**Southern States Communication Association**

**95th Annual Conference/Anchors and Anchoring Communication**

**April 2-5, 2025/Norfolk, Virginia**

**States Association Interest Group**

**Vice Chair & Program Planner:** Shaquille Marsh, somarsh@pstcc.edu

The States Association Interest Group invites submissions for competitive selection for the SSCA 2025 Conference to be held in Norfolk, Virginia. We especially welcome submissions that address the convention theme, “Anchors and Anchoring Communication.”

The interest group seeks submissions for papers, panels, and workshops across the spectrum of state associations’ activities (such as conferences, publications, and programs), interests (such as pedagogy / curriculum development, diversity and inclusion, and discipline advocacy), and purposes (such as coalition-building, coordination, and advancing the field of communication). The SAIG strongly encourages those of State Associations to submit but would like to encourage those that do not belong to State Associations to submit as well.

**Competitive Paper Submissions**: All paper 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. Please check the division/interest groups’ calls for specific length and formatting requirements.

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. In order 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 paper 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.

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

Panel and Roundtable submissions are submitted through the same process as competitive papers; just be sure to select the appropriate submission type when prompted. The submitter will be able to add other panelists as “authors” after the initial submission. Upload a copy of the panel or roundtable, listing the description/rationale, panelists, and, if appropriate, panelists’ individual topics; upload this at the “Upload Paper” prompt.

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.

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 and institutional affiliations. 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 panels and round table proposals with diverse participants comprised of individuals representing different institutions, and where possible and relevant, potential new members.

***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.

***Deadline****:* Submissions must be submitted online no later than 11:59 p.m. PST on **Sunday, September 15, 2024**. Go to the 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 Shaquille Marsh, somarsh@pstcc.edu.