

**Southern States Communication Association**  
**96<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention | “Comm-AI-nity: Conversations in the Age of Intelligence”**  
**April 8-12, 2026 | Birmingham, AL**

**Identity, Inclusion, and Social Justice Division**

**Vice-Chair & Program Planner: Rico Self, [cself@ncsu.edu](mailto:cself@ncsu.edu)**

The Identity, Inclusion, and Social Justice Division welcomes papers and panel proposals that engage issues of identity, inclusion, justice, and access from **any methodological perspective**.

The convention theme—“Comm-AI-nity: Conversations in the Age of Intelligence”—affords scholars an array of opportunities and ways to discuss identity, inclusion, and social justice and their intersection with community and artificial intelligence (AI). This theme allows us to consider a number of pressing concerns. For example, what questions or complications does AI present the field concerning its historical and ongoing exclusions? What role does or can AI play in a commitment to inclusion and identity in the field, in our communities, or in our communicative practices? How has AI influenced new strategies for community building? How have principles and practices of critical and inclusive pedagogy been augmented or challenged by artificial intelligence? Submissions relating to the conference theme or the conference site—Birmingham, AL—are especially encouraged.

The division welcomes scholarship on a range of topics including, but not limited to:

- belonging and identity
- racism and structural violence
- Anti-queer and trans discourse
- DEI initiatives and academic freedom
- DEI in/and the military
- socioeconomic justice and equity in education
- public memory, race, and segregation
- over-policing
- segregation

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 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. Papers should be limited to 25 pages (excluding references).

**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 awards or recognition, all authors of the paper must 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.

**Debut Papers:** A "debut paper" is one submitted by an author or authors who are presenting at SSCA for the first time.

**Panel Submissions:** All submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at <https://www.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 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.

A best practice for all divisions is to submit panel proposals with diverse participants comprised of individuals representing different institutions, and 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 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 round table proposals with diverse participants comprised of individuals representing different institutions, and where possible and relevant, potential new members.

**Alternative Programming:** All submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>.

The Identity, Inclusion, and Social Justice Division is committed to supporting non-traditional forms of scholarly inquiry. Any submissions for alternative programming must have a clear description and rationale for the proposed programming (no more than 200 words each), along with 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 proposals for alternative programming 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 submissions to **ALL** divisions and interest groups **by September 15, 2025, 11:59 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time**. 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 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 or Interest Group Vice-Chair and Planner.

**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.