It has been a great experience attending the AERA 2017 Conference as graduate students where I met many distinguished scholars and educational experts who specialize in various educational disciplines. This was my first time at this conference, my impression was great, and I think this conference was very well organized. I enjoyed the five days’ event and all of the sessions that I attended. There were interesting presentations, and workshops on different educational topics, which were very informative and insightful. Attending this conference was an enriching experience for me, and it helped me to make fascinating discussions with impressive scholars, exchanging ideas with other colleagues, sharing expertise with educators from different backgrounds, and socializing with researchers share the same research interest with me.

At the beginning of the AERA 2017 conference, I was overwhelmed by the number of the sessions that I want to attend; but being a member of the learning and instruction division helped me to concentrate my attention to the sessions related to these topics. Most of the sessions under this division were touching topics that I am interested in. I believe that being a member of this division made the experience of attending the conference more meaningful for me. On of the most extraordinary sessions that I attended was the “Motivation Theory Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow: Reflections of Founders and Descendants." During this session, I had the chance to listen to some of the most influential theorists in the field of motivation such as Bernard Weiner, Dale Schunk, Edward Deci, and Jacque Eccles. Listening to these scientists talking about their works and theories was inspiring. Another great session I attended was “Motivation Theory and Intervention: Progress and Prospects” by Dr. Judith Harackiewicz. Also, the "Factors Impacting Students' Self-Regulated Learning and Motivation” session was very useful for me.

One of the most interesting things in the AERA conference was the Special Interest Group’s (SIG) business meetings. I was lucky to meet Dr. Hefer Bembenutty who invited me to attend the Studying and Self-Regulated Learning (SSRL) SIG business meeting and the following dinner. As a graduate student who is interested in the Self-Regulated Learning, this was a great experience for me. Meeting face to face with people I was readings their works like Dale Schunk, and Philip Winne was a great experience. Also, joining the dinner with the SSRL members was a great opportunity for me to meet researchers and colleagues who are leading the field of the Self-Regulated Learning. After experiencing this, I decided to become a member of the SSRL SIG.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to the people who have made this conference possible and those who have shared their experiences during this event. I have benefited very much from this wonderful conference. Attending great sessions, meeting new people, discussing educational issues with great scholars, and sharing research ideas with colleagues at AERA 2017 was an enriching experience for me. Also, I believe that becoming a member of SSRL SIG will have a real impact on me. I am looking forward to AERA 2018 conference, see you there.

Yours sincerely,

Laith Jumah

Florida State University