Ethnography Interest Group
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The **Ethnography Interest Group** invites paper and panel proposals for competitive selection for the SSCA 2026 Convention in Birmingham, Alabama. In keeping with the convention theme, "Comm-AI-nity: Conversations in the Age of Intelligence," we welcome ethnographic work that explores how lived experience, narrative, and cultural meaning are being shaped, challenged, or redefined in our increasingly intelligent and interconnected world. From embodied fieldwork to digital autoethnography, from performance to critical reflexivity, we invite submissions that push the boundaries of what ethnography can do and who it can serve in the age of AI. How do we witness, write, and render culture in a time when data often precedes story? How do we remain attentive to voice, memory, and context as communities are both augmented and surveilled by intelligent systems? We encourage innovative, multimodal, and deeply grounded inquiries that attend to the tensions and transformations of this new terrain.

We welcome papers representing all theoretical and methodological approaches to ethnographic, autoethnographic, poetic, and narrative inquiry.

Competitive papers must include a 75-100 word abstract and no longer than 25 pages (excluding tables and references). Include a cover page with the names, affiliations, mailing addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses of all authors. Students submitting papers should indicate "Student" status on the paper's header and indicate if the student is an undergraduate or graduate student.

The interest group recognizes excellent scholarship with two awards. Top Student Paper and Top Faculty Paper. The top student paper will be submitted for consideration for the SSCA Robert Bostrom Award Young Scholar Award competition. All papers submitted will be considered for the Top Paper Award. For student papers, indicate "STUDENT" on the first page of the manuscript, and indicate "Student Paper" during the submission process.

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. Please check for division/interest groups' call for specific length and formatting requirements.

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. In order for a submission to be considered a student paper and to be eligible for student award 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 representing at SSCA for the first time.

Panel Submissions: All submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at https://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 10 a panel title, 20 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 compiles 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, ad 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 all submissions to **ALL** divisions and interest groups is **September 15, 2025, by 11:59 p.m.** 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 submissions not meeting the above requirements will not be accepted for review. It you have additional questions, please contact the Division or Interest Group Vice-Chair and Planner, **Curtis Ladrillo Chamblee, c.chamblee@memphis.edu**

Audio-Visual Support: Audio-visual support 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 costs, 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 sharable 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.