

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

SSCA Political Communication Division

Vice Chair & Program Planner: Colin Cameron [email: cc217821@ohio.edu]

Call for Submissions

The Political Communication Division invites submissions for competitive selection for the SSCA 2026 Conference to be held in Birmingham, Alabama on April 8-12. In particular, we invite submissions that address, interrogate, and bring to light the important conversations surrounding this year’s theme: “Comm-AI-nity: Conversations in the Age of Intelligence.”

This year’s theme highlights the complex relationship between community and AI in our current moment, emphasizing the increasingly numerous points in which these two intersect. The theme encourages meaningful reflection on how communication fosters connection and shared meaning amidst the development and influence of advanced technologies.

As a division, we certainly acknowledge the overarching communicative impact, the new dilemmas, challenges, and questions, and the new normals perhaps yet to be imagined that this relationship especially poses to our political and social landscapes.

The Political Communication Division welcomes papers and panels that wrestle with and seek to explore the multitude of challenges and opportunities amidst this new frontier.

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 of the instructions on the convention site. For the purposes of anonymous review, please omit all author- identifying information from the manuscript. 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.

Panel or Roundtable Submissions: 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 a copy of the panel, listing the description/rationale, panelists, and, if appropriate, panelists’ individual topics; upload this at the “Upload Paper” prompt.

Deadline: Submissions must be submitted online no later than 11:59 p.m. PST on **Monday, September 15, 2025**. Go to the 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 Division Vice-Chair and Planner, Colin Cameron (cc217821@ohio.edu)

Information Pertinent to All Calls

Anonymous Review: 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 papers not following these standards.

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.

Panel Proposals: Best practices, in the interest of divisions, is to submit a proposal with a diverse panel, comprised of individuals representing different institutions, and where possible and relevant, potential new members.

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.

Student Papers: 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.