

**SSCA 96th Annual Convention
Call for Participation
April 8-12, 2026
Sheraton Birmingham Convention Center, Birmingham, AL**

“Comm-AI-nity: Conversations in the Age of Intelligence”

Kenneth Burke Society

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The Kenneth Burke Society invites proposals for papers and panels for competitive selection. We especially welcome works that address, clarify, expound, and respond to the 2026 SSCA convention theme, “Comm-AI-nity: Conversations in the Age of Intelligence.”

Proposals to the Kenneth Burke Society should apply the theories and philosophies associated with Burke to further understand human communication or engage in dialogue about the theories and philosophies themselves. Scholars may use ideas attributed to Burke to understand and/or interrogate the implications of rhetorical texts, social performances, or interpersonal and organizational theories. We especially encourage discussions that demonstrate the timeliness of Burke’s ideas to our contemporary moment or how our current understanding of humans and communication might be used to inform or update Burke’s writings.

The Kenneth Burke Society at SSCA recognizes the Top Student Paper and the Top Faculty Paper; the top student paper will also be entered into the SSCA Robert Bostrom Young Scholar Award competition.

We welcome (1) competitive papers, (2) extended abstracts, (3) thematic panels, and (4) round table submissions.

Competitive Paper Submissions: All submissions must be submitted electronically to the SSCA convention site at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>.

Competitive papers are completed research projects that provide a substantive critical, methodological, or theoretical contribution. Submissions will include 1) the paper with all identifying information removed, 2) a separate cover page featuring the paper title, author(s)’ names, institutional affiliation(s), contact information, and an abstract of no more than 200 words. Competitive papers should be limited to 25 pages (excluding references).

Anonymous Review: All competitive papers submitted should adhere to standard procedures for removing any information that identifies the author and/or the institution within the paper and any document metadata. Divisions and interest groups reserve the right to reject any papers that do not comply with these standards.

Student Papers: All papers submitted will be considered for the Division’s Top Paper Award. For student papers, please indicate “STUDENT” on the first page of the manuscript and specify “Student Paper” during the submission process. The Division’s Top Student Paper will be submitted for consideration for the SSCA Bostrom Young Scholar Award. To qualify as a student paper and be eligible for student

awards or recognition, all authors of the paper must be students at the time of submission. For example, a paper co-authored by a student and a faculty member 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.

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

This submission option may be preferable for faculty and students embarking on new projects. Extended abstracts will be considered alongside completed papers in terms of inclusion, but are not eligible for any paper awards.

Extended abstracts should follow the same submission process as completed papers, including addressing topics of importance to Burkean theory and philosophy, clear argument structure or methodology, relevant scholarship, sound analysis, and engaging conclusions, findings, or contributions. The abstract should be between four and six pages, excluding references. Works-in-progress are allowed so long as the basic structure has been followed.

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

Panel proposals are for a collection of papers focused on a central topic or theme. This type of session typically includes between 3 and 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), along 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 into a single document and submitted using the “paper upload option” on the XCD platform.

A best practice for all divisions is to submit panel proposals with diverse participants, comprising individuals from different institutions, and, where possible and relevant, potential new members.

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

Roundtable proposals convene a group of scholars to discuss a specific topic or theme. This type of session typically features between 4 and 7 presentations. Submissions must include 1) a session title, 2) an overall session rationale (no more than 200 words), and 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 via the “paper upload option” on the XCD platform.

A best practice for all divisions is to submit roundtable 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 15, 2025, by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time**. Visit 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 must create an account. Returning visitors should ensure they use the same email address they used to establish their account. To avoid technical issues, we strongly encourage early submission. Any submission that does not meet the above requirements will be rejected for review. If you have additional questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with the Interest Group Vice-Chair and Planner, **Alex Morales**, at alexander.morales@vanderbilt.edu.

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 costs, A/V requests will be considered but may not be fulfilled. 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 consist of original research that has not been published or presented at another regional, national, or international conference. Furthermore, 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 that do not adhere to these standards.