

Gender Studies Division

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The Gender Studies Division invites submissions for competitive selection for the SSCA 2027 Conference to be held in Mobile, Alabama. We welcome paper, extended abstract, and panel/roundtable submissions that address the convention theme, “Curiosity.” The division is particularly interested in work that critically engages the convention theme, considering the possibilities for how we can be *curious* about how we engage with gender and sexuality in communication scholarship.

The Gender Studies Division accepts work related to communication and gender and/or sexuality regardless of methodological approach so long as the work is critical and gender and/or sexuality are central analytics. Work submitted to the division should also be guided by intersectionality, we especially encourage work that centers intersections that tend to be under-interrogated in communication scholarship.

Papers and proposals may address the following questions, themes, and concepts:

- What kinds of curiosity are encouraged, allowed, or discouraged within systems of gendered, racialized, and sexual power?
- Who gets to be curious? - examining how gender, sexuality, and other identity categories have historically determined who is permitted intellectual curiosity vs. who is surveilled or pathologized for it
- How might we “queer” curiosity, encouraging nonnormative ways of knowing, desiring, and relating?
- Curiosity and the body - exploring how curiosity has shaped (and been shaped by) gendered experiences of the body, medicine, and science.
- Feminist, queer, trans, crip, and decolonial approaches to curiosity
- Curiosity for challenging feminist epistemologies
- Queer of Color Critique
- Indigeneity or Indigenous studies
- Transgender studies

This year, the division will accept extended abstracts along with competitive papers (including creative works like arts-based research and performative methodologies), panels, and roundtables. See below for details on each type of submission.

Competitive Paper Submissions: All paper submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>. For the paper to be assigned for review, please follow all the instructions on the convention site. For anonymous review, please omit all author-identifying information from the manuscript. All papers submitted will be considered for the Division’s Top Paper Awards. Papers should be limited to 25 pages (excluding references).

For student papers, indicate “STUDENT” on the first page of the manuscript, and indicate “Student Paper” during the submission process. For a submission to be considered a student paper and to be eligible for student awards or recognition, the author or authors of the paper must

all be students at the time the papers is submitted. A paper co-authored by a student and a faculty member, for instance, will not be classified as a student paper. The Division's Top Student Paper will be submitted for consideration for the SSCA Bostrom Young Scholar Award.

Extended Abstracts: Extended abstracts should be 1,000-2,000 words and must be submitted through the same process as competitive papers. Please indicate "EXTENDED ABSTRACT" on the first page of the document. Extended abstracts are not eligible for top paper designations.

Panel or Roundtable Submissions: The best practice for panel or roundtable proposals is to be diverse, comprised of individuals representing different institutions and, where possible and relevant, potential new SSCSA members. 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 500 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). A chair and respondent may be assigned by the division if these roles aren't included in the proposal. Please indicate potential division co-sponsors in your submission.

Roundtable proposals are for topical discussions comprised of 5-7 participants focused on a central topic or theme. Submissions must include 1) a roundtable title, 2) an overall rationale (no more than 500 words), and 3) a list of presenters that includes their names, institutional affiliation(s), and contact information. Please indicate potential division co-sponsors in your submission.

Panels and roundtables are submitted through the same process as competitive papers; just be sure to select the appropriate submission type when prompted. The submitter will be able to add other panelists as "authors" after the initial submission. Upload the proposal to the "Upload Paper" prompt.

All submissions must be made online no later than 11:59 p.m. PST on **Sunday, September 15, 2026**. Go to the submission site by navigating 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 use the same email address they used to establish the account. To avoid technical problems, early submission is strongly advised.

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.

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 **Zane Austin Willard**, zawillard@usf.edu

We also are seeking nominations for the **Gender Scholar of the Year award**. Nominees should have made a significant impact on gender scholarship in the communication discipline by demonstrating commitment to the publication and presentation of research, teaching, participation in organizations, and/or participation in programs that promote and highlight gender issues. This year, scholars located in and/or doing work related to the U.S. South will be prioritized. Please include the following: (1) the scholar's affiliation and a rationale for the nomination; (2) the nominee's CV. In the nomination, please indicate the nominee's relationship to the Southern region. The selected scholar will be spotlighted and honored during our annual business meeting. Nominations should be received by **Friday, October 30, 2026**. Send nominations to **Zane Austin Willard**, zawillard@usf.edu