**Southern States Communication Association**

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

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

**Rhetoric & Public Address Division**

**Vice-Chair & Program Planner: Sara Baugh-Harris, [sabaugh@davidson.edu](mailto:sabaugh@davidson.edu)**

The Rhetoric & Public Address Division invites competitive papers and panel proposals from all approaches in rhetorical theory and criticism. Submissions relating to the conference theme—“Anchors and Anchoring Communication”—are encouraged. While we anticipate many papers related to the 2024 presidential election, we encourage these submissions to engage the conference theme in these discussions. Consider how rhetoric might anchor us in a moment when academic freedom, freedom of expression and the right to assemble, critical scholarship on race, gender, and sexuality, decolonial and anticolonial liberation movements, and higher education are under political threat. Conversely, we invite submissions that also consider elements of rhetorical studies to which we must no longer remain anchored. What historical, ideological, and epistemological constructs in rhetorical studies can we leave behind? In thinking about the future of rhetorical studies and public address, what should center us, what might this future look like, and who should be leading these conversations? This second question is particularly suited to our goal of increasing graduate student involvement and engagement in the division. Thus, graduate student papers and panels are highly encouraged.

We also invite submissions related to the conference location in Norfolk, Virginia. As a large port city in the South, Norfolk has a troubling history as a trade port to traffic enslaved peoples, while also serving as a site of abolition and escape. This history should encourage us to critically engage historical and contemporary abolitionist movements and theories. Additionally, Norfolk’s proximity to the ocean allows us to explore metaphors of the sea; as freedom, as death, as opportunity, as mystery, as power. How does the ocean operate rhetorically? Regarding location, we also welcome papers which examine the more recent regional history of school segregation and integration, including resistive rhetorics and contemporary legacies.

The division welcomes two types of submissions: (1) thematic panels and (2) completed papers. For thematic panels, please identify all panelists and their institutional affiliations. Panel proposal submitters are required to diversify the institutional affiliation of the panel participants beyond two institutions. Papers should be limited to 25 double-spaced pages (excluding references).

All submissions 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. The Rhetoric & Public Address Division reserves the right to reject any submissions not following these standards.

**Awards:** The division 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.

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

Competitive papers are completed research projects making a substantive critical, methodological, and/or theoretical contribution to the field of Rhetoric & Public Address. Submissions should consist of 1) a paper of no more than 25 pages (excluding references) with all identifying information removed and 2) a separate cover page including: a) the paper title, b) the author(s) with their institutional affiliation(s) and contact information, and c) an abstract of no more than 200 words.

Anonymous Review: All competitive paper submissions should follow standard procedures for removing any information that identifies the author and/or the institution within the paper and within any document metadata. The Rhetoric & Public Address Division reserves the right to reject any papers not following these standards.

Student Papers: For student paper submissions, please 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 entered into the SSCA Robert Bostrom Young Scholar Award competition. For a submission to be considered a student paper and to be eligible for student awards, all authors of the paper must be students at the time the paper is submitted. Note: A paper co-authored by a student and a faculty member will not be classified as a student paper.

Debut Papers: A submission is considered a “debut paper” if it is submitted by an author(s) who is presenting at SSCA for the first time.

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

Panel proposals are comprised of 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 of 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 of no more than 200 words. All of this should be compiled in a single document and submitted in the “paper upload option” on the XCD platform.

Where entire panels are proposed, submitters are greatly encouraged to diversify the institutional affiliation of the panel participants beyond two institutions, and to especially consider opportunities to bring in colleagues and peers who have not recently or never attended an SSCA conference.

**Audio-Visual Support**: To maintain affordable conference rates, audio-visual support is extremely limited. It should be requested only if needed with supporting rationale, and A/V requests should be made as part of the submission process to the division planner. All requests will be considered, but they cannot be guaranteed. Please consider alternatives to A/V presentations whenever possible.

**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.

**Submission Deadline**: The deadline for submissions to all divisions and interest groups is **September 15, 2024 by 11:59 p.m. PDT**. All submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>. First time visitors to the site will need to create an account. Return visitors must use the same email address used to establish their original 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 Rhetoric & Public Address Division Vice-Chair & Program Planner, Sara Baugh-Harris at [sabaugh@davidson.edu.](mailto:sabaugh@davidson.edu.)