

Southern States Communication Association's 97th Annual Convention

Call for Participation

April 7-11, 2027 | Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel | Mobile, Alabama

"Curiosity"

The Southern States Communication Association invites submissions for its 97th convention, to be held in Mobile, Alabama. The Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel will host as the backdrop for a robust range of papers, panels, and roundtables about all areas of communication scholarship, creative expression, teaching, and administration.

The convention theme is "Curiosity." Pursuing any degree in communication—especially advanced degrees—is truly about embracing our curiosity, exploring deep questions with complexity and nuance, and refusing easy or tidy answers. The theme invites all participants both to interrogate the concept of curiosity—what is it, what can it mean, what it does for communication research and pedagogy, what are its affordances and limitations—and to engage their own curiosity. The theme encourages scholars, students, and teachers of communication to ask bold(er) questions, even outside of our usual areas of expertise: questions that cut across interest groups and divisions, questions that involve interdisciplinary approaches or mixed methods, questions that address communication theory and praxis, and questions that are relevant to disciplinary debates and community problems. Our curiosity should draw our attention back to old questions with new eyes and fresh perspectives, and our curiosity should empower us to push the edges of what we (can) know. What questions have we not asked yet as a field? What seemingly resolved questions have become relevant or new again? What questions do we need to revisit? Let's follow our curiosity in all these directions and more.

Faculty members, graduate students, and professionals are invited to submit papers, panels, or other projects to the most relevant division or interest group. Organizers of panel submissions are encouraged to submit panels that represent a range of perspectives (i.e., we generally discourage panels where all participants work at the same university). For division and interest group calls, see <https://www.ssca.net/divisions> and <https://www.ssca.net/interest-groups>.

The deadline for all submissions is **September 15, 2026** at 11:59pm, Pacific Time. All submissions should be made via the convention submission site: <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member/>

Undergraduate students are encouraged to submit to the Undergraduate Honors Conference (UHC). The UHC has a separate call with a later submission deadline.

For more information, contact conference planner Leland G. Spencer (spencelg@sc.edu). We look forward to seeing you in Mobile!