

Performance Studies Division

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The Performance Studies Division invites submissions for competitive selection for the 2027 SSCA Conference in Mobile, Alabama. We especially welcome submissions that engage the convention theme, “Curiosity.” Zora Neale Hurston wrote that “Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose. It is a seeking that he who wishes may know the cosmic secrets of the world and they that dwell therein” (143). To research, then, is to be curious with intention. Therefore, in performing, perhaps that curiosity is also made visible and/or embodied.

We invite work that takes up performance as formalized curiosity, or as a mode of inquiry that may unsettle and re-imagine. What does it mean to “poke and pry with a purpose” in and through performance? How might curiosity operate as a method, practice, or intervention? We welcome submissions across diverse contexts and interdisciplinary forms. We especially encourage submissions that may be appropriate for cross-listing with other divisions or interest groups. If you would like your submission to be considered for cross-listing, please indicate this during the submission process. While every effort will be made to accommodate such requests, cross-listing cannot be guaranteed.

Competitive Paper, Performance, or Extended Abstract Submissions: All submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>. For the submission to be assigned for review, please follow the instructions on the convention site. For the purposes of anonymous review, please omit all author-identifying information from the manuscript. All completed papers and full scripts submitted will be considered for the Division’s Top Awards. 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. We also recognize excellence in scholarship for Top Performance and Page-to-Stage.

Panel or Roundtable Submissions: Panels and roundtables are submitted through the same process as competitive papers and performances; 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 a copy of the panel, listing the description/rationale, panelists, and, if appropriate, panelists’ individual topics; upload this at the “Upload Paper” prompt.

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. If you have additional questions, please contact the Division Vice-Chair and Planner.

Important Info

Anonymous Review: All 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 reserve the right to reject any papers not following these standards.

Audio-Visual Support: To maintain affordable conference rates, audio-visual support is extremely limited. It must be requested only if needed with supporting rationale and should be part of the submission to the division planner. Requests will be considered and are not guaranteed. An alternative may be a shareable QR code that audience members can access from their own personal devices.

Panel Proposals: Best practices, in the interest of divisions, is to submit a proposal with a diverse panel, comprised of individuals representing different institutions, and where possible and relevant, potential new members.

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 reserve the right to reject any submissions not following these standards.

Student Papers: 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 paper is submitted. A paper co-authored by a student and a faculty member, for instance, will not be classified as a student paper.

References

Hurston, Zora Neale. *Dust Tracks on a Road*. Harper Perennial, 2010.