

Southern States Communication Association
97th Annual Convention | “Curiosity”
April 7–11, 2027 | Mobile, AL
Intercultural Communication Division
Vice Chair & Program Planner: Sophia Flemming, University of Georgia, sophiamf@uga.edu

The Intercultural Communication Division invites submissions for competitive selection for the SSCA 2027 Convention in Mobile, Alabama. In alignment with this year’s theme, “Curiosity,” we welcome scholarly, creative, pedagogical, and critical engagements that explore culture, communication, identity, difference, power, and belonging across local, regional, national, transnational, and global contexts.

This year’s theme invites us to consider curiosity as a mode of inquiry, relation, and possibility. For intercultural communication scholars, curiosity can help us ask deeper questions about how people encounter, negotiate, resist, translate, and transform cultural meanings across contexts. At the same time, curiosity also invites critical reflection: Who is allowed to be curious? Whose cultures, bodies, histories, languages, and communities are treated as objects of curiosity? When does curiosity open ethical forms of listening and relation, and when does it reproduce surveillance, extraction, appropriation, or inequality?

The division especially welcomes work that explores intercultural communication through questions of identity, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class, nationality, migration, diaspora, religion, language, disability, coloniality, technology, pedagogy, community engagement, social justice, and/or cultural representation. We invite submissions that expand, reimagine, or challenge what intercultural communication can mean in a moment that calls us to ask bolder questions, revisit old questions with new perspectives, and engage difference with care, complexity, and accountability.

The division welcomes the following types of submissions: (1) completed competitive papers, (2) thematic panels, and (3) roundtables. For thematic panels and roundtables, preference will be given to proposals with participants from multiple institutions, and where possible and relevant, potential new members.

Competitive Paper Submissions

Competitive papers are completed research projects that offer a substantive critical, methodological, theoretical, pedagogical, or creative contribution to intercultural communication scholarship. Papers should be limited to 25 pages, excluding references.

All competitive paper submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at:

<https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>

For a competitive paper to be assigned for review, please follow all instructions on the convention site. For the purposes of anonymous review, please omit all author-identifying information from the manuscript and from document metadata.

Submissions should include:

1. The completed paper with all identifying information removed; and
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.

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 recognition, the author or authors of the paper must all 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.

Anonymous Review

All competitive papers 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.

Thematic Panel or Roundtable Submissions

Panels and roundtables are submitted through the same process as competitive papers; please select the appropriate submission type when prompted. The submitter will be able to add other panelists as "authors" after the initial submission. Upload a copy of the panel or roundtable proposal, listing the description/rationale, panelists, and, if appropriate, panelists' individual topics, at the "Upload Paper" prompt.

Thematic panel proposals are for a slate of papers focused on a central topic or theme. This type of session typically includes 3–5 presentations. Submissions must include:

1. A panel title;
2. An overall panel rationale of no more than 200 words; and
3. The following information for each presentation on the panel:
 - a. The presentation title;
 - b. The presentation author(s), with institutional affiliation(s) and contact information; and
 - c. The presentation abstract of no more than 200 words.

Please compile each of these sections into one single document/file and submit it 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.

Roundtable proposals bring together a group of scholars to discuss a topic or theme. This type of session typically includes 4–7 participants. Submissions must include:

1. A session title;

2. An overall session rationale of no more than 200 words; and
3. A list of participants' names with their institutional affiliations and contact information.

Please compile each of these sections into one single document/file and submit it in the “paper upload” option on the XCD platform.

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

Submission Protocol

Submissions to SSCA must be original research or original scholarly/creative work 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 or interest group. Divisions and interest groups reserve the right to reject any submissions not following 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 visiting:

<https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>

First-time visitors to the site will need to create an account. Return visitors should use the same email address they used to establish the account. To avoid technical problems, early submission is strongly advised. Any submission not meeting the above requirements may not be accepted for review.

If you have additional questions, please contact the Intercultural Communication Division Vice Chair and Program Planner, Sophia Flemming, University of Georgia, sophiamf@uga.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 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.