**Southern States Communication Association**

**Annual Convention | “Anchors and Anchoring Communication”**

**April 2-6, 2025 | Norfolk, VA**

**American Society for the History of Rhetoric**

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The American Society for the History of Rhetoric (ASHR) invites paper and panel proposals for competitive selection. We especially welcome works that address the 2025 SSCA convention theme, “Anchors and Anchoring Communication.”

Paper and panel proposals in ASHR range across varying approaches to rhetorical theory and criticism that engage the continuing relevance of the history of rhetoric in the present and into the future. Approaches include examinations of the rhetoric “of and by” history, which can include investigations of the history of rhetorical situations, artifacts, concepts, or the ways rhetoric articulates history itself. Critical approaches often engage the discursive intersections of politics, patriarchy, power, ideology, oppression, and resistance.

Submissions that address the conference theme, “Anchors and Anchoring Communication,” are encouraged. This year’s theme is particularly germane to ASHR’s areas of interest, as a reference to Norfolk’s naval history as a waterfront city (commercially and militarily) and for more abstract investigations of the historical anchoring and de-anchoring of communicative meanings, metaphors, positionalities, and publics.

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
* The role of history and historical methods in the study of rhetoric
* Archives and critiques of canonization
* The rhetorical study of social movements
* Historical struggles of historically oppressed peoples, identities, and communities
* Historical rhetorics regarding the conference region of Norfolk, VA

ASHR recognizes excellent scholarship with two awards: Top Student Paper and 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) round table submissions.

**Competitive Paper Submissions**: All submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>.

Competitive papers are completed research projects dealing with a substantive critical, methodological, or theoretical contribution. Submissions will consist of 1) the paper with all identifying information removed, 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. Competitive papers should be limited to 25 pages (excluding references).

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

Student Papers: All papers submitted will be considered for the Division’s Top Paper Award. 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. For a submission to be considered a student paper and to be eligible for student awards or recognition, all authors of the paper must 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.

Debut Papers: A “debut paper” is one submitted by an author or authors who are presenting at SSCA for the first time.

**Extended Abstracts:** All submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>.

Works-in-progress that address topics relevant to the history of rhetoric are also encouraged. This submission option may be preferrable 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 abstracts should follow the same submission process as completed papers. Abstract submissions should address: 1) The topics of import to the history of rhetoric, 2) The critical, theoretical, or methodological approach, 3) Artifacts, situations, or concepts under investigation, 4) A brief review of relevant scholarship, 5) Prospective conclusions, findings, or contributions to the study of the history of rhetoric, and 6) References.

**Panel Submissions**: All submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>.

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 200 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). All of this should be compiled in a single document and submitted 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.

**Round Table Submissions**: All submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>.

Round table proposals bring together a group of scholars to discuss a topic or theme. This type of session typically has between 4-7 presentations. Submissions must include 1) a session title, 2) an overall session rationale (no more than 200 words), 3) a list of participants’ names with their institutional affiliations and contact information. All of this should be compiled in a single document and submitted in the “paper upload option” on the XCD platform.

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

**Pertinent to All Submissions**

**Deadlines**: The deadline for submissions to **ALL** divisions and interest groups is **September 15th, 2024, by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time**. Go to the paper 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 Interest Group Vice-Chair and Planner, **Jason D. Myres, jm18@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.

**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 and interest groups reserve the right to reject any submissions not following these standards.