Reviewing guidelines for ethnography network submissions

Clemens Wieser, Gisela Unterweger and Florian Weitkämper, 2026

The European Educational Research Association (EERA) provides general review criteria for ECER submissions to ensure a fair and consistent review process. These can be accessed on the EERA website: https://eera-ecer.de/ecer-annual-conference/submission-general/review-criteria-general

The ethnography network invites submissions that lie within this scope of educational ethnography, acknowledging that ethnographic research is built on diverse premises and traditions, which shape local institutional cultures of doing ethnography. Beyond this, we encourage submissions that focus on teaching ethnography, as well as submissions that discuss different ethnographic approaches, and their respective benefits and challenges. We also warmly invite submissions that focus on innovation in ethnographic methods, such as auto-ethnography, video ethnography, and virtual ethnography, as well as submissions that focus on ethnographic analysis.

Providing written feedback

Reviews should build on general ECER review criteria, and consider the following questions:
- Does the submission relate to educational ethnography in research focus and methods?
- Are the theoretical framework, method, findings, and implications set out clearly in a manner which is accessible to the international audience?
- Are the chosen ethnographic approaches and methods appropriately described and reflected upon in a transparent and reflexive manner?
- Does the submission take account of the European and/or international context?
- Does the submission help to develop a European dialogue, for example by referring to current European policies or intellectual, methodological, and educational traditions?

Reviewers are encouraged to address additional aspects that they find relevant. Please ensure that your review offers sufficient detail to help the author improve their work. As a rule of thumb, reviews should be around 100–250 words – long enough to offer meaningful, constructive feedback, but concise enough to remain focused and readable. Reviewer should include a brief summary of the submission and its main contributions, recognise strengths of the paper, highlight aspects that would benefit from further development or clarification, and provide concrete suggestions for improvement. To support a collegial and developmental review culture, we ask reviewers to align their written comments with three review principles:

(1) Be constructive: make direct references to the text and suggest concrete improvements.
(2) Be specific: remember to explain why you think something is good or bad, or why you suggest a specific change. Make sure the author knows what they should do.
(3) Be respectful: Write in a tone that is grounded in helping the author and not about putting them down.

Thank you for your engagement and your contribution to the ethnography network!