



AERA 2020 Annual Meeting Briefing and
Listening Session with Executive Felice Levine
and President Vanessa Siddle Walker

March 10, 2020

Vanessa Siddle Walker: -- folks coming in from everywhere, New Zealand and -- it's just crazy. It's just crazy. So, I'm just enjoying that so much.

And I want to tell all of you thank you for taking the time to come on -- 397 of you are already here. I think 500 actually registered to come on. That you would take the time out of your afternoon. We all have so much to do, and that you would take the time out of your afternoon, or morning -- because you guys are all over the world -- to take the time to come and be a part of this means so much to me. I know it means a great deal to Felice and staff and council as well. So I just want to say thank you.

I also want to take a moment and do a thanks to the leadership of AERA, your elected leadership. Council has just been amazing. Your executive board has just been amazing. I think we made the right decision. I'm quite confident that we made the right decisions, the only way to be both personally and professionally responsible to the people that are part of AERA.

So I feel really good about it. I'm really excited about it. And thanks to you all, and thanks to all of the people who are not on here, but who have been so enthusiastic in their response. Just really grateful for all of that.

So beyond the outpouring of support, let me welcome you for a moment to the new conference room in AERA's new Convention Center. If you saw some hasty background changes going on, that's because you all will actually be the first group of people to -- that I know of; Felice has probably done this more. But to come to the AERA Headquarters and be part of our new Convention Center. I'm excited about it. So many possibilities for it, and I want to welcome you to the conference room on the 7th floor.

Basically, what I want to do today is just introduce Felice. We all know her. We see her at all the meetings. We watch her scurry around. And many of us kind of feel like we know her because she takes the time to say hi to everyone.

But not really until this year have I come to have a real appreciation for what she

does behind the scenes to make it all happen, regular AERAs happen. And what she's doing right now literally day and into the night. I know that, because I get text messages from her all times of the day and night to make this new virtual meeting happen. She has nothing but my respect and admiration.

So what Felice has done, you all have seen, I'm sure, the fact sheet that Tony has sent out, that staff and office have sent. But what Felice has done is made herself available to answer virtually, questions that you might have.

And this is really important, because the time is not just to ask a question, and then we tell you exactly what we're going to do. This is really a space to help shape. Because you may ask questions or have thoughts that we haven't thought about. And so this is really designed to be an exchange.

Felice will introduce the staff who are present. And I'll let her take it from here. I could tell you honestly, she knows so much more day-to-day, minute-to-minute, about what's going on than I do. So I really salute you, Felice, for all you're doing, and thank you. And she'll tell us how to proceed. Carry on, Felice.

Felice J. Levine: Okay. Well, welcome, everyone. And I just want to underscore what Vanessa said. That we really view this as a collaboration across all of you and across all of us. And so that we both want to answer questions that you have, provide the information that we have as best as we know it. Give you a sense of how we hope to invent this meeting in virtual space in a way that was not even imaginable one week ago, or two weeks ago, or three weeks ago when we began asking ourselves what if.

Walker What if.

Levine: So what if didn't just start 10 days ago, it really started with the early process of thinking about how can we maximize what this space-based or place-based convening has meant for so many scholars in the field or early career, later career, worldwide. Or what could we do to continue that momentum of interaction? And we're going to work very hard to give a

very real and engaged experience for all of you, for those who will be joining these other calls, for those who will be hearing from us.

And we're going about that planning in a range of ways. We have a series of calls with SIG chairs, and program chairs, at the end of the week. We have calls with the division VP's; all of whom are members of council and participated in this unanimous decision. We want to work with them from the vantage of their intellectual and substantive units to work on the planning of what we could re-envision together.

We're working with some of the major institutions and organizations in our field, including worldwide, on how they can participate in stimulating conversations. And indeed, we are appreciative of the fact that -- I'm just getting an important note about our collaboration here. But we're appreciative of the fact that almost before our very eyes, so many different institutions, cities and locales, are limiting, restricting travel.

So at one point we envision having maybe satellite convenings with some of our universities or research institutions. And we're going to try to do some of that. But even that may be more limited than we might have imagined just three and five days ago, with what is just this threat of a very pernicious disease, a communicable disease, that really makes it safe and secure for all of us to remain as close to a homogenous group in which we interact.

And I just want to say that I had on our table some Purell cleanser and a box of tissues. And my wonderful director of communications, Tony Pals said, you know, Felice, maybe you want to put your stuff over here, so you don't have to see it.

And I said, no, these are reminders to all of us that there are things that we could be doing in our homes, and with our families, and with our colleagues, and all of those we take very seriously. But we took equally as seriously what we know from scholarship and science about this topic, and that we need to responsibly act. And what we view to be our social responsibility to all of you and to, in this case, all of the persons that we would encounter in San Francisco. To be sure that we were not part of even one person being negatively affected by a

place-based meeting.

So we're excited about this new opportunity. We want to be able to answer any nitty-gritty question that still may be on your minds in the short haul. Because we recognize that those of you on the call are participants in the program, are registrants, were committed to coming to San Francisco. And you have undoubtedly a million things you're worrying about and wondering about.

And we tried in this first fact sheet that just went out to all of you, and is posted on the website, to answer the most salient questions. Of course, the two most salient were, what about those meeting registration fees, when are we getting them back? Did you really mean it? Not quite, but there was a lot of detail in the letter. So if we don't join virtually, will we get those registration fees back? The answer is, yes, yes, yes.

This is going to be a substantial cost to the Association, but a really available product. Every participant will have an opportunity to participate in the virtual convening. And we have different models of what form that will take. We're working on those models. But there will be a no-cost, no registration cost.

We recognize that each of you have some forms of encumbrance yourselves. And we wish that that did not happen by virtue of changing your own travel. But at least all of the hotels that we work with in the AERA registration, hotel lodging process are being cancelled and you will have no billing. And the registration fees will be returned.

So I want to in particular thank Robert Smith.-- I could not have found a better collaborator in all this. Of course, I didn't fight him because we've been working together for years, and really love the opportunity to invent collectively with our community. Robert Smith, our director of meetings at my immediate right. Lots of questions that I quick -- envisioned they'd asked. So I could say, Robert, that I know you know the answer to.

Because there are now over 500 people on the webinar. But in order to, in any meaningful way, have this as a Q&A and a listening for us. It's not just about questions and

answers, it's what was implied by Vanessa's opening: we really want to listen and hear, and understand how to make, not just the formal agenda, but the informal agenda, the culture that we think is so important for an education research organization to lead and to respond to. So we want to be able to listen as we hear.

Not all questions can be answered, undoubtedly. A) we may not know all the answers. And not all will be able to be answered in the span of this hour. But there's a Q&A box; please start posting them, really almost immediately, if you haven't already, because we want to say less and hear more, and listen hard.

We care about all of you. The staff has just been -- I'm blessed with just a wonderful set of collaborators at all levels. We have innovators who we work with as part of our extended family. We're only a staff of roughly 30. So of course, all of what you're going to see that we will invent really depends on our volunteership, our leadership.

We went to the SIGs that specialize in technology, and innovation, and education for advice and help. We welcome that kind of advice and help. And of course, we're only what, Robert, 37 days out?

Robert Smith: Yeah.

Levine: So we may not be able to benefit from it all, but everything that we do will help us be more innovative, both for this virtual meeting and in the future. And in as much about the future, particularly in the next generation of those who will be sitting where Vanessa and I sit, and who will be leading the association in the field long, long into the future.

So let me say, with that, let me just open it up for -- Tony, are there any questions?

Tony Pals: Yeah, there are a number of questions.

Levine: Let's do it.

Pals: The first question is: Can people who did not register for the conference in San Francisco participate in the virtual conference?

Levine: Yes. We are making it as an open-access experience, so whether one registered or not. Of course, we value registration. That's an important part of what makes an association viable. But for this meeting, this association is really creating an open-access annual meeting.

Walker: Felice, may I say something quickly?

Levine: Sure.

Walker: I want to echo what you said. And I also want to address some of the Q&As that I'm seeing coming on the chat space. You know, in the beginning, I told Felice, this is the closest I've ever come to imagine what it must be like to be in the Situation Room at the White House. I was really -- it was a lot of back-and-forth, a lot of thought put into what we should do.

But as I reflected on it, I actually think the possibilities for what we hope for with the thing that in terms of really talking, not only with each other but beyond ourselves, a broader audience. I actually think it's enhanced because the way we're moving forward with the virtual, and the fact that others who might not have come to San Francisco actually now can decide to be a part of AERA.

And one thing is I'm hopeful. I know a young woman in North Carolina -- I just saw a balloon come up here a few minutes ago in Greensboro. I know someone in that area who just got elected to the school board. And one of the things I plan to say to her is, wow, you really need to be part of this conference. So this might amplify -- I see it as a real possibility that we're able to move forward in so many other ways.

I also just happened to see on the chat, the question about getting credit. And of course, Felice can do that, but I can say more. But I think that's what I meant when I said personally and professionally responsible. What does it mean for us, as an organization, to be responsible for the wellbeing, the personal wellbeing of our members, but also, be responsible for the professional wellbeing of our members.

And I think one of the -- not think, I know, one of the conversations that we had was about, you know, we've got people going up for promotion, or tenure, or all kinds of things. And we have to figure out how to make sure they still get credit for participating in this AERA. I think professionally, the fact that you can upload materials, and as Felice will talk more about video or whatever she's come up with, absolutely, people will be able to get credit for participation in this.

So I'm stepping back, because I really don't know any more. I just wanted to echo that.

Levine: So we have roughly 7,000 accepted papers through the open submission process. Any individual who chooses to participate, who have an accepted paper on the program, will be a participant with an authenticated presentation.

We are going to provide an opportunity for that presentation that will be accessible as soon as you upload it. And we're going to be providing instructions and webinars, or training, in how that will happen once we finalize the platform, which will be sooner than later, but not as soon as in the next several days but well before the meeting.

There will be a platform that will essentially be able to present whatever slides or presentation you might have, whether that was in a paper session, a poster session or a roundtable session. There will be a narration that you can provide that we will probably set at roughly six minutes, a talk and presentation of your work.

That will triangulate. That will be a permanent asset that will open and be available at the scheduled time of your session in Pacific Time. But you will be able to schedule times to have online chat and communication or Q&A with those who wish to have that with you. And that will be available to every individual that had an accepted paper, whether that paper was placed in a paper session, a roundtable, or a poster.

And so, while the motif is an online visual presentation, you will have the opportunity for narration, for threaded discussion, for answering questions that can come in on

comment box. And you will be able to, given our appreciation of AERA caring about our field worldwide, engage with our field worldwide northern and southern hemisphere. That you will be able to identify times that you might be available for a threaded discussion in a space under the presentation itself.

This will, as I said, triangulate to the online paper repository. Instead of that being a post-annual meeting product, we are going to urge you to locate your paper in the repository. It will time and date stamped and assigned a DOI number that is a citable asset that certifies your presentation at the meeting.

And absent some requirement somewhere that the only way to make a scholarly contribution is by physically being in a big room with lots of other people, which I hope no employer entertains as the only modality. We will be certifying the fact that you delivered your paper at the first lodge, national and international meeting in 2020, at the AERA virtual annual meeting.

Walker: Felice, you've got 76 more questions.

Levine: Okay.

Walker: So, let's let Tony feed those to you.

Levine: Well, we knew that was a big one, and I'm glad you framed that. Tony?

Pals: So there are a number of questions about what the plan is for professional development courses.

Levine: We're working on a model with our courses to offer somewhere, in the following week, the week after the annual meeting, because we want to be available real-time for the annual meeting, both symposia, which will be Zoom sessions for the symposia participants who wish to retain their session.

So the week after the annual meeting, we will be offering the professional development courses, both live, with the availability of rebroadcast, just as we have sometimes at the meeting site itself. Anyone who signed up for those courses can continue to take them.

If you prefer not to take them any longer because you are not as drawn to the online experience, we will refund your fee. If you decide to take them virtually, that will be no different than some of our courses. Some years in each city we have remote participants as well as in-place participants.

It will not be all of our courses, because we are broadcasting from essentially our own new convening center; and it's more likely to be a maximum of eight or somewhere in the neighborhood of six. Those that have the largest number of preregistrations, we'll tip to them, but we also want to have a diversity of questions, in terms of loads of inquiry, methodologies and the kinds of issues that seem to give a nice spread for those who typically take our early career professional development courses.

Pals: There's a question about whether -- if someone does not want to engage virtually, whether there would be the option to roll over the paper to the following year.

Levine: I think at this point, the answer to that would be no. There's limits to running a new annual meeting, with a new call, and for those who decide not to participate. Now, for the paper sessions, that does not mean that you need to do a voice recording. But it does mean that you would need to put up your presentation and locate your paper in the repository.

So if some virtual aspect like being part of a threaded discussion should not interest you, or you would prefer to have email than to respond in the comment box, those virtual features that we're delivering to provide a sense of community, if you chose to opt out of some of those features, we would still consider it an authentic presentation. But there is no way we can accommodate two annual meetings, at the same time, in a place-based motif.

Walker: And it would infringe on Shaun and other program chairs.

Levine: And the 12,000 to 14,000 submissions next year. So it's an authentic way, presenting and being engaged. And while we emphasize that the virtual would allow for real-time or schedule-time exchange, those features you can opt out of. But you couldn't opt out of not presenting your paper, meaning offering your paper and your overall summary of the

content.

Just as when someone indicates to us that they can't travel to meeting, we don't then consider them a participant as much as we might like to. And so, it's almost the reverse of what happens when x-percent can't come to an annual meeting for unforeseen circumstances. But we'll work with you.

And if that doesn't answer your question, you should feel free to email me directly. And I'll try to provide further explication or see if there's something we're missing where we could modify and you could have an authentic presentation, even if a virtual interaction is kind of not your thing. And it's only grown to be my thing over the years; I wouldn't say it was fundamentally my thing when I started out. So I appreciate that. Tony?

Pals: There's a question about whether or not the sessions will be recorded and placed in an online library?

Levine: Yes. We are intending and planning to maximize Zoom symposia sessions, those that were through the open submission as well as those that are part of each unit's invited sessions. Some may choose or some, for a range of reasons, might fold; and we don't know what that range would look like.

But whatever symposia -- every symposia or invited talk, or lecture, that's part of the program will have an opportunity to present. And those will be recorded. So as I won't say what I've been hooked on in terms of my own viewing in my private life, but you'll be able to watch them on demand and they will be recorded.

Some of the most significant sessions might be Presidential Address. We are going to record those from our own Convening Center to expand the quality and the accessibility of those sessions. The others will be recorded in real time by Zoom and, without post-production and editing, they will be available just as the way you would see them if you were present.

And so, that hopefully will help in all the time zone glitches and will give us a permanent asset. When we are place-based, we are not recording all the symposia sessions; we

really only record a handful of sessions. But here we will have qualities of -- the capacity of Zoom to be able to create a permanent asset.

Pals: We have another question about what thought has the association given to using social media channels, in addition to follow online presentation platforms?

Levine: Yeah. I suppose maybe Tony and Robert both might say a few words about that. Embedded in the framework of platform will be social media capacity, and indeed some presenting authors -- let me clarify, that there will be one presenting author.

We know that there are times where three people share 10 minutes. But in this case we'll need to have one presenting author. Everyone has -- and that's the majority at our meeting, of course, poster sessions and roundtables, are single presenting author. That many presenting authors have social media preferences. And there will be a location for a little biographical sketch and some social media interactions around what other modalities preferred by authors.

The way that other social media will unfold -- and then I'll turn it to Tony and Robert, who will have greater clarity than this may seem. For those who are viewing, let's say a Zoom session, would use the social media frameworks that you wish. And we too will be doing the tweeting that we tend to do for the association for select sessions.

You will be doing it as the viewer with the same capacity that you would, were you part of the general audience. So we expect that kind of social media exchange from those who are the viewers; and we will expand our own organizational capacity to engage in social media exchange within the framework of our own sessions. Tony?

Pals: I don't have anything to add to that.

Levine: Robert?

Smith: There will be an opportunity to have a live chat presentation time for each of those papers that are not part of the Zoom presentation. And you will be able to converse with the speaker -- or the presenter -- during that time, and then also be email functions to provide

feedback or ask questions when that session is not going on.

Levine: We will ask, since this is the AERA virtual meeting, that sessions not be re-recorded and broadcast elsewhere. Because we will make this as a freely available meeting, and that we want to actually be able to do many of the things that we are quite interested in for you and with you. For example, downloads, citations, viewers. That will be able to have a much better sense of the level of social engagement, with this online experience, than we do and have been able to do with a place-based meeting that is more verbal than virtual.

Pals: We have a few questions about what provisions will be made for those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Levine: We jumped on that right away. I'll tell you we're in somewhere uncharted territory, even for -- I've said Zoom. Zoom broadcasting for one entity -- 50, 60, 70 sessions at the same time is not what Zoom wakes up in the morning and does.

And so, this platform that is our kind of frontrunning platform, I will say the following: there will be lots of reminders that their volume capacity is substantial. And that we need with the Zoom calls to work on and provide both training, and some preliminary time so that those who participate in a symposia understand the give and take and the flow of using microphones, and muting microphones when you're not talking.

I'm sure we've all experienced that if two microphones are on, and one hasn't been silenced, the speaker has a much more dull sound, let alone background noise. So we'll provide a lot more guidance and testing, and even some space to experiment, I should say, or at least learn experiences.

In terms of visual limitations, none of the possible platforms that we looked at have a visually -- well, presentations can be expanded within the presentations in a way that you can use your expansion button. So some of what you normally would do with email, or with Word, or even with PDFs, individuals will be able to do at their desks.

But I'll say the primary platform that we're looking at, only underscoring its

value, has been working some time on a, for visual-friendly motif, for those who are challenged. They will not have that product available by mid-April. They are shooting for --

(Felice's audio connection lost)

Walker: Felice? Felice? We just lost you. I'm wondering if others can hear me. If you can, will someone type -- yes-yes-yes; okay, great. Oh, yes, lots of yeses, from everywhere.

Levine: -- as recently as yesterday. And it's just --

Walker: Okay. Great. Felice, we lost you for a few minutes, but I think we've got the gist of it.

Levine: Yes. Okay.

Walker: Let's let Tony roll with some of these other questions, because I'm seeing so many other pieces that I think people want answers to.

Pals: Okay. If we submit our papers and those papers get DOIs, will that prevent us from submitting the same paper to journal for publication?

Levine: Absolutely not. One of the things we've tried to educate about, with respect to our online paper repository, the copyright remains with you. We do not consider this a publication; we consider this a work in progress. And many of the papers in the online paper repository have been submitted and published in many, many journals.

When you do publish, we have a location within the repository where you can list the final publication, and the DOI and the citation. And we are happy to indicate that as a matter of best ethical practices, that our preprint or online paper repository is not a publication.

It's a sharing of work with the community; at a point at which you have findings or insights, or theory, or measures or modes of analysis that you think would both contribute to the bodies of knowledge. As well as you would contribute through interaction with the research community around those issues, and practice and policy communities as well.

Pals: We have a couple of questions asking for clarification on whether papers are to be uploaded -- whether videos are to be uploaded at the original presentation time? Or

whether the paper will be presented live via video?

Levine: In terms of the papers, the -- what we're going to call iPaper. And you saw what -- an iPaper gallery blog. We actually will encourage you to upload your slides and your narrative, voice, before day one of the meeting. It will be tagged to the time that you're presenting. It will be available when we open, but at that time is when other participants, or attendees at the meeting, will most know it's available.

So we would like it as we'll set up a time where the platform is ready. But we would like it to actually be earlier than the meeting, so that when we open the meeting, as many of these presentations are already there.

People can hear you, can ask questions, can listen, can see your slides, can go into the online paper repository at any point they wish. But most, we know, will look through the program and the schedule, and will be more likely to at least get that time.

We will permit uploading at least until the end of April. But that will be not really part of the virtual meeting, because the virtual meeting will run the 17th to the 21st. So that will be more of a genre of we say to presenters, you can still use the online paper repository. And certainly, we'll make the online paper repository available for, let's say a month after the meeting, as we still do. But we really will encourage you to do this as early as possible. And we will have a range of templates that will not limit you at all. You can have four.

You can actually put video into the presentation, if there's something you want to show as you might. Or something you'd may want to hear as some -- let's say you did some in-depth interviews, or you have a group interaction, if you want to play that on your video on your slide, you can do that. So it's got a lot of flexibility. And there will be quite a number of templates that you can alter in any way you would like.

Pals: You may want to repeat the time zone that we'll be working from.

Levine: We're going to work from the Pacific Time Zone, because we want to use the framework of the annual meeting as scheduled. We fear it would be -- well, it has to be

some time zone. And any alteration of time zone would just add a degree of chaos to the system.

But because everything will be otherwise available, if one wants to see a session in real time, live, it will need to tag to Pacific Time. True of us in Eastern Savings Time, we will need to tag to Pacific Time. If that is a challenge, given time zone change, it will be a post-product that one can see virtually the same as a view on demand.

Pals: Someone else asked if the other participants would be able to download presenter's recorded presentations.

Levine: I think the answer is not, any more than hearing it live isn't. Or really listening to -- being part of our annual Brown lecture and conversation after the Brown lecture.

We provide that content, but we don't distribute it to the end-user desk. The papers in the paper repository can be downloaded, and just like any other content should be respectfully cited, just as you would in a reference list of papers with a DOI number and a citation. And we have a citation, preferred citation, that's set forth in the online paper repository.

Pals: Someone else asked whether using Zoom would be required, whether he could simply record his presentation on his own and upload the DOI.

Levine: For the paper presentations, it's only going to be audio. And that audio can be recorded at any motif you'd like. It will be a video -- there's no platform for -- the papers offer, at this point, video and audio. It's a narration. If you want to have in your slide something that you would be saying within a slide, but only that slide. Or if you only have one slide, I suppose, that could be video as well as audio, and you could upload in whatever framework you'd like.

AERA is delivering -- well, we believe we will be delivering the sessions ourselves for all sessions in a motif that we believe will be Zoom. Because that seems to have the largest capacity and the largest fidelity, with respect to at least the services currently available. And other of our technological advisors have very much leaned -- who have no horse in the race, we haven't assumed their view -- to Zoom as having a maximum capacity for multiple sessions

and multiple viewers.

Pals: A few people have asked what the deadline would be for uploading the paper into the repository?

Levine: We -- 5:30, we're back on the phone with our platform colleagues and we need to work out those timelines. I suppose, in terms of uploading your paper, slides and your content, you will have -- every accepted paper will receive a ID number and a location to do it.

And the deadline for the online paper repository, for your final paper, is March 20th. We will provide more latitude than the March 20th, because you're not only uploading your paper into the paper repository, but you're also uploading your presentation, as well as your narrative.

That deadline will be later than that. And I suppose it would be quite close to the start of the annual meeting, because you will have a location to put it in. But there will be -- it won't be the day one of the annual meeting, because we only will make the hypertext link live from the program to your presentation, when we know there's a presentation there.

So it has to be some number of days before the opening day so that we're sure. We don't want people to link to content that isn't there. So it'll be minus some days, and whether that's five days or seven days, or three days, we need to work that through with our vendor.

We will give you a little bit more time than March 20th for the online paper repository upload, which the paper presenters are working on. What we say technically, is the AERA policy, is that the paper you submitted is the final paper unless you upload a new paper. We'll give you some latitude around that, maybe another week to 10 days. But we want to be able to link that paper to the virtual presentation.

And so, we need some time for our vendors -- this isn't all done by us -- for our vendors to make that connection. So I think we're going to be as user-friendly as we can. But obviously, to be part of the virtual experience, we'll need to have some deadlines that can match the way you work.

Walker: Tony, may I impose for one minute?

Levine: Yes.

Walker: I'm looking at the questions. This will reveal some of my own technological challenge. But the questions that are coming, that I'm occasionally seeing coming through the chat thread, is there a way -- and I also see a number of them on the Q&As. Will there be a way for those questions to get addressed? And I'm asking that because I'm looking at the time and realizing we have not a lot of time left, but we have a lot of questions. How will that happen? And I guess I directed it to Tony, because I know he's paying attention to the questions.

Levine: At least in terms -- I'll say, first of all, what we're planning is that these questions that we don't answer will be aggregated and logically organized into either fact sheets for issues we take up.

Walker: Excellent.

Levine: A lot of these specific ones about the how and the detail, with respect to the online paper process, that we will be providing actual training opportunities that we want people to take and avail themselves up an instructional guidelines. And there will be opportunities around participating in the virtual center that are far beyond these three sessions this week.

That will be just as we provide training for program chairs for all academic in the summer, so that they know how to create sessions we're going to be providing. And our platform provider is already thinking through and has used, in smaller-scale activity, instructional guides for what you do and how you do it.

Walker: Excellent.

Levine: So to the extent that these questions are very specific around that -- let me put it this way, no question will go unanswered one way or another.

Walker: Excellent.

Levine: And we'll study an aggregate.

Walker: Excellent. Okay. Sorry; carry on.

Levine: No, that's good. We're thrilled that there's a lot of questions. My eyes are a little challenged, I can't actually read them, but I see there's quite a number of them.

Pals: If you could -- people have asked whether poster presentations would have the same opportunity as paper sessions?

Levine: Yes. We consider a paper -- we consider what is submitted to the AERA annual meeting program, the papers, or paper submissions, whether they are presented in paper sessions, roundtables or posters, they are papers of equivalent value. And every paper, when I said around 7,000, those were 7,000 papers that were accepted through the peer review process, and they constitute papers presented in sessions, roundtables or poster sessions, and they all will work in the same virtual space.

Pals: Okay. Someone else has asked whether or not there would be a role for those who were assigned as chairs and discussants?

Levine: For the paper sessions, the paper sessions will be -- those papers will be in the paper gallery, so that there isn't -- for those who -- for the paper sessions that have discussants -- they'll all have chairs. For the paper sessions that have the discussants -- and many don't, some do -- since those papers will be available only in the paper gallery, and will not be also Zoomed, there won't be role.

For any chair, as part of an invited or submitted symposia, with discussant or commentator, or kibitzer or whatever, those individuals who are part of session submissions and invited sessions, whatever the role, those will be the Zoom sessions. And that also is -- well, in presentation, but it's about 500 -- about 700 -- about 700 sessions.

Smith: Right.

Levine: When we started this we thought we might only be able to do maybe high-profile, around 50. But we decided if there was any way to invent really having all sessions, and all invited sessions and submitted sessions, those tend to be sessions where there's more interaction than exchange. And that's not to say that doesn't happen as much at a paper session; it

does in many.

But the paper sessions are focused more on the individual paper and we're providing the paper gallery; and therefore, discussants would not have a role in paper sessions because those aren't being broadcasted sessions.

Walker: Thinking through the role for the discussants will be maybe something to keep thinking about. I don't know what it means; I just know we can keep thinking about --

Levine: I suppose it could be -- it's just that in the paper session, in the paper gallery, I suppose discussants could --

Walker: Yeah.

Levine: -- offer remarks on those papers as they would as discussants. And maybe there's a way of (audio distortion) participate for us to know that and have them function as paper discussants at the level of the paper, which is what discussants are aiming to do with paper sessions.

Good point. Every time I talk to Vanessa, I get another catalytic thought; so we try to keep these down to only one a day.

Pals: Someone asked if they had to withdraw a paper previously, can they now un-withdraw, if they're given --

Walker: I had that question too. I mean, I had someone ask me that; I didn't know what to tell them.

Levine: If they've withdrawn from the meeting, I think it's been withdrawn. I think we're not going to be able to reconstitute it. We'll have to look at that. We'll have to look at whether we can do it universalistically [sic], how many withdrawn papers we have from presentations, and where they sit. Which I'm going to say at this moment, what we can't do is delay the meeting that we thought we were bringing to San Francisco.

Walker: Okay.

Levine: And if that looks like a large task, the answer could be no; not because

our heart might not be in -- let's say -- in the right place, but it could be an impossibility. Just as I had preferred to be able to do video as well as audio narration, and our developer said that's three weeks away; we don't have three weeks this year.

Walker: I appreciate that you --

Levine: We'll look into it. I don't know the numbers. We'll have to look into whatever is possible.

Walker: I just want to echo that. Actually, I appreciate what you said about that. Because I can see it a little bit as a bit of an addition to the nightmare of figuring out all these pieces.

Because in cases where people have alerted me that they could not be present, well I've already sent that, right, to Robert and Mary, so those names are off the program. So the concept of having to go put all those names back on the program, at the same time that you're trying to figure out how to get everybody prepared to upload the papers for those names that are on the program, that is one of those matters of it hurts, but it might not be really possible. So I just wanted to say that to everybody.

Tony, we're down to only five minutes. And as I try to do -- as Felice knows -- I should go get the little chimes that I use.

Levine: Right. Right. I'm used to that.

Walker: The chimes that I use for the council meetings, thanks to Denise.

Levine: Ready to go.

Walker: But we only have five minutes left. So I don't know whether, Tony, you want to ask her another question, one that she can quickly answer.

Levine: Let's see here, Tony, let's see what we have.

Pals: Well, I mean this has been asked a few times; just the process for providing additional information, when will be forthcoming, and how will it be distributed?

Levine: On the virtual part or generally?

Pals: Generally.

Levine: Generally, with this factsheet that we just did, we have at least two others in the works. We wanted to get the factsheet out on the most immediate concerns. We're going to be notifying everyone by no later than Friday, for example, about the process for receiving refunds.

And one could say to themselves, well, that's sort of easy, just give us credit to our credit card or issue checks. But we're working with our registration company because individual's have signed up for different kinds of products. It might have been a course, it might have been a luncheon -- even though we don't have that many, there's a lot of individuated.

So something is going to come from the registration company to you that essentially will say, this is your registration fee, these are the additional costs, this is your refund. It will also say, this is a meeting of -- the removal of a place-based meeting is a substantial cost, and somewhat unknown cost to AERA. We have contracts with over 30 vendors. And this is -- you're probably reading online, meeting is cancelled, devastation to association; of course, to those who provide meetings.

So we will ask those who have the capacity to do so, and wish to do so, to make a voluntary contribution. But someone could skip the voluntary contribution line and go right to the total. And then you will get either a check -- if you paid by check -- or you will get a credit to your credit card if you paid by credit card.

And that should actually happen early next week, but we're working through the detail of the process, because there's different packages. And we also partnered with NCME, the National Council on Measurement in Education. They use the same registration company. Many of our participants also register for NCME; so we need to be sure that our partner, though a smaller association, is well provided for.

Walker: So I think procedurally, amazingly, we still have almost 400 people engaged.

Levine: That's just great.

Walker: Extraordinary. I can't -- I just can't begin to thank you guys. The concept that I would invite AERA to my basement office, right, I just never expected that. Well, what a wonderful delight to have all of you here.

My fear is that if we actually take on another question, we probably may not have time to allow Felice to fully answer it, because we're down to the last minutes. So if I could, maybe Felice, have you -- if I'm summarizing this correctly, say yes. But if I mess it up, please correct me.

My understanding is that all the questions that have come through, whether they were part of the chat or part of the Q&A, will be addressed by the office in some form, probably the factsheet that you're putting together. But none of the questions will be lost; is that right?

Levine: Absolutely.

Walker: Okay.

Levine: We're preserving them. And we are also recording all three of these sessions.

Walker: Right.

Levine: It may sound too redundant to have as available assets, but we will either pick the best, in terms of the range of the questions -- or if each of the three are different, then we would just post them, and if anyone wants to listen to them, they will have that opportunity.

The questions, as well as the chat, will migrate either to factsheets, to potentially the next discussion, much of what I'm going to say from a lot of the questions, on how we announce technical training and when that will occur. Or the datelines and other things that may essentially address the question.

If you feel, within a week, that the question hasn't been answered in some meaningful way, I'm sure I have my email in a few places, and you know it's actually online. And I'm going to not give you my cell phone, because I know the staff is just going to be on my neck

if I do that. So I'm prohibiting my cell phone number, but I'm on WhatsApp. And I am available through email.

And we don't want anyone to feel -- as I say to our program chair, our vice presidents when they're planning their program, or to our presidents who are planning their program, and as I say as executive director, as a member of the research community, I value what we do. I participate in what you do. But the kinds of things I do, I do all the time, so they're really much easier for me to help you than for you to struggle.

And the notion of any of you struggling, actually makes me worry and wonder. So don't sit and worry about something. If you have a question that isn't answered within a week, just repost it via email. We've got two email boxes being monitored constantly, and we are providing individual answers.

Walker: All right. I think we're right on; it's 4:59. I just want to say a big thank you, Felice. I know you can't hear all --

Levine: And thank you all. Thank you.

Walker: You can't hear the people who are -- you can't see the people in the chat who are thanking you. But I honestly believe the kind of -- for such a time as this, you're amazing. And thank you for all the hard work. Not just you, but Robert, and Lori, and Nathan and Tony, and Bidyut, and just everybody. I hope I -- Norm; I don't want to miss Norm. Just thanks to everybody -- Mary. You guys are doing amazing work, and I'm grateful for that.

I also want to thank all these extraordinary members of AERA, who have literally tuned in from around the world; that is just exceptional. So we're going to say goodbye. And we will -- Felice and I will be back on again tomorrow, again on Friday. But thanks to everyone.

You guys have great days or nights, whatever time it is wherever you are. Thank you so much.

Levine: Thank you, really. This has been more than a pleasure. And while we

can't see you all, we feel you all.

Walker: Yes.

Levine: We're one on this experiment together. Thanks.

Walker: Excellent. Thank you. Bye-bye, all.

END OF MEETING