

**SSCA 97th Annual Convention
Call for Participation
April 7-11, 2027/Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel/Mobile, Alabama
“Curiosity”**

American Society for the History of Rhetoric Interest Group

Call for Submissions

The American Society for the History of Rhetoric Interest Group invites submissions for competitive selection for the SSCA 2027 Conference to be held in Mobile, Alabama. We especially welcome submissions that address the convention theme, “Curiosity.”

Proposals in ASHR encompass a variety of approaches to rhetorical theory and criticism that engage with the continuing relevance of the history of rhetoric, both in the present and in the future. These approaches include examinations of the rhetoric “of and by” history, which can involve investigations of the history of rhetorical situations, artifacts, and concepts, as well as the ways in which rhetoric articulates history itself. Critical approaches often explore the intersections of politics, patriarchy, power, ideology, oppression, and resistance.

Submissions that cut across disciplines are encouraged. Potential topics can include:

- The history of the study of rhetoric
- Historical developments in rhetoric
- Evolutions in rhetorical concepts
- Rhetors from various historical periods
- Forgotten or underappreciated rhetors
- Rhetoric in specific American historical contexts
- The intersections of historiography and rhetorical theory
- Archives and critiques of canonization
- The rhetorical study of social movements
- Historical struggles of historically oppressed peoples, identities, and communities

ASHR recognizes outstanding scholarship with two awards: the Top Student Paper and the Top Faculty Paper. The top student paper will also be entered into the SSCA Robert Bostrom Young Scholar Award competition.

ASHR welcomes four types of submissions: (1) competitive papers, (2) extended abstracts, (3) thematic panels, and (4) roundtable submissions.

Competitive papers are completed research projects that provide a substantive critical, methodological, or theoretical contribution.

Competitive paper submissions must include:

- the paper with all identifying information removed and

- an abstract of no more than 200 words.

Competitive papers should be limited to 25 pages (excluding references).

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

Student Papers: All papers submitted will be considered for the Division's Top Paper Award. For student papers, please indicate "STUDENT" on the first page of the manuscript and specify "Student Paper" during the submission process. The Division's Top Student Paper will be submitted for consideration for the SSCA Bostrom Young Scholar Award. To qualify as a student paper and be eligible for student awards or recognition, all authors of the paper must be students at the time of submission. For example, a paper co-authored by a student and a faculty member 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.

All of this should be compiled in a single document and submitted via the competitive paper option on the XCD platform.

Extended abstracts are works-in-progress that address topics relevant to the history of rhetoric are also encouraged. This submission option may be preferable for faculty and students embarking on new projects. Extended abstracts will be considered alongside completed papers in terms of inclusion, but are not eligible for Top Paper Awards.

Extended abstract submissions must include:

- Topics of importance in the history of rhetoric,
- The critical, theoretical, or methodological approach,
- Artifacts, situations, or concepts under investigation,
- A brief review of relevant scholarship,
- Prospective conclusions, findings, or contributions to the study of the history of rhetoric, and
- References

All of this should be compiled in a single document and submitted via the extended abstract or research-in-progress option on the XCD platform.

Panel submissions are for a collection of papers focused on a central topic or theme. This type of session typically includes between 3 and 5 presentations. A best practice for all divisions is to submit panel proposals with diverse participants, comprising individuals from different institutions, and, where possible and relevant, potential new members

Paper panel submissions must **specify that this is a paper panel submission** and include:

- the presentation title,
- the presentation author(s), along with their institutional affiliation(s) and contact information,
- the presentation abstract (no more than 200 words per abstract),
- a brief rationale that reflects the conference theme

All of this should be compiled in a single document and submitted via the paper panel or roundtable option on the XCD platform.

Roundtable submissions convene a group of scholars to discuss a specific topic or theme. A best practice for all divisions is to submit roundtable proposals with diverse participants representing different institutions, and, where possible and relevant, potential new members.

This type of session typically features between 4 and 7 presentations.

Roundtable submissions must **specify that this is a roundtable submission** and include:

- a session title,
- an overall session rationale (no more than 200 words) that reflects the conference theme,
- and a list of participants' names with their institutional affiliations and contact information.

All of this should be compiled in a single document and submitted via the paper panel or roundtable option on the XCD platform.

All submissions to SSCA must consist of original research that has not been published or presented at another regional, national, or international conference. Furthermore, 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 that do not adhere to these standards.

Submissions must be submitted online no later than 11:59 p.m. PST on Tuesday, September 15, 2026. Go to the 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.

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 fulfilled. 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.

If you have additional questions, please contact the **ASHR Interest Group Vice-Chair and Planner: Savannah Downing, sdowning@georgiasouthern.edu**