



## **Preconference Call for Panelists**

# **Inclusivity and Family Communication Research: Advances and Innovations from across the Discipline**

**Thursday, 24 May 2018, 10:00-17:00**

Scholarship related to family communication continues to be of interest to many scholars across the communication discipline. Although the flagship publication for family communication scholarship, *Journal of Family Communication*, tends to publish research in interpersonal and relational contexts, it is not unusual to see families studied in a variety of other communication contexts including health, media, organizations and organizing, law and policy, and cultural studies, to name only a few.

Often, family communication studies draw from literature in only one contextual area; and, similarly, those research studies are presented back to people within that same sub-area of the field. Although valuable scholarship is undoubtedly generated in these silos, one has to wonder how much family communication scholars from across the field can benefit from each other's work.

This preconference brings together scholars from all backgrounds who study both families and communication. In doing so, we will consider how to advance family communication studies in relevant, informed, and innovative ways. In addition to a keynote speech and opportunities for discussion, the preconference will also feature competitively-selected research.

Possible topic areas for competitive papers or high-density presentations include the following:

- Relational communication in families
- Family health concerns
- Family use of traditional and new media
- How laws and policies continue to shape families
- Representations of family in media
- Families and work-life balance
- Communication theory as it relates to families
- Inventive approaches to studying family communication
- Diversity and inclusion issues regarding families

As this topic list indicates, even though this preconference is being sponsored by the Interpersonal Communication Division, we strongly encourage participation across the many divisions and interest groups that are involved with family communication studies. Additionally, and embracing yet another facet of inclusivity, at least one panel or session within the preconference will be dedicated to non-normative families.

## **Submitting to the Family Communication Preconference**

Abstract submissions should be sent as a Microsoft word document to [jman@niu.edu](mailto:jman@niu.edu) by **Monday, 22 January 2018**. To assist in organizing abstract review, please include your last name as part of the file, and in the subject line of your submission email include FAMILY COMMUNICATION: LAST NAME.

Abstracts should include a title, 5-7 key words, a body of up to 500 words, and references.

## **Review and Notification of Decision**

We anticipate a fast peer-review process, and authors will be notified of their acceptance before 1 February 2018. Submission of a full paper is expected by 1 May 2018. Authors of accepted abstracts will be expected to register for and attend the preconference that is held on Thursday, 24 May 2018, from 10:00-17:00. The full 2018 ICA meeting will begin that night with the opening reception.

Authors presenting at the preconference may be considered for an edited collection to be published in 2019. More details will be provided with acceptance notifications.