

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

Interpersonal Communication Division

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The Interpersonal Communication Division invites submissions for competitive papers, panels, roundtable discussions, and posters for the 2026 convention in Birmingham, Alabama.

More specifically, we welcome submissions reflecting contemporary and emerging interpersonal scholarship. The division defines interpersonal communication broadly and welcomes submissions related to communication across all types of relationships, interaction processes, methodologies, and metatheoretical perspectives. In addition, we encourage interpersonal communication research that includes marginalized identities and underrepresented populations. Interdisciplinary research that demonstrates the relevance of interpersonal communication in other contexts, such as health, families, and computer mediated communication, is also welcome.

We especially welcome submissions from graduate students and early career scholars.

Submissions that highlight “Conversations in the Age of Intelligence” are appreciated. The theme may be highlighted in the topic of the submission or in scholars’ methodology. We also encourage innovative ideas for panels and roundtables. Furthermore, we invite co-sponsored panels with any other division within SSCA. Collaborations with the Applied Communication, Communication Theory, Health Communication, and Intercultural Communication divisions are especially appealing.

Paper Submissions: The Interpersonal Communication Division will accept competitive papers and extended abstract paper submissions for the 2026 conference. All submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>. Please select the “Paper” option.

Competitive Paper Submissions: Competitive papers are completed research projects dealing with a substantive critical, methodological, or theoretical contribution. Submissions should include (1) the manuscript with all identifying information removed, (2) a separate cover page with the paper title, authors’ names, institutional affiliations, and contact information, and (3) an abstract of no more than 200 words. The manuscript should be no more than 25 pages, excluding references. All competitive papers should follow standard procedures for removing information that identifies the author and/or the institution within the paper and

any document metadata. The division reserves the right to reject any papers that do not follow these standards.

Awards: The division recognizes excellent scholarship with two awards: Top Paper and Top Student Paper. All submitted papers will be considered for the Division's Top Paper Award. All papers authored exclusively by a student(s) will be considered for the Top Student Paper Award. A submission is considered a student paper if all authors of the paper are 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. Please indicate "Student Paper" 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.

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

Extended Abstract Paper Submissions: Extended abstract paper submissions are designed for projects that are fully conceptualized and in the final stages of data analysis and interpretation. Submissions should include (1) a detailed, anonymized summary that provides evidence of a fully rationalized research idea, description of methods, and preliminary data analysis of no more than 700 - 1500 words (excluding references), and (2) a list of participants' names with their institutional affiliations and contact information. Extended abstracts not accepted for paper sessions will be considered for poster sessions.

**Because extended abstract submissions are not eligible for awards, we encourage completed paper submissions over abstracts when possible.*

Poster Submissions: Extended abstract poster submissions are designed for projects that are fully conceptualized but prior to or in the early stages of data collection, analysis, interpretation, or critique at the time of submission. Accepted submissions are expected to present the completed project as a poster at the conference. Submissions should include two documents: (1) a detailed, anonymized summary that provides evidence of a fully rationalized research idea and description of methods/evidence to be analyzed, of no more than 500-700 words (excluding references), and (2) a list of participants' names with their institutional affiliations and contact information. All submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>. Please select the "Poster" option.

Panels and Roundtable Submissions: All submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>. Please select the "Panel" option.

Panel Submissions: Panel proposals describe 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 per abstract. This information should be compiled in a single document. We encourage round table proposals with diverse participants comprised of individuals representing different institutions, and where possible and relevant, potential new members.

Round Table Submissions: 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 of no more than 200 words, and (3) a list of participants' names with their institutional affiliations and contact information. All round table information should be compiled in a single document. We encourage 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 submissions to all divisions and interest groups is September 15th, by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time. 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 submission not meeting the above requirements will not be accepted for review. If you have additional questions, please contact the 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. The division reserves the right to reject any submissions not following these standards.