**Southern States Communication Association**

**95th Annual Convention | “Anchors and Anchoring Communication”**

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

**Kenneth Burke Society Interest Group**

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The Kenneth Burke Society Interest Group invites individual papers, panel proposals, and extended abstracts for competitive selection. Submissions can range across the spectrum of approaches in rhetorical theory and criticism. We especially welcome works that address the convention theme, “Anchors and Anchoring Communication.”

In addition, our leadership team has decided to welcome submissions regardless of their engagement with Kenneth Burke. It is no secret that Burke’s ideas remain pervasive throughout communication research, but the relevancy of Burke’s idiosyncratic lexicon may not be as clear as it once was. Many of Burke’s core ideas (identification, consubstantiality, rebirth cycle, terministic screens, etc.) have inspired countless other rhetorical theories. To encourage submissions and emphasize the relevancy of Burke to contemporary rhetorical theory, each respondent at the 2025 convention will provide detailed feedback to all presenters explaining how a more direct engagement with Burke may (or may not) strengthen one’s project. So, we welcome submissions that cover any topic within rhetorical studies as long as submitters are open to considering a deeper engagement with Burke.

Completed papers should remain within 25 pages (double spaced, not including references), begin with an abstract, and should not include the name of the author(s). It is expected that all those submitting will attend the conference if selected for inclusion in the program. Scholars are also invited to submit alternative panel formats such as interactive sessions, workshops, and/or roundtable discussions.

**Competitive Paper Submissions:** For the paper to be assigned for review, please follow all the instructions on the convention site. For anonymous review, please omit all author-identifying information from the manuscript. All full 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. All submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>.

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

**Extended Abstracts:** Works-in-progress that address topics relevant to the field of rhetorical studies 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 rhetorical studies, 2) the theoretical and/or methodological approach, 3) artifacts, situations, or concepts under investigation, 4) a brief review of relevant scholarship, and 5) prospective conclusions, findings, or contributions to the study of rhetoric. All submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>.

**Deadlines**: **All submissions must be submitted online no later than 11:59 pm 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 Interest Group Chair & Planner Alex Morales at [a.morales@memphis.edu](mailto:a.morales@memphis.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**: 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.

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