**Southern States Communication Association**

**Annual Convention | “Communicating Belonging”**

**April 3-7, 2024 | Frisco, TX**

**Argumentation and Forensics Division**

**Vice Chair & Program Planner: Mik Davis, mik.davis@uga.edu**

The Argumentation and Forensics Division invites paper and panel proposals for competitive selection. We especially welcome works that address the convention theme, “Communicating Belonging.”

The division welcomes papers, panels, posters, and workshops across the spectrum of argumentation (e.g., theory, criticism, pedagogy) and competitive forensics/speech and debate (e.g., pedagogy, history, praxis, culture, forensics across the curriculum, Urban Debate Leagues, public debate formats). Non-traditional formats and experimental events such as roundtable discussions and performance showcases are encouraged. All competitive papers submitted will be considered for the Division’s Top Paper Award.

The division especially welcomes submissions of all formats that address any of the following matters:

1. **Argumentation Pedagogy:** Best practices, curriculum, activities, and other pedagogy-related matters for teaching argumentation and persuasion in a classroom environment or in a competitive forensics context.
2. **Communicating Belonging Through Argumentation:** Creating positive learning environments where argumentation is fostered in a pedagogically healthy manner in a classroom or competitive forensics context.
3. **Perspectives on The Status of Argumentation:** Sharing, comparing, and contrasting perspectives on the function and role of argumentation in the digital age from either a competitive forensics or other background.

Finally, the division would like to specifically welcome submissions from authors who are not affiliated with a competitive forensics team and/or do not have a competitive forensics background. **The division wishes to emphasize that Argumentation and Forensics is not exclusively synonymous with competitive forensics.**

In alignment with this year’s convention theme of “Communicating Belonging,” the division wishes to facilitate panels, roundtables, workshops, and other conference activities in which scholars of both forensics and non-forensics backgrounds can share ideas, collaborate, and experience a sense of intellectual belonging under the umbrella of Argumentation and Forensics. **As such, principle authors and/or participants need not be affiliated with speech and debate to submit to, and feel welcome in, this division.**

**Submission Types:**

**Town Hall Debate:** The division sponsors the SSCA Town Hall Debate and invites topic suggestions. Debate topics should relate to the conference theme, “Communicating Belonging.” Topics addressing the theme could relate to matters including, but not limited to: inclusivity, diversity, inclusion, equity and equality, and the principles of community. Debate topics are not required to address these matters, but all topic submissions should address the conference theme of “Communicating Belonging.”

The division welcomes undergraduate and graduate students to participate as debaters; and encourages senior-level graduate students and faculty to participate as moderators and coordinators. Those interested in debating, moderating, or coordinating the event should contact the division planner, **Mik Davis,** [**mik.davis@uga.edu**](mailto:mik.davis@uga.edu)**, no later than September 1st, 2023. Topic submissions should also be received via email to the division planner no later than September 1st, 2023.**

**Student Speaking Spotlight:** The division wishes to reintroduce an event held at previous conventions in which students present original speeches in the form of an exhibition panel. In keeping with the convention theme of “Communicating Belonging,” the division wishes to expand the scope of this event to include students who are not on a forensics/speech and debate team, as well as competitive forensics students, who wish to share their pieces.

For this event, the division especially welcomes the following types of pieces: persuasive speeches, policy speeches, communication analysis/criticism pieces, and other speech types that relate to argumentation. Those interested in speaking at, moderating, or coordinating the event should contact the division planner, **Mik Davis,** [**mik.davis@uga.edu**](mailto:mik.davis@uga.edu)**, no later than September 1st, 2023. Coaches/instructors are strongly encouraged to contact the division planner with nominations for interested students.**

**Workshop Proposals:** Submissions for Workshops should be submitted as Panel submissions in the XCD platform. Workshop submissions must include 1) a workshop title, 2) an overall workshop rationale (no more than 200 words) and 3) the following information about EACH facilitator of the workshop: their name(s), institutional affiliation(s) and contact information. All of this should be compiled in a single document and submitted in the “paper upload option” on the XCD platform.

The division especially welcomes workshop proposals that address the convention theme as well as building connections/belonging through argumentation. Such connections could include, but are not limited to: connecting coaches and department/administrative leadership, connecting graduate and undergraduate students, mentorship connections, connecting junior scholars and established scholars, connecting higher education and the community, etc. Submissions are not required to address these matters.

**Competitive Paper Submissions**: All submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>.

Competitive papers are completed research projects dealing with a substantive critical, methodological, or theoretical contribution. Submissions will consist of 1) the paper with all identifying information removed, 2) a separate cover page with the paper title, author(s)’ names, institutional affiliation(s), contact information, and an abstract of no more than 200 words. Please check the division/interest groups’ calls for specific length and formatting requirements.

Anonymous Review: All competitive papers submitted should follow standard procedures for removing any information that identifies the author and/or the institution within the paper and within any document metadata. Divisions and interest groups reserve the right to reject any papers not following these standards.

Student Papers: All papers submitted will be considered for the Division’s Top Paper Award. For student papers, indicate “STUDENT” on the first page of the manuscript, and indicate “Student Paper” during the submission process. The Division’s Top Student Paper will be submitted for consideration for the SSCA Bostrom Young Scholar Award. In order for a submission to be considered a student paper and to be eligible for student awards or recognition, all authors of the paper must be students at the time the paper is submitted. A paper co-authored by a student and a faculty member, for instance, will not be classified as a student paper.

Debut Papers: A “debut paper” is one submitted by an author or authors who are presenting at SSCA for the first time.

**Panel Submissions**: All submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>.

Panel proposals are for a slate of papers focused on a central topic or theme. This type of session typically has between 3-5 presentations. Submissions must include 1) a panel title, 2) an overall panel rationale (no more than 200 words) and 3) the following information about EACH presentation on the panel: a) the presentation title, b) the presentation author(s), with their institutional affiliation(s) and contact information, and c) the presentation abstract (no more than 200 words per abstract). All of this should be compiled in a single document and submitted in the “paper upload option” on the XCD platform.

A best practice for all divisions is to submit panel proposals with diverse participants comprised of individuals representing different institutions, and where possible and relevant, potential new members.

**Round Table Submissions:** All submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>.

Round table proposals bring together a group of scholars to discuss a topic or theme. This type of session typically has between 4-7 presentations. Submissions must include 1) a session title, 2) an overall session rationale (no more than 200 words), 3) a list of participants’ names with their institutional affiliations and contact information. All of this should be compiled in a single document and submitted in the “paper upload option” on the XCD platform.

A best practice for all divisions is to submit round table proposals with diverse participants comprised of individuals representing different institutions, and where possible and relevant, potential new members.

**Other Submission Types:** If any individual/group wishes to submit for consideration a conference activity that does not appear to fit any of the above categories, the principle author should contact the division planner, Mik Davis, via email at [**mik.davis@uga.edu**](mailto:mik.davis@uga.edu) no later than **September 1st, 2023.**

This correspondence should include a no more than 1-page single-spaced description of and rationale for the submission and a list of included participants. The division planner will review the material and advise the principle author on how best to submit their material in preparation for the September 16th, 2023 deadline for all submissions. Correspondence with the division planner regarding these submissions does not constitute submission for consideration of participation in the convention. Principle authors must still submit final materials, in the appropriate format, by the final submission deadline of September 16th, 2023 at 11:59pm CST.

**Award Nominations:** The division invites nominations for Forensics Educator or Contributor of the Year Award. Those wishing to nominate a peer should include a cover letter, the C.V. for the nominee, and up to five pages of supporting material including student and peer letters of support. Self-nominations are welcome. **Nominations should be sent to Mik Davis,** [**mik.davis@uga.edu**](mailto:mik.davis@uga.edu), **by 11:59 p.m. PDT on December 5th, 2023.**

**Pertinent to All Submissions**

**Deadlines:** The deadline for submissions to **ALL** divisions and interest groups is **September 16th, 2023 by 11:59 p.m. PST**. Go to the paper submission site by going to the conference website (<https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>) and clicking the submission link. First time visitors to the site will need to create an account. Return visitors will need to make sure to use the same email address that they used to establish the account. To avoid technical problems, early submission is strongly advised. Any submission not meeting the above requirements will not be accepted for review. If you have additional questions, please contact the Division or Interest Group Vice-Chair and Planner, **Mik Davis,** [**mik.davis@uga.edu**](mailto:mik.davis@uga.edu)

Correspondence with the division planner about any submission does not constitute submission for consideration of participation in the convention. Submissions received via email or any other means than the XCD platform will not be reviewed for participation in the convention.

**Audio-Visual Support**: Audio-visual equipment should be requested ONLY if it is essential to a presentation. Most submissions do not require A/V equipment and there will be limited availability during the conference. Your judiciousness is appreciated in considering whether a request is appropriate for your presentation. Due to prohibitive cost, A/V requests will be considered but may not be met. The final program will indicate which sessions have A/V capability. An alternative may be a shareable QR code that audience members can access from their own personal devices.

**Submission Protocol***:* Submissions to SSCA must be original research that has not been published or presented at another regional, national, or international conference. Also, the same paper or panel should not be submitted to more than one division. Divisions and interest groups reserve the right to reject any submissions not following these standards.