

Southern States Communication Association

96th Annual Convention | “Comm-AI-nity: Conversations in the Age of Intelligence”

April 8 – 12, 2026, Birmingham, Alabama

Gender Studies Division

VC & Program Planner: Jonathan Eugene Bridenbaker, jbridenbaker@lsu.edu

The Gender Studies Division invites submissions for competitive selection for the SSCA 2026 Conference to be held in Birmingham, Alabama. We welcome paper, extended abstract, and panel/roundtable submissions that address the convention theme, “Comm-AI-nity: Conversations in the Age of Intelligence.” The division is particularly interested in work that critically engages the convention theme, namely how the information age has changed the structure and integrity of communities as they relate to issues and expressions of gender, sexuality, and their cultural forms across intersectional lines of identity/corporeality. When the world comes to be replicated by existing data, gender scholars must identify where the lines of hegemonic, colonial, and patriarchal *code* are feeding the digital reality in which we spend so much our time, looping it to the point of perceived inevitability. As Donna Haraway writes in *Simians, Cyborgs, and Women: The Reinvention of Nature*, “Grammar is politics by other means.” The fundamental structure of our digital language is constantly struggling against the encoded systems of oppression passed through culture, government, and now, artificial intelligence. Thus, submissions attuned to the convention theme should seek to clarify, expose, and resist these codes.

Papers and Proposals may address the following questions, themes, and concepts:

- How do Large Language Models reproduce harmful, oppressive, and hegemonic concepts of gender and sexuality?
- How can queer community thrive in a surveillance economy?
- What affordances are provided by digital culture in addressing, diagnosing, and resisting heteropatriarchal systems of domination and control?
- (Post)humanism, gender, and AI
- Shape of moral panics in the information age
- AI Coloniality Studies
- AI & Eco-feminism

This year, the division will accept extended abstracts along with competitive papers (including creative works like arts-based research and performative methodologies), panels, and roundtables. See below for details on each type of submission.

Competitive Paper Submissions: All paper submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>. 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 papers submitted will be considered for the Division's Top Paper Awards. Papers should be limited to 25 pages (excluding references).

For student papers, indicate "STUDENT" on the first page of the manuscript, and indicate "Student Paper" during the submission process. 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. The Division's Top Student Paper will be submitted for consideration for the SSCA Bostrom Young Scholar Award.

Extended Abstracts: Extended abstracts should be 1,000-2,000 words and must be submitted through the same process as competitive papers. Please indicate "EXTENDED ABSTRACT" on the first page of the document. Extended abstracts are not eligible for top paper designations.

Panel or Roundtable Submissions: The best practice for panel or roundtable proposals is to be diverse, comprised of individuals representing different institutions and, where possible and relevant, potential new SSCSA members. 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 500 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). A chair and respondent may be assigned by the division if these roles aren't included in the proposal. Please indicate potential division co-sponsors in your submission.

Roundtable proposals are for topical discussions comprised of 5-7 participants focused on a central topic or theme. Submissions must include 1) a roundtable title, 2) an overall rationale (no more than 500 words), and 3) a list of presenters that includes their names, institutional affiliation(s), and contact information. Please indicate potential division co-sponsors in your submission.

Panels and roundtables 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 the proposal to the “Upload Paper” prompt.

All submissions must be made online no later than 11:59 p.m. PST on Monday, September 15, 2025. Go to the submission site by navigating 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 use the same email address they used to establish the account. To avoid technical problems, early submission is strongly advised.

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. 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.

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 **Jonathan Bridenbaker**, jbridenbaker@lsu.edu.

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.

We also are seeking nominations for the **Gender Scholar of the Year award**. Nominees should have made a significant impact on gender scholarship in the communication discipline by demonstrating commitment to the publication and presentation of research, teaching, participation in organizations, and/or participation in programs that promote and highlight gender issues. This year, scholars located in and/or doing work related to the U.S. South will be prioritized. Please include the following in your nomination of yourself or someone else: (1) the scholar’s affiliation and a rationale for the nomination; (2) the nominee’s CV. In the nomination, please indicate the nominee’s relationship to the Southern region. The selected scholar will be spotlighted and honored during our annual business meeting. Nominations should be received by **Friday, November 1, 2025**. Send nominations to **Jonathan Bridenbaker**, jbridenbaker@lsu.edu.