**Southern States Communication Association**

**Annual Convention | “Communicating Belonging”**

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

**Political Communication**

**Vice-Chair & Program Planner: Carson S. Kay, carson.kay@washburn.edu**

**Introduction:** The Political Communication Division invites competitive paper and panel proposals for competitiveselection. We especially welcome works that address the convention theme, “Communicating Belonging.”

The Political Communication Division welcomes papers and panels that address emerging

topics of inquiry in the field, employ new or established methods of examining political

communication, and explore the exchange of ideas and opinions between citizens, public officials, various types of media, and other stakeholders and institutions. We also encourage submissions that reflect upon the communicative tensions of belonging and *not* belonging. As SSCA’s 2024 convention call articulates,

Belonging and the essential components leading to its fullness are the basis for this call. Papers and panels focusing on the communication components elemental in acceptance, diversity, equity, inclusion, and identity are welcome as are those examining roadblocks to belonging such as alienation and exclusion.

As a Division, we invite papers that grapple with these momentous elements of the human experience.

**The deadline for submissions to ALL Divisions and Interest Groups is September**

**16th, 2023 by 11:59 PM (Pacific Daylight Time). The paper submission site can be accessed via the link (https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member).**

Completed papers are preferred, but because 2024 is a presidential election year, the division also welcomes extended abstracts dealing with topics surrounding emerging presidential campaigns. It is expected that extended abstracts will include references and comparisons to related work, will outline key theories, and will explain the focus and approach that will be presented in the final paper. These abstracts should be submitted to the “Competitive Papers” portal in XCD. **Authors whose extended abstracts are accepted must provide a full paper before the 2024 conference. This paper must be submitted to the Program Planner, Carson Kay (carson.kay@washburn.edu), by January 15, 2024, at 11:59 PM (Central Time).**

Top faculty and student papers will be recognized at the conference. Papers submitted by

graduate students who wish to compete for Top Student Paper Award should be clearly designated with “STUDENT” on the cover sheet. The division’s top graduate student paper will be submitted for consideration for SSCA’s Robert Bostrom Young Scholar Award. It should be noted that the winner of the 2022 Bostrom Young Scholar Award was a student paper from this division.

**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), and contact information; and 3) an abstract of no more than 200 words.

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. 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. Please click “debut” when submitting on XCD.

**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), and 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.

**Poster Submissions:** All submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA

convention site at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>. Poster submissions should be submitted under “Roundtables” and should include “Poster” on the title page.

Posters grant early-career scholars an immersive platform that facilitates organic discussion about their recent projects. Graduate students from multiple Divisions and Interest Groups will present their work in this format. Paper and applied project submissions are welcome. While it is a separate event, this session will abide by the guidelines provided by the Theodore Clevenger Undergraduate Honors Conference.

Paper-to-Poster submissions: Paper submissions should include 1) a title page with a “poster” indication provided, 2) an abstract of no more than 200 words, 3) the paper, and 4) the reference pages. Papers must be double-spaced in 12-point font and formatted with standard one-inch margins. Papers should not exceed 25 pages (including all references, figures, tables, and appendices) and should avoid sexist and racist language. The identity of the author(s) or institution(s) should not appear anywhere in the paper.

Applied Project submissions: Graduate students may submit creative work to present at the poster session, including case studies, applied research projects, campaigns, films, or applied, digital, or performance-based projects, the project length must conform to one of the following two stipulations:

(1) the entire project can be uploaded in the online submission system, or

(2) the author(s) will prepare a written description of the project and

provide sample screenshots of the project, in an uploadable file, and adhere

to the stipulations for papers indicated above.

In other words, applied projects may need to be condensed for reviewing purposes. The exception to this would be film projects which may be submitted with a YouTube link. Any film/video/audio or recorded performance projects submitted should not exceed 10 minutes in length. Please note that PowerPoint presentations are not acceptable as digital projects or as a mechanism for submitting other projects.

**Poster slots are limited and are reserved for graduate students only.** For a submission to be considered for the poster session, all authors of the paper or applied project must be graduate students at the time the paper is submitted. A paper or applied project co-authored by a student and a faculty member, for instance, will not be accepted.

**Pertinent to All Submissions**

Deadlines: The deadline for submissions to ALL Divisions and Interest Groups is **September 16th, 2023 by 11:59 PM (Pacific Daylight Time).** The paper submission site can be accessed via the link (https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member) and by 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 Vice-Chair and Planner, **Carson S. Kay,** [**carson.kay@washburn.edu**](mailto:carson.kay@washburn.edu)**.**

**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 costs, 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 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/Interest Group. Divisions and Interest Groups reserve the right to reject any submissions not following these standards.