

2nd Annual Conference on Aesthetic Development

November 20th, 2025

Call for Papers

The organizing committee is pleased to invite researchers, educators, practitioners, and students to submit proposals for posters for our upcoming conference: **2nd Annual Conference on Aesthetic Development** at the Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics.

After the great success of the 1st conference,
we are excited to invite you to the
2nd conference on Aesthetic Development!

Call for Papers

Children engage with visual arts, music, dance, theater, and literature as soon as they can move, make noise, and play. This engagement may manifest as aesthetic responses, experiences or judgements and also as aesthetic productions or vibrant artistic performances.

Is it possible that various aesthetic domains follow similar developmental trajectories or rely on comparable developmental principles? How might the relationship between aesthetic responses as well as aesthetic productions and other developmental processes in social, emotional, and cognitive domains may look like? This raises the question if it is possible to formulate a unified framework for understanding aesthetic development across different art forms.

This conference seeks to address numerous questions, such as the differences between children's and adults' aesthetic responses and productions. It is concerned with exploring whether it is possible to specify a unified theory of aesthetic development across art forms or, at the very least, a set of loosely related organizing principles. Additionally, we hope to uncover with the contributions from various disciplines the early (psychological) precursors of aesthetic responses and productions.

We welcome submissions from various perspectives and disciplines that address the development of aesthetic responses, experiences, judgements, performances, and productions.

Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Early psychological precursors of aesthetic judgments and productions.
- Developmental trajectories of aesthetic appreciation and artistic creativity.
- The role of social, emotional, and cognitive development in shaping aesthetic responses and productions.
- Differences in aesthetic experiences and productions between children and adults.
- Comparative studies on aesthetic development across different art forms.
- The potential for a unified theory of aesthetic development or related organizing principles.

As part of the conference, we are looking forward to inspiring keynotes by Julia F. Christensen (Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics), Rhett Dissner (online; Lewis-Clark State College, Lewiston, US), Bettina Kümmerling-Meibauer (Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen) and Daniel Müllensiefen (University Hamburg).

Submission Process

Please submit your poster proposal by 30.09.2025 through our online submission system at <https://indico.ae.mpg.de/event/29/abstracts>

Each proposal should include:

- Title of the poster
- Abstract (ca. 300 words) outlining background, objectives, methods, results, discussion and significance of your contribution
- Names, affiliations, and contact information of all authors
- A brief bio (120 words) of all authors

Proposal Types

Scientific posters: Visual presentations of research projects or practical experiences.

Contact Information

For more information about the conference, please visit our website at indico.ae.mpg.de/event/29/overview

or contact us at aesthetic.development@ae.mpg.de

Sincerely,

Franziska Degé and **Katharina Schaaf**
Musical Development Unit, Department of Music
Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics,
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We look forward to your contributions and to the continuation of our stimulating exchange of ideas we started last year on the emerging field of aesthetic development!

Key Dates

Submission Deadline:	September 30, 2025
Notification of Acceptance:	October 10, 2025
Conference Date:	November 20, 2025

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