

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

Philosophy and Ethics of Communication Interest Group

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The **Philosophy and Ethics of Communication** Interest Group invites paper and panel proposals for competitive selection. We especially welcome works that address the convention theme, “Comm-AI-nity: Conversations in the Age of Intelligence.” In relation to this thematic metaphor, submissions to our interest group may consider those ethical goods or philosophical coordinates that (ought to) anchor, orient, fortify, or guide communicative practices—in organizations, social institutions, workplaces, interpersonal relations, media environments, or civic cultures—while considering the impact of AI or technology more broadly on community and human communication.

Our division encompasses a range of scholarship, from the analysis of philosophical writings about fundamental communication concepts to arguments concerning what makes communication an ethical practice. We are a division dedicated to promoting quality investigation into worldviews, paradigms, values, and standards of our discipline. All perspectives and methodological approaches surrounding those topics are appropriate for the Philosophy and Ethics of Communication Interest Group.

Possible submission ideas:

- Different ethical theories in communication studies
- Ethical questions, problems, or perplexities in a given communicative context (interpersonal, intercultural, political, organizational, workplace, marketing, etc.)
- Relationship between communication theory and ethics
- Relationship between ethics, communication, rhetoric, philosophy, and/or religion
- Media ecology or rhetoric/philosophy of technology
- Case studies of ethical or unethical communication
- Historical study of ethical theories or moral philosophies in relation to communication
- Ethical approaches or challenges to teaching communication studies
- Communication ethics and the law or legal-judicial practice
- Philosophy of communication (relationship between communication and philosophy)
- Ethical or philosophy of communication questions/issues related to cosmopolitanism, provinciality, globalization, and/or diversity.
- Comparative and transnational perspectives on ethics and communication
- Dialogic ethics or philosophy of dialogue
- Ethical codes or practices in communication organizations including SSCA and others
- Uses and abuses of various ethicists in the study of communication
- And more!

The division invites two types of submissions: (1) competitive papers and (2) panel proposals. All papers must be no longer than 25 pages (excluding references) and include an abstract no longer than 200 words. All completed papers will compete for the interest group's top paper award. Student papers should be clearly marked "Undergraduate Student" or "Graduate Student."

Competitive Paper Submissions: All paper 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 hermeneutic, 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.

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 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 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 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

Deadline: The deadline for submissions to **ALL** divisions and interest groups is **Monday, September 15th** no later than **11:59 pm** (PST). Go to the paper submission site by way of the conference website (<https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>) and click 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 Interest Group Vice-Chair and Planner, **Andrew Tinker**, atinker1@pstcc.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 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.