu

Track 4

Organizational Behavior

Track 4 focuses on individuals and groups within an organizational context.

Co-Chairs:

Rachel Smith, Georgia Southern University
rachelsmith@georgiasouthern.edu

Cindy Maupin, University of Mississippi
ckmaupin@olemiss.edu

Track 5

Innovative Teaching and Research Methods*

Track 5 advances the application of appropriate research methods and seeks to improve teaching and learning through effective and innovative instructional methods.

Chair:

Lisa Brady, Southeastern Louisiana University
lisa.brady@selu.edu

Track 6

Ethics and Social Responsibility

Track 6 seeks to advance understanding of ethical behavior in organizations and the role of social responsibility.

Chair:

Jaime Williams, Tennessee Tech University
jaimewilliams@tntech.edu

Track 7

Organization Theory and Specific Interest Topics

Track 7 explores theories of the organization and contextually specific management topic areas.

Chair:

Victoria Antin Yates, Oklahoma State University
victoria.a.yates@okstate.edu

Track 8

Professional Development Institute**

Track 8 promotes the holistic professional and personal development of SMA members.

Chair:

Lex Washington, Oklahoma State University
lex.washington@okstate.edu

OUTSTANDING PAPER AND DOCTORAL STUDENT PAPER AWARDS

Outstanding Paper and Outstanding Doctoral Student Paper Awards will be given in each paper track. There will also be Overall Outstanding Paper and Outstanding Doctoral Student Paper Awards.

Doctoral student papers may have multiple authors, but the first author must be a doctoral student at the time of submission. SMA reserves the option to withhold awards in any category in the event there are no submissions of sufficient quality.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- All submissions must be made online no later than April 27, 2026 at 11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time at: <https://www.xcdsystem.com/sma/abstract/index.cfm?ID=G29UUKJ>.
- Only complete papers should be submitted. Incomplete or undeveloped papers will be returned without review. Submission of a paper obligates the authors on that paper to review for the track where they submitted.
- Authors are expected to abide by the SMA Code of Ethics, available at <https://tinyurl.com/smaethics>.
- Before entering SMA's blind review process, all submitted papers will be evaluated via electronic plagiarism software (self and others). Papers that do not pass this evaluation will be returned to the authors and will not be entered into the blind review process.
- Submitted papers must not have been previously presented or scheduled for presentation, nor published or accepted for publication. Submitted papers may be submitted to a journal (but not a conference) after the SMA submission deadline. Subsequent publication, with proper acknowledgement, is encouraged.
- If a paper is accepted, at least one author (for panel discussions, every author) must register and present the work at the conference. If at least one author of an accepted paper is not registered for the conference by October 6, 2026, the paper will be removed from the program.
- The maximum length of paper submissions is **25 pages of text, exclusive of notes, appendices, abstract, references, tables, and figures**. Manuscripts should be double-spaced with 1-inch margins on all four sides. The page setup should be for standard U.S. letter size (8.5 x 11 inches). Manuscripts should be prepared in Times New Roman font, size 12. Papers that exceed 25 pages of text will be returned without review.
- Paper format should follow the *Journal of Management's* Style Guide found at https://journals.sagepub.com/pb-assets/cmscontent/JOM/JOM_Style_Guide_revised_2017.pdf
Nonconforming submissions will be returned without review.
- Be sure to remove the paper title page before saving the document. Paper submissions will be blind reviewed; no author names or other identifying information should appear anywhere in the manuscript.
- The entire paper must be in a **single document**, typically created in Microsoft Word and then converted into an Adobe pdf file for final submission. Please right click on the final Adobe pdf file, go into "Properties," then "Additional metadata," and delete all author, title and paper metadata information (keyword information can be left in the document). Submitters also must remember to remove embedded or hidden comments, track changes, color changes, and highlighting unless appropriate and necessary for the submission. Panel discussions and PDI submissions can contain author information, as these are not blind-reviewed.

A sample of a correctly formatted paper can be found at <https://bit.ly/2kJsG4O>

- ***"Rule of 3 + 2"***: In order to ensure that all SMA members have an equitable opportunity to actively participate in SMA conferences, no one is allowed to be included as an author, presenter, or session facilitator on more than three submissions to the first seven paper tracks. This rule applies to all submissions at the submission deadline. In addition, SMA members are allowed to submit up to two Track 8 submissions. Track 8 submissions include SMA PDI, personal development, and local engagement sessions.

To summarize, when the "Rule of 3 + 2" is applied at the submission deadline, authors are allowed to be on up to three papers in the first seven paper tracks and be on up to two additional proposals where they are a panelist or presenter for Track 8 sessions, for a total of five sessions maximum.

***Innovative Teaching (Track 5)** - SMA sponsors a track that partially focuses on innovative teaching and management education to showcase best practices in pedagogy. Submissions to this track regarding innovative teaching pedagogies should describe a technique or curricular innovation and propose an engaging format for sharing the innovation in a 20-25 minute presentation. Track 5 teaching proposals have a 2,000-word limit, which excludes the abstract, figures, tables, references, and appendices. Other than the word limit, all Track 5 teaching proposals are subject to the same originality and formatting requirements as all other submissions.

Although all submissions appropriate for Track 5 will be considered, we particularly seek submissions that address the following two sub-themes:

1. Teaching innovation for the future workplace. Artificial intelligence is already changing how people work and creating economic value for the individual and organization. It is the forerunner of dramatic changes to the workplace and includes new strategies, concepts, and ideas that address adaptiveness to the automation of routine tasks, augmentation of human capabilities, remote work and collaboration, and transformation of job roles which will likely result in job displacement, skills gaps, and fundamental changes to how people relate to work. We are looking for proposals with new educational approaches that provide a robust toolkit of skills, strategies, and analytical frameworks for developing capabilities in students that encourage adaptiveness to the future workplace. Proposals should include new pedagogical models, new programs, or existing methodologies adapted to a new context (e.g., cases, experiential or service learning) that support student learning outcomes for the future workplace.
2. Teaching innovation for increasing student engagement in the classroom. Engagement is the degree of curiosity, passion, and commitment shown by students and leads them to learn more about the topics presented in class. We are looking for proposals that present novel techniques and tools (or old techniques/tools used in new ways) for engaging students in the management classroom. Examples of techniques include design thinking, critical thinking methods, or experiential learning. Tools might include cases, virtual reality headsets, or apps, among other possibilities. Proposals should include both a description of how engagement is being promoted (i.e., case study of a class) and an analysis of what works well and what can be improved.

Please contact Lisa Brady (lisa.brady@sela.edu) for more details or with any questions about Innovative Teaching submissions.

****Professional Development Institute (Track 8)** – The **Professional Development Institute** is a track specifically for the Professional and Personal development of SMA members. We appreciate that being an effective academic is more than teaching and research. Humans require growth, fulfillment, and a sense of purpose for their general well-being. In order to support this, SMA has instituted a framework

for sessions that support a holistic approach to individual growth. Track 8 is a semi-competitive track coordinated by the Incoming Program Chair. Some sessions that are included annually are:

- Faculty Consortium
- Administrator Workshop
- Innovative Teaching Consortium
- CARMA Sessions
- Volunteering with SMA
- Meet the Editors
- Academic Trivia
- Improv at SMA
- Local Engagement Opportunities

However, we are interested in other sessions that fit with the vision of supporting the development work and life satisfaction for our members. For example, sessions that discuss the dynamics of different stages and forms of an academic career, writing workshops, activity based or sporting events, and sessions that support physical, mental, and emotional health.

Some possible formats of sessions include:

- A *Professional Development Institute (PDI)* session is typically an expert session of relatively broad interest to the SMA membership. Examples of past sessions include research methodology workshops and panels, panels on transitioning into academic administration, and developmental offerings by the SMA Fellows.
- *Local engagement sessions* should be structured in two parts: (1) a SMA program session where a member of the local organization offers a practice-oriented talk, panel, or workshop on the organization and its relevance to the educational community, and (2) a site visit where SMA members travel to the organization (typically on the Saturday of the conference). Local engagement sessions should be multidimensional in nature, designed to stimulate interest with participants from research, teaching, and/or practice perspectives.
- A *Personal Development* session is a session of broad interest to the SMA membership which is oriented toward topics that are non-academic in scope. Examples of past sessions include yoga, networking events (e.g., Academic Trivia), a 5k run, and Improv.
- Professional Development Institute sessions are NOT blind reviewed and will be judged on overall quality, innovativeness, relevance and interest to SMA members, and potential contribution to SMA membership and the program.
- If a session is accepted, all participants must register and present their portion of the session at the conference.
- A Professional Development Institute submission must include:
 - A title page with the title of the session, the complete formal name and contact information for all participants, and an abstract (100 word maximum) identifying the major subject of the session.
 - A 3-5 page overview of the session. This page limit applies to the body of the text, notes, and appendices, but excludes any references, tables, or figures.

- An explanation of why the session would be of interest to the SMA membership and how it works to develop SMA members in some way. What growth do you expect to see from the people who attend your session?
- A list of any form of equipment, room set up, or special requirements (e.g., waivers) for the session.
- Nonconforming submissions will be returned without review. Preference is given to topics not discussed in the prior year's annual meeting.

Please contact Lex Washington (lex.washington@okstate.edu) for more details or with any questions about Innovative Teaching submissions.