**Southern States Communication Association**

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

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

**Communication Theory and Methodology Division**

**Vice Chair and Program Planner:** Dennis McCarty, d.mccarty@ufl.edu

The Communication Theory and Methodology Division invites submissions for competitive selection for the 2025 convention in Norfolk, Virginia. We invite paper submissions, proposals for thematic panels, proposals for roundtable discussions, and extended abstracts for poster presentation. We particularly welcome works that address the convention theme, “Anchors and Anchoring Communication.”

The Communication Theory and Methodology Division of SSCA comprises scholars interested in the development, testing, or application of human communication theory or methodology. We encourage multidisciplinary and collaborative work, and submissions that may be co-sponsored with other divisions in SSCA. The division recognizes excellent scholarship with two awards: Top Student Paper and Top Faculty Paper.

The division welcomes theoretically driven research or discussions that investigate the processes governing human message production or processing. The context of the study is secondary. Submissions should represent: (a) theoretically and methodologically sound ideas, (b) empirically driven conceptualizations, and (c) the development, testing, or application of theory that advances our ability to describe, explain, predict, or control human communication processes. Purely theoretical or methodological work is also welcomed, and these submissions should aim to extend knowledge through logical arguments that possess internal and external logical consistency. If submitting a methodological paper, a discussion of how the method carries potential to advance future theorizing is appreciated.

The division welcomes four types of submissions:

1. **Competitive Paper Submissions**: All submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>. Please select the “Paper” option when submitting competitive papers.

In order for the paper to be assigned for review, please follow all of the instructions on the convention site. For the purpose of anonymous review, please omit all author-identifying information from the manuscript. All papers submitted will be considered for the division’s Top Paper Award. For debut papers please indicate “Debut Submission.”

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. Papers should be limited to 25 double-spaced pages (excluding references and appendices) and should include an abstract of 100-200 words.

1. **Thematic Panel Proposals**: All submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member. Please select the “Panel” option when submitting thematic panel proposals.

Thematic 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 submission.

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

1. **Roundtable Discussion Panel Proposals**: All submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member. Please select the “Panel” option when submitting panel/roundtable discussion proposals.

Roundtable discussion panel 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), and (3) a list of participants’ names with their institutional affiliations and contact information. All of this should be compiled in a single document submission.

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

1. **Extended Abstract Poster Submissions**: All submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member. Please select the “Poster” option when submitting extended abstracts for poster presentation.

Extended abstract poster submissions are designed for projects that are fully conceptualized but prior to, or in the early stages of, analysis/interpretation/critique/data collection at the time of submission. For accepted submissions, it is expected that the completed project will be presented as a poster at the conference. Submissions will consist of a detailed summary that provides evidence of a fully rationalized research idea and description of methods and data to be analyzed. Extended abstracts should be no longer than 500-700 words (excluding references).

For the extended abstract to be assigned for review, please follow all of the instructions on the convention site. For anonymous review, please omit all author-identifying information from the document. Extended abstracts are not eligible for the division’s top paper awards.

**Submissions must be submitted online no later than 11:59 p.m. PST on Sunday, September 15, 2024.** 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 Division Vice Chair and Planner, Dennis McCarty, d.mccarty@ufl.edu .

***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.

***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.