



**Society for Social Work and Research**

## **CALL FOR BRIEF AND BRILLIANT SELF-NOMINATIONS**

*Interested in reaching a broader audience with your work?  
Invested in sharing your work with the public, decision makers, funders?  
Self-nominate to speak in SSWR's 11th Annual Brief & Brilliant Session.*

31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference  
January 20-24, 2027  
Hilton San Francisco Union Square  
San Francisco, CA, USA

**Submission Deadline:**

**Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 11:59 pm, Pacific Time**

**Abstract Submission Site**

**Site will be opening early March, 2026.**

SSWR is excited to welcome Brief & Brilliant self-nominations for the 2027 Annual Conference, Social Work Research at the Service of Democracy: Advancing Rigorous Inquiry for the Common Good, San Francisco, CA, January 20-24, 2027.

The Brief & Brilliant session is a TedX-style event held annually at the SSWR conference that showcases social work scholarly talent. Six scholars will be selected to each give a 10-minute lightning talk, highlighting an idea from their area of work that is particularly important, relevant or intriguing.

The Brief & Brilliant session aims to translate social work research in order to engage a broad audience and emphasize the public relevance of this work. The goal is to emphasize the main conclusions of a scholar's work (or the work of others in their area) rather than the methodological details behind it. Speakers will be provided with three training and support sessions (via video conference) where they will receive coaching to assist them in developing and refining their talk. The support sessions will prepare speakers to put aside their traditional academic slides of bulleted methods and, instead, create a talk that utilizes dynamic storytelling, photos, images, and media to engage their audience in understanding and connecting to their idea.

We are particularly interested in bold ideas related to this year's conference theme: "Social Work Research

at the Service of Democracy: Advancing Rigorous Inquiry for the Common Good.”

To submit, please see author instructions below. Please note the deadline is Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 11:59 pm, Pacific Time. Consider sending your colleagues interested in sharing their work in this innovative format this announcement and encouraging their self-nomination. Selected speakers will be notified in September 2026. Trainings will occur in November and December 2026 and talks will take place at SSWR in January 2027.

The Brief & Brilliant submission form includes the following questions.

- Please provide a tentative title for your presentation
- In a sentence or two, what do you hope to accomplish or convey through your scholarship generally? (150-word limit)
- Please describe potential ideas you are excited about sharing through the Brief & Brilliant format.
- What previous successes and challenges have you experienced in translating your work for broader (non-academic) audiences? (250-word limit)
- What do you hope to gain from the training and support component of the Brief & Brilliant Session, if selected?

Please forward this announcement to your colleagues. For questions, contact A. DeeJay Hastings, IOM, CAE, program director, [dj@sswr.org](mailto:dj@sswr.org), 703-352-7797, ext. 2.

We thank you for your continued support of SSWR! We hope to see you and your colleagues in San Francisco, CA!