



95th Annual Convention

Albuquerque, NM

February 14 - 17, 2025



Western States
Communication Association



The University of New Mexico Department of
Communication & Journalism and the Western States
Communication Association congratulates



Dr. Shinsuke Eguchi
President 2024-2025
Western States Communication Association

<https://cjdept.unm.edu>

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Online Program & Mobile App

This year, we have shifted to an entirely new service provider for our abstract and program management system. You can view a full digital program using our mobile application, which includes more details than what's available in this print version. You can also use the online program website, which includes the same information as on the app. Use the website or the app to search for presenters, chat with conference attendees, receive urgent alerts from WSCA, download copies of papers, and view more interactive information about the conference.

You can view the online version of the program here:

<https://wsca.me/2025>

Download The Mobile App



**Scan the barcode to download
eConference.io app.
Then Enter Code:
WSCA2025**



Convention Center Map

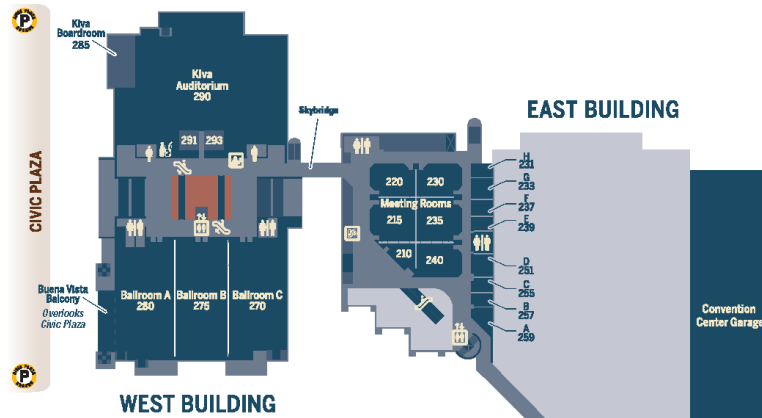
UPPER LEVEL

WEST BUILDING

- Kiva Auditorium
 - » Box Office
 - » Concessions
 - » Kiva Boardroom
- Ballroom A, B, C
 - » Buena Vista Balcony
 - Overlooks Civic Plaza
- Skybridge to East Building

EAST BUILDING

- Meeting Room 210-240
- Suite A-H
- Convention Center Parking



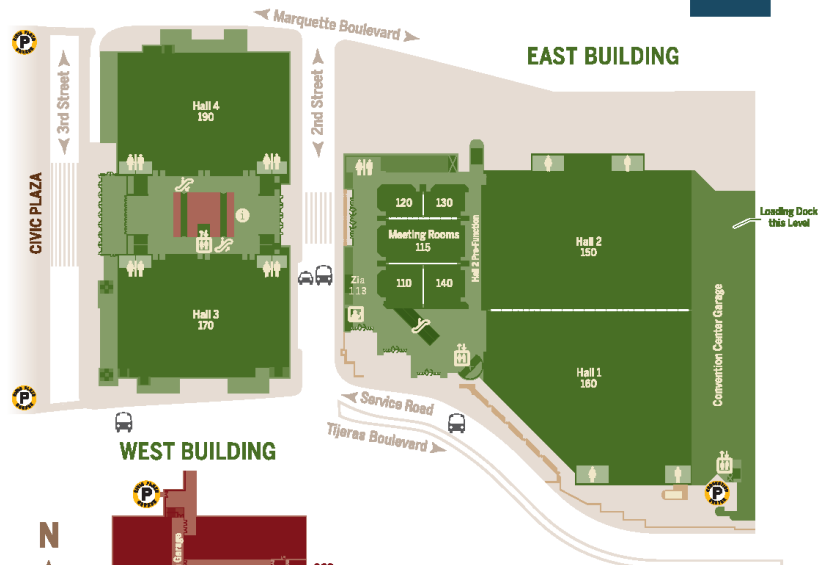
MAIN LEVEL

WEST BUILDING

- Hall 3 & 4
- Guest Services
- Civic Plaza Outdoor Event Space
- 2nd Street Entrance

EAST BUILDING

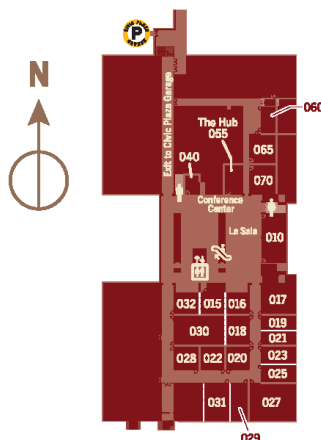
- Hall 1 & 2
- Meeting Room 110-140
- Zia Lounge 113
- Box Office
- 2nd Street Entrance
- Tijeras Boulevard Entrance



LOWER LEVEL

WEST BUILDING

- Conference Center
- The Hub 055
- La Sala (Lounge)
- Civic Plaza Parking



LEGEND

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Box Office | Parking |
| Concessions | Pick-up & Drop-off |
| Elevator | Restroom |
| Escalator | Vending |
| Guest Services | |

All areas of the Albuquerque Convention Center are accessible to people with mobility impairments.



Worldwide Entertainment and
Conference Venue Management

Close up of Lower-Level Meeting Rooms



WSCA Officers



President
Shinsuke Eguchi



President Elect
Justin P. Boren



First Vice President
Anthony Cuomo



Second Vice President
Carlos Flores



Immediate Past President
Heather E. Canary



Executive Director
Eric M. Wilson

Welcome from WSCA President Shinsuke Eguchi

Greetings from the Land of Enchantment, New Mexico! It's a true pleasure to welcome you all to the 2025 WSCA Convention in Albuquerque! I'm excited to gather with so many of you for what promises to be an enriching and thought-provoking event. Over the next few days, we'll have countless opportunities to engage with this year's theme, "*Support*," through an array of panels, workshops, and sessions designed to foster connection, growth, and shared learning.

This convention would not be possible without the incredible efforts of so many individuals. Dr. Justin Boren, our President-Elect and Primary Program Planner, has dedicated over a year to curating a convention that truly resonates with the heart of our field and this year's theme. Dr. Carlos Flores, our Second Vice President, has further enriched this experience by organizing the Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference, the Graduate School Workshop, and the Graduate Open House. We owe a deep thanks to our Executive Council members and Interest Group Planners, whose thoughtful efforts have shaped meaningful panels and discussions throughout the event.

I also want to extend my sincere gratitude to Executive Director Eric Wilson and Associate Director Caitlyn Lewis. Their tireless behind-the-scenes work has been crucial in ensuring the continued vitality and success of WSCA.

Our Local Host Team from the University of New Mexico's Department of Communication and Journalism has truly gone above and beyond to make this convention exceptional. Drs. Michael Lechuga, Jaelyn DeMaria, and Mohammed Yousef have worked tirelessly to provide special local features and events that will make this year's gathering unforgettable. I also want to acknowledge the entire department for their invaluable support. I encourage you to take full advantage of all the exciting events they've organized, including the highly anticipated WSCA Dance Party on Saturday night—this is one event you won't want to miss!

On Sunday, please plan to join us for the Convention Luncheon. If you didn't purchase a ticket during registration, don't worry—please stop by the Registration desk to check for availability. Thanks to the generosity of our members, extra tickets are often available, ensuring no one misses out on this important celebration. The Luncheon is more than just a meal; it's a time for us to come together as a community and honor our Association's highest awards, including Distinguished Service, Distinguished Scholar, and Distinguished Teacher. I'm especially looking forward to sharing my Presidential Address, where I'll reflect on last year's theme of *Possibilities* and explore how it relates to WSCA's future, particularly in light of the current social and political landscape.

Thank you once again for joining us here in Albuquerque. I sincerely hope this will be a rewarding and memorable experience for each of you, and I'm looking forward to connecting with many of you over the next few days.

Warm regards,



Shinsuke Eguchi, Ph.D.
WSCA President

Welcome from WSCA President Elect Justin Boren

Welcome to the 95th annual Western States Communication Association convention and to Albuquerque, New Mexico. I am very excited to welcome you to this vibrant and historically rich city as we learn, connect, and celebrate with each other around this year's convention theme of "Support." In a world that often feels fragmented and demanding, the concept of support resonates deeply, reminding us of the fundamental human need for connection, understanding, and mutual aid. Given the social, political, and humanitarian complexities that face us today, gathering for support is critical and, for some communities, a matter of survival.

This year's convention offers an important opportunity to explore the multifaceted nature of support through the lens of communication. I invite you to engage with thought-provoking presentations, insightful panels, and enriching discussions that delve into the ways communication can foster empathy, build stronger communities, and provide crucial assistance in times of need. I also want to draw our attention to those communities who need our support the most right now – immigrants, individuals living in the USA who are undocumented, members of the LGBTQ2S+ and BIPOC communities, and all those who are living in fear of their government. Let us continue to find ways to improve the lives of all in our communities through communication. This convention should be more than an academic exchange; let's make this weekend a space for genuine connection, where scholars, educators, students, and practitioners can share experiences, learn from each other, and forge lasting supportive relationships.

I am so grateful to the incredible work of our planning team, especially each of the interest group program planners, for their hard work at building an amazing program this year. There are so many fascinating sessions. Don't forget to drop by the **Kickoff Celebration** (featuring a special performance), check out the **Phoenix of Gaza** virtual reality exhibit (a special thanks to OFRGC for their sponsorship!), and enjoy our annual **luncheon and awards ceremony**. I especially encourage you to attend the keynote address by **Sebene Selassie**. Her talk titled "Cultivating Belonging for Personal & Collective Support" will certainly be engaging, timely, and relevant. If you haven't yet read her book, **You Belong**, you should!

I want to also express my deep gratitude to our local hosts The University of New Mexico, the WSCA Executive Director Eric Wilson, Associate Director Caitlyn Lewis, WSCA President Shinsuke Eguchi, past presidents Heather Canary and Christina Yoshimura, and my student intern Alicia Cho. I am also grateful for the loving support of my husband Joseph Conway and my chosen family (thank you especially for giving me support and space through many long nights).

I encourage you to not only engage with the conference programming but also to explore the rich cultural tapestry of Albuquerque, allowing yourself to be inspired by the history, art, and people of this remarkable city. I hope your time here is one of intellectual growth, meaningful dialogue, and a renewed sense of connection within our communication community.

With Gratitude,


Justin P. Boren, Ph.D.
President elect

Land, Labor, & Immigrant Acknowledgements

Indigenous Peoples' Land and Territory Acknowledgement

The Western States Communication Association's 95th annual convention is taking place on the traditional homelands of the Pueblo of Sandia. The original peoples of New Mexico – Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache – since time immemorial, have deep connections to the land and have made significant contributions to the broader community statewide. We honor the land itself and those who remain stewards of this land throughout the generations. We are grateful for the opportunity to learn on their territory.

Acknowledging the Labor and Sacrifices of Black Americans

We respectfully acknowledge the traumatic history of brutality against and forced labor by Black Americans who have advanced our country. We are indebted to the enslaved and exploited descendants of the African continent whose sacrifices established our U.S. infrastructure and economy, advanced civil rights, and continue to influence popular culture, agriculture, the sciences, health care, and all aspects of society. We are obligated to continuously recognize, and repair historic and current systemic oppression and injustices placed on Black Americans. We are grateful to them and their ancestors; without them, we would not be where we are today.

Honoring Immigrants in the United States

The United States of America is a country that is built on the strength of immigrants that came here, either voluntarily or involuntarily. Whether they look or speak differently from us, we will do our best to understand, respect, appreciate, and value their cultures and contributions, with the ultimate goal to welcome them and elicit their potential for the betterment of all societies.

These Statements are adapted from our local host institution, the University of New Mexico

<https://diverse.unm.edu/about-dei-at-unm/land-labor-acknowledgement.html>

Welcome from Local Host - University of New Mexico

Welcome to Albuquerque, New Mexico, and to the 2025 Western States Communication Association Convention! As your local hosts from the University of New Mexico's Department of Communication & Journalism, we are delighted to welcome you to our vibrant city, where deep cultural tradition intersects with future-facing innovation.

Albuquerque is uniquely positioned between the majestic Sandia Mountains and the historic Rio Grande. With 310 days of sunshine per year and moderate winter and summer climates, our city offers an ideal setting for both intellectual discourse and outdoor exploration. Our multicultural population contributes to a rich tapestry of traditions reflected in our architecture, cuisine, and arts, from the adobe buildings of Old Town to the contemporary galleries of Nob Hill.

This year's convention theme, "Support," resonates deeply with our community-centered spirit. We are particularly excited to welcome our keynote speaker, Sebene Selassie, whose work on personal and collective liberation through meditation, creativity, and nature-based practices aligns so well with our theme. Her presentation promises to offer valuable insights into exploring the profound truth of belonging.

Our local spotlight panel, "Communicating Culture in New Mexico: Articulating Local Perspectives and Amplifying Chicana Support Systems," brings together distinguished Chicana practitioners who will share their experiences in community support and development. This panel exemplifies our region's commitment to land-based communication and cultural preservation, featuring perspectives from journalists, archivists, literary critics, and culture bearers who are actively shaping New Mexico's narrative.

The Department of Communication & Journalism at the University of New Mexico takes pride in serving as your host. As the state's flagship university, UNM is distinguished as both a Carnegie Research I University and a Carnegie Community-Engaged University. Founded in 1889, we serve approximately 30,000 students through more than 200 degree and certificate programs. Our campus, situated in the heart of Albuquerque, reflects the unique architectural style of our region while housing cutting-edge research facilities and vibrant learning spaces.

Our local host team has worked diligently to ensure your time in Albuquerque is both intellectually stimulating and culturally enriching. This team includes Drs. Shinsuke Eguchi, Jaelyn deMaría, Mohammed Yousuf, Cleophas Muneri, and Michael Lechuga along with the amazing staff in the C&J Department. We encourage you to explore some of our city's cultural landmarks, including the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, which offers an authentic perspective on the history and living culture of New Mexico's 19 Pueblos. Our city's blend of historic sites and natural beauty provides numerous opportunities for discovery during your stay.

We hope this convention provides you with opportunities for meaningful connection, intellectual growth, and a deeper appreciation of our unique corner of the Southwest. Please don't hesitate to reach out to any member of our local host team for assistance or recommendations during your stay.

Kindly,

The 2025 University of New Mexico Local Host Team

About the Convention Artwork



The 2025 conference artwork was designed by **Simón Malvaez**. Simón is a queer Mexican artist working in multiple mediums in San Francisco and New York. His famous murals around San Francisco and beyond exhibit images of community and diversity. “Support” is inspired by the art of Albuquerque, the colors of

the Southwest, and the need for us to engage with and in our communities.

<https://simonmalvaez.com/>

IG: @simonmalvaez

Sponsors and Exhibitors

The Western States Communication Association is grateful to our exhibitors and sponsors for this year's conference.

Exhibitors



<https://www.soomolearning.com/>

Soomo provides modern courseware and services that enable schools and instructors to improve student outcomes in first-year college courses. Our webtexts weave frequent formative assessment and practice opportunities into every page of content to help students learn how to learn, while giving all students a clear path to demonstrating mastery. All that interactivity produces detailed analytics which enable instructors to see who's doing the work and engage off-path students sooner.



<https://www.stukent.com/>

Stukent's digital courseware is a cutting-edge educational solution that **provides up-to-date content through a yearly update process**. With comprehensive resources including lesson plans, videos, instructor notes, case studies, quizzes and more, this courseware offers a wealth of tools and resources for educators.

Sponsors



Convention Synopsis

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024

Finance Committee Meeting

1:30pm – 3:30pm | Nambé

Publications Committee Meeting

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm | Isleta

Executive Council Meeting

4:00 pm - 10:00 pm | Jemez

Registration & Information

4:00 pm - 8:00 pm | La Sala

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024

Registration & Information

8:00 am - 5:00 pm | La Sala

Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference

8:00 am - 1:00 pm | Various

Support Space (Quiet Room)

8:00 am - 5:00 pm | Sandia

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

9:00 am - 4:00 pm | Various

Editor's Review Meeting

9:00am – 10:00 am | Apache

Exhibits

12:00 pm - 5:00 pm | La Sala

Graduate Student Workshop

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm | Isleta

Graduate Program Open House

3:45 pm - 5:00 pm | Anasazi

95th Annual Convention Welcome Celebration & Kickoff

5:15 pm – 7:30 pm | La Sala

Executives Club Social

7:30pm – 9:30pm | 505 Food Hall (off site)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024

Morning Yoga

7:00am – 8:00am | Anasazi

Registration & Information

8:00 am - 5:00 pm | La Sala

Support Space (Quiet Room)

8:00 am - 6:00 pm | Sandia

Exhibits

8:00 am - 5:00 pm | La Sala

2026 Program Planners Meeting I

8:00 am - 9:00 am | Apache

Interest Group Business Meetings

8:00 am - 9:00 am | Various

Newcomers Meet & Greet

8:30am – 9:00am | La Sala

Panel Session #1

9:15 am - 10:30 am | Various

Phoenix of Gaza: Virtual Reality Exhibit

10:00am – 2:00pm | Anasazi

Panel Session #2

10:45 am - 12:00 pm | Various

Designated Break

12:00pm – 12:30pm | Concessions on main level open from 8am – 4pm

Officer's Review

12:00pm – 1:30pm | Chaco

Panel Session #3

12:30 pm - 1:45 pm | Various

Keynote Address featuring Sebene Selassie

Cultivating Belonging for Personal & Collective Support

2:00 pm - 3:15 pm | Ballroom A (Main Level)

Panel Session #4

3:30 pm - 4:45 pm | Various

Interest Group Business Meetings

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm | Various

Panel Session #5

5:00 pm - 6:15 pm | Various

Recovery Group Meeting Space

6:30pm – 7:30pm | Sandia

Receptions

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm | Various

Dance Party 2025

9:00 pm - 11:45 pm | Ballroom A (Main Level)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2024

Morning Coffee and Snacks provided by Colorado State University

8:00am – 9:45am | La Sala

Registration & Information

8:00 am - 12:00 pm | La Sala

Support Space (Quiet Room)

8:00 am - 6:00 pm | Sandia

Exhibits

8:00 am - 5:00 pm | La Sala

2026 Program Planners Meeting II

9:00 am - 10:00 am | Nambé

Interest Group Business Meetings

9:00 am - 10:00 am | Various

Panel Session #6

9:00 am - 10:15 am | Various

Member Services & Marketing Committee Meeting

10:30am – 11:30am | Nambé

Panel Session #7

10:30 am - 11:45 am | Various

Luncheon and Awards Celebration

12:00 pm - 2:30 pm | Ballroom A (Main Level)

Panel Session #8

2:45 pm - 4:00 pm | Various

Forensics Spotlight Panel

4:15pm – 5:30pm | Acoma

Interest Group Business Meetings

4:15pm – 5:15pm | Various

Panel Session #9

4:15 pm - 5:30 pm | Various

WSCA Legislative Assembly Meeting

6:30 pm - 9:00 pm | Tesuque

President's Reception

9:15 pm - 11:30 pm | Ballroom A (Main Level)

MONDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2025

Panel Session #10

9:00 am - 10:15 am | Various

Executive Council Session II

9:00 am - 11:30 am | Apache

Panel Session #11

10:30 am - 11:45 am | Various

2025 Convention Program Planners

Primary Program Planner

Justin P. Boren, Santa Clara University

Convention Planning Intern

Alicia Cho, Santa Clara University

Local Host Team

Jaelyn DeMaria, Shinsuke Eguchi, Michael Lechuga, Mohammad Yosef

Executive Director

Eric M. Wilson, Wichita State University

Assistant to the Executive Director

Caitlyn Lewis, University of Montana

Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference

Carlos Flores, Sacramento State University

Communication and Instruction

Kimberly Aguilar, Sacramento State University

Communication, Identities & Difference

Shane Moreman, CSU Fresno

Communication, Self, and Social Construction

Christopher Koenig, San Francisco State University

Communication Theory and Research

Jimmie Manning, University of Nevada Reno

Community College

Nick Chivers, DeAnza College

Executives Club

Andi Zamora, Bellingham Technical College

Environmental Communication

Ashleigh Day, Northern Arizona University

Freedom of Expression and Political Communication

Ryan Stouffer, Longwood University

Health Communication

Marie Haverfield, San José State University

Intercultural Communication

Keisuke Kimura, Miami University

Interpersonal & Family Communication

Colter Ray, University of Tampa

Media Studies

Justin Boren, Santa Clara University

Organizational Communication

Rebecca Rice, University of Nevada Las Vegas

Organization for Feminist Research on Gender and Communication

Lore/tta LeMaster, Arizona State University

Performance Studies

Tyler Rife, St. Lawrence University

Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy

Liahnna Stanley, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Western Forensics & Argumentation Association

Damon Lawson, University of Utah

WSCA Executive Council

President

Shinsuke Eguchi
University of New Mexico

First Vice President

Anthony Cuomo
West Los Angeles College

Immediate Past President

Heather E. Canary
San Diego State University

Finance Committee Chair

Kimberly Aguilar
Sacramento State University

Publications Committee Chair

Heewon Kim
Arizona State University

Executive's Club President

Andi Zamora
Bellingham Technical College

**Western Journal of Communication
Co-Editor**

Casey R. Schmitt
West Chester University

Communication Reports Editor

Amanda Denes
University of Connecticut

Member-at-Large

Santosh Chandrashekar
University of Denver

Member-at-Large

Shane Moreman
California State University, Fresno

President Elect

Justin P. Boren
Santa Clara University

Second Vice President

Carlos Flores
Sacramento State University

Executive Director

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Wichita State University

Member Services Chair

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California State University Long Beach

WSCA News & Social Media Editor

Veronica Dawson
California State University, Stanislaus

Speech Activities Director

Averie Vockel
University of Utah

**Western Journal of Communication
Co-Editor**

Lisa Ellen Silvestri
Penn State University

Communication Reports Editor-Select

Wei Sun
Howard University

Member-at-Large

Ashley Givens
Salt Lake Community College

Member-at-Large

Heather Voorhees
University of Montana

WSCA Committees

Nominating Committee

Heather Canary (Chair); Stephanie Hartzell; Mo Kalaji; Nick Chivers; Jimmie Manning; Ashleigh Day; Colter Ray; Olivia Roe; Tara McManus; Amanda Friz.

Finance Committee

Kimberly Aguilar (Chair), Greg Dickinson, Michelle A. Holling, Anthony Cuomo, Eric Wilson

Publications Committee

Heewon Kim, (Chair), Santhosh Chandrashekar; Cleophas Muneri; Casey Schmitt; Lisa Silvestri; Wei Sun; Veronica Dawson

Time and Place Committee

Karen Stout (Chair); Paul Mongeau; Averie Vockel; Darrian Carroll; Heather Canary; Eric Wilson

Member Services and Marketing Committee

Stephanie Hartzell (Chair), Olivia Roe, Jim Cherney, and Anthony Cuomo

Distinguished Scholar Award

Shane Moreman, (Chair); Chan Thai; Micheal Lechuga; Santhosh Chandrashekar; Sarah Tracy; Amanda Denes

Distinguished Service Award

Heather Voorhees (Chair); Heather Canary; Andi Zamora; Santhosh Chandrasekar

Distinguished Teaching Award

Ashley Givens (Chair); Stephanie Gomez; Michael Tristano; Keisuke Kimura; Kendra Rivera

Milton Dickens Award for Exemplary Empirical Research

Nick Brody; Megan Dillow; Norman Wong

Model Communication Program Award

Santhosh Chandrasker (Chair); Shane Moreman; Nick Chivers; Kimberly N. Aguilar

Futures Committee

Heather Canary (Chair); Amy Edwards; Maria Blevins; Carlos Tarin

B. Aubrey Fisher Award

Amy Johnson (Chair); Jennifer Becker; Colin Hesse; Stephanie Kelly-Romano; Jill Edy; Dale Hample; Scott Myers

Elected Representatives to the WSCA Legislative Assembly

Felipe Gómez; Leandra Hernandez; Juliane Mora; Kendra Rivera; Damariyé Smith

WSCA Representatives to NCA Legislative Council

Ashley Givens; Darrian Carroll

WSCA Departmental Members

Arizona State University
California State University, Chico
California State University, Los Angeles
Central Michigan University
Chapman University
Colorado State University
George Mason University
Modesto Junior College
New Mexico State University
San Diego State University
San Francisco State University
San Jose State University
Santa Clara University
University of Hawaii, Manoa
University of Idaho
University of Montana
University of New Mexico
University of Puget Sound
University of the Pacific
University of Utah

As of 1/20/2025

Life Members

Katherine Adams, California State University, Fresno
Dennis Alexander, University of Utah
James A. Anderson, University of Utah
Robert K. Avery, University of Utah
Kimberly Barnett Gibson, St. Mary's University
Mark Bergstrom, University of Utah
Justin Boren, Santa Clara University
Dawn O. Braithwaite, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
William Bray, San Francisco State University
Nancy Burroughs, California State University, Stanislaus
Daniel Canary, San Diego State University
Heather Canary, San Diego State University
John Caputo, Gonzaga University
Hilda Carpenter, Carpenter Consulting Associates
Yea-Wen Chen, San Diego State University
David Chimovitz, Colorado Mountain College
Robert Clark, University of Oregon
Heather Crandall, Gonzaga University
Audrey Deterding, Lindsey Wilson College
Qingwen Dong, University of the Pacific
Bill Eadie, San Diego State University (Emeritus)
Shinsuke Eguchi, University of New Mexico
Lisa Flores, University of Colorado
Kory Floyd, University of Arizona
Douglas Fraleigh, California State University, Fresno
Marlene M. Von Friederichs-Fitzwater, California State University, Sacramento (retired)
Patricia M. Ganer, Cypress College
James M. Gelwicks, Western College of Colorado
Kimberly Barnett Gibson, St. Mary's University
Donna Gotch, California State University, San Bernardino
Jo Anna Grant, California State University, San Bernardino
Cindy Griffin, Colorado State University
Brian Heisterkamp, California State University, San Bernardino
Susan A. Hellweg, San Diego State University
Tracey Quigley Holden, University of Delaware
K.B. Hom, University of Utah
Heather Hundley, University of Nebraska, Omaha
Matthew Isbell, Boise State University
Ronald Jackson II, University of Illinois
Hillary Jones, California State University, Fresno
Jean Krause, California State University, San Bernardino
Michael Lechuga, University of Minnesota
Jimmie Manning, University of Nevada, Reno
Matt Martin, West Virginia University
Sean Maulding, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

Erin D. McClellan, Boise State University
John McClellan, Boise State University
Suzanne McCorkle, Boise State University
Paul A. Mongeau, Arizona State University
Shane Moreman, California State University, Fresno
Tom Nakayama, Northeastern University
Chevelle Newsome, California State University, Sacramento
Marnel Niles Goins, Marymount University
Patricia O'Keefe, College of Marin
Kent Ono, University of Utah
Brian L. Ott, University of Missouri
Douglas Parry, University of Alaska, Anchorage
Sue D. Pendell, Colorado State University (retired)
Sandra Petronio, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
Rodney Reynolds, California Lutheran University (retired)
Kelly R. Rossetto, Boise State University (retired)
Clariza Ruiz De Castilla, California State University, Long Beach
David R. Seibold, University of California, Santa Barbara
William Sharkey, University of Hawai'i at Manoa
Rachel Silverman, Boise State University
Stacey Sowards, University of Texas at Austin
Robert Stockton, Katella High School (retired)
Julie Taylor, California State University, San Bernardino
Mckay West, University of West Virginia
John L. Williams, California State University, Sacramento (retired)
Christina Yoshimura, University of Montana
Stacy Young, California State University, Long Beach

As of 1/20/2025

**To learn more or to become a Life Member, visit the
registration desk during the convention or this website:
<https://www.westcomm.org/page/WSCAMemberships>**

Past Presidents

Name	Year	Affiliation	Convention City
Heather E. Canary	2023	San Diego State University	Reno
Christina Granato Yoshimura	2022	University of Montana	Phoenix
Marnel Niles Goins	2021	American University	Portland
Marnel Niles Goins	2020	American University	no convention
Rodney Reynolds	2019	Cal Lutheran	Denver
Brian Heisterkamp	2018	CSU, San Bernardino	Seattle
Michelle A. Holling	2017	CSU, San Marcos	Santa Clara/ San Jose
Mark Bergstrom	2016	University of Utah	Salt Lake City
Paul Mongeau	2015	Arizona State	San Diego
Patricia O'Keefe	2014	College of Marin	Spokane
Brian L. Ott	2013	Univ. of Colorado, Denver	Anaheim
Lisa A. Flores	2012	Univ. of Colorado, Boulder	Reno
Patricia Ganer	2011	Cypress College	Albuquerque
Heather Hundley	2010	CSU San	Monterey
Daniel J. Canary	2009	Bernardino Arizona State	Anchorage
Sue D. Pendell	2008	Colorado State	Phoenix
Sara Hayden	2007	University of Montana	Denver/ Boulder
Mary Jane Collier*	2006	University of New Mexico	Seattle
Mary Jane Collier	2005	Univ. of New Mexico	Palm Springs
Myron "Ron" Lustig	2004	San Diego State	San Francisco
Connie Bullis	2003	University of Utah	Albuquerque
Katherine Adams	2002	CSU Fresno	Salt Lake City
Sandra Petronio	2001	Wayne State	Long Beach
Dawn O. Braithwaite	2000	University of Nebraska	Coeur d'Alene
Dennis C. Alexander	1999	University of Utah	Sacramento
Peter A. Andersen	1998	San Diego State University	Vancouver, BC
Leslie A. Baxter	1997	University of Iowa	Denver
Betsy W. Bach	1996	Univ. of Montana	Monterey Bay
Jolene Koester	1995	CSU Sacramento	Pasadena

Robert K. Avery	1994	University of Utah	Portland
William "Bill" Eadie	1993	CSU Northridge	San Jose
Stephen Littlejohn	1992	Humboldt State	Albuquerque
Janis F. Andersen	1991	San Diego State	Boise
Thomas M. Scheidel	1990	Univ. of Washington	Phoenix
Lynn K. Wells	1989	Saddleback Community College	Sacramento
David Natharius	1988	CSU Fresno	Spokane
Malcolm O. Sillars	1987	University of Utah	San Diego
Jo Sprague	1986	San Jose State	Salt Lake City
B. Aubrey Fisher	1985	University of Utah	Tucson
Jody Nyquist	1984	Univ. of Washington	Fresno
John C. Hammerback	1983	CSU Hayward	Seattle
William W. Wilmot	1982	University of Montana	Albuquerque
Nancy G. McDermid	1981	San Francisco State	Denver
Robert Vogelsang	1980	Portland State	San Jose
Carmendale Fernandes	1979	Fremont H. S.	Portland
R. Wayne Pace	1978	Brigham Young	Los Angeles
Lucy M. Keele	1977	CSU Fullerton	Phoenix
Robert D. Kully	1976	CSU Los Angeles	San Francisco
Eldon E. Baker	1975	Univ. of Montana	Seattle
Walter R. Fisher	1974	USC	Newport Beach
Robert R. Boren	1973	Boise State	Albuquerque
John W. Keltner	1972	Oregon State	Honolulu
Donald J. Cameron	1971	CSU Northridge	Fresno
Marcella Oberle	1970	CSU Los Angeles	Portland
James McBath	1969	USC	San Diego
Harold Livingston	1968	Oregon State	Salt Lake City
Milton Dobkin	1967	Humboldt State	Sacramento
Earl Cain	1966	CSU Long Beach	Seattle
Halbert Greaves	1965	University of Utah	Los Angeles
Ruth Jackson	1964	Palo Alto P.S.	Boulder
Joseph Wagner	1963	CSU Long Beach	San Francisco
John Wright	1962	CSU Fresno	Long Beach
Theodore O. H. Karl	1961	Pacific Lutheran	Fresno
Lawrence Mouat	1960	San Jose State	Corvallis
Johnnye Akin	1959	Univ. of Denver	Palo Alto
Upton Palmer	1958	UC Santa Barbara	Salt Lake City
Kathleen Pendergast	1957	University of Washington	Santa Barbara
Milton Dickens	1956	USC	Eugene
Wayne Eubank	1955	University of New Mexico	Los Angeles
Alonzo Morley	1954	Brigham Young	Tucson

William McCoard	1953	USC	Fresno
Susie S. Niles	1952	SLC P.S.	Denver
Roy D. Mahaffey	1951	Linfield College	San Jose
Norman Freestone	1950	Occidental	Santa Barbara
Virgil A. Anderson	1949	Stanford	San Jose
Joseph H. Baccus	1948	Univ. of Redlands	Seattle
Robert D. Clark	1947	Univ. of Oregon	Salt Lake City
Mabel F. Gifford	1946	CA Dept of ED.	San Francisco
Alan Nichols	1945	USC	Los Angeles
Horace G. Rahskopf	1944	University of Washington	Divisional
EARL W. WELLS	1943	Oregon State	Denver/Salen
T. Earl Pardoe	1942	Brigham Young	No convention
Charles Lindsley	1941	Occidental	Salt Lake City
J. Richard Bietry	1940	Univ. of Colorado	Los Angeles
Elvina Miller	1939	Seattle P.S.	San Francisco
John L. Casteel	1938	Univ. of Colorado	Seattle
Elwood Murray	1937	Univ. of Denver	Denver
Edward Z. Rowell	1936	Univ. of California	Pasadena
Joseph F. Smith	1935	University of Utah	San Francisco
E. Ray Nichols	1934	Univ. of Redlands	Salt Lake City
Frederick W. Orr	1933	University of Washington	Portland
Ray K. Immel	1932	USC	Los Angeles
Lee Emerson Basset	1931	Stanford	Pasadena
W. Arthur Cable	1930	Univ. of Arizona	San Francisco
W. Arthur Cable	1929	Univ. of Arizona	San Francisco

**But for her untimely death, Leah Vande Berg would have served as President in 2006.*

Distinguished Service Award

Recipients

Year	Name	School
2024	No Award	
2023	Mark Bergstrom	University of Utah
2022	Heather Hundley	University of Nebraska, Omaha
2021	No award	
2020	Paul Mongeau	Arizona State University
2019	Kathy Adams	California State University, Fresno
2018	Mary Jane Collier	University of New Mexico
2017	Daniel Canary	University of Utah
2016	William F. Eadie	San Diego State University
2015	No Award	
2014	Sue Pendell	Colorado State University
2013	Janis Andersen	Emerson University
2012	Betsy W. Bach	University of Montana
2011	Robert K. Avery	University of Utah
2010	Myron "Ron" Lustig	San Diego State University
2009	John Cagle	California State University, Fresno
	Jo Sprague	San Jose State University
2008	Peter Andersen	San Diego State University
2007	Dawn O. Braithwaite	University of Nebraska
2006	Sandra Petronio	Indiana University, Purdue University - Indianapolis
2005	Leah Vande Berg	California State University, Sacramento
2004	Kenneth Frandsen	University of New Mexico
2003	Dennis Alexander	University of Utah
2002	Lynn K. Wells	Saddleback Community College
2001	William W. Wilmot	University of Montana
2000	Jody Nyquist	University of Washington
1999	David Natharius	California State University, Fresno
1998	Robert Boren	Boise State University
1997	Lucy Keele	California State University, Fullerton
1996	John "Sam" Keltner	Oregon State University
1995	Nancy G. McDermid	San Francisco State University
1994	Thomas M. Scheidel	University of Washington
1993	Jack A. Samosky	California State University, Hayward
1992	Malcolm O. Sillars	University of Utah
1991	James McBath	University of Southern California
1990	Walter Fisher	University of Southern California
1989	Gale Richards	Arizona State University

Distinguished Scholar Award

Recipients

Year	Name	School
2024	Greg Dickinson	Colorado State University
2023	Laura Guerrero	Arizona State University
2022	Bernadette Calafell	Gonzaga University
2021	No award	
2020	Kent Ono	University of Utah
2019	Kory Floyd	University of Arizona
2018	Tom Nakayama	Northeastern University
2017	Wayne Beach	San Diego State University
2016	Craig R. Smith	California State University, Long Beach
2015	Sandra Petronio	Indiana University, Purdue University Indianapolis
2014	Dawn O. Braithwaite	University of Nebraska
2013	William R. Cupach	Illinois State University
2012	Peter A. Andersen	San Diego State University
2011	Sonja K. Foss	University of Colorado, Denver
2010	Walter R. Fisher	University of Southern California
2009	Brian H. Spitzberg	San Diego State University
2008	Leslie A. Baxter	University of Iowa

Distinguished Teaching Award

Recipients

Year	Name	School
2024	Leslie R. Nelson	California Polytechnic State University
2023	Brandi J. Lawless	University of San Francisco
2022	Fatima Zahrae Chrifi Alaoui	San Francisco State University
2021	No award	
2020	Erin Willer	University of Denver
2019	Sarah Tracy	Arizona State University
2018	Matthew Sanders	Utah State University
2017	Bryan R. Hirayama	Bakersfield College
2016	Patricia Geist-Martin	San Diego State University
2015	Lisa Keranen	University of Colorado, Denver
2014	Jonathan Bowman	University of San Diego
2013	Stacey Sowards	University of Texas at El Paso
2012	Stephen John Hartnett	University of Colorado, Denver

Model Communication Program

Award Recipients

Year	Institution	City
2024	Moorpark College	Moorpark, CA
2023	Santa Monica College	Santa Monica, CA
2022	Pierce College	Los Angeles, CA
2021	No award	
2020	Mt. San Antonio College	Walnut, CA
2019	El Camino College	Torrance, CA
2018	Glendale Community College	Glendale, CA
2017	Salt Lake Community College	Salt Lake City, UT
	East High School	Salt Lake City, UT
2016	College of the Canyons	Santa Clarita, CA
	Irvine Valley College	Irvine, CA
2015	Oxnard College	Oxnard, CA
2014	San Diego Mesa College	San Diego, CA
2013	Gavilan College	Gilroy, CA
2012	Cabrillo College	Aptos, CA
2011	Clark Community College	Vancouver, WA
	Clovis East High School	Clovis, CA
2010	No Award	
2009	No Award	
2008	Bakersfield College	Bakersfield, CA
2007	No Award	
2006	College of the Canyons	Santa Clarita, CA
2005	De Anza Community College	Cupertino, CA
	Granite Bay High School	Granite Bay, CA
2004	Albuquerque Vocational Technical Institute	Albuquerque, NM
2003	West High School	Salt Lake City, UT
	Cypress High School	Cypress, CA
2002	San Mateo College	San Mateo, CA
	Holtville High School	Holtville, CA
2001	Salt Lake Community College	Salt Lake City, UT
2000	Ohlone College	Fremont, CA



**Tomorrow's
communication
leaders start here!**

COMMUNICATION

Research-based Ph.D. and Master of Arts Programs



Conference Program

Thursday, February 13

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM | Jemez

Event Planning Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Chair: Justin Boren (Santa Clara University)

Co-Chair: Eric Wilson (Western States Communication Association)

Committee Members: Alicia Cho (Santa Clara University), Shinsuke Eguchi (University of New Mexico), Carlos Flores (California State University Sacramento) and Caitlyn Lewis (Soil Cycle)

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM | Nambé

Finance Committee Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Chair: Kimberly Aguilar (California State University, Sacramento)

Committee Members: Anthony Cuomo (West Los Angeles College), Greg Dickinson (Colorado State University), Michelle Holling (California State University San Marcos) and Eric Wilson (Western States Communication Association)

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM | Isleta

Publications Committee Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Chair: Heewon Kim (Arizona State University)

Committee Members: Santhosh Chandrashekar (Univ. of Denver), Veronica Dawson (California State University Stanislaus), Cleophas Muneri (University of New Mexico), Casey Schmitt (West Chester University), Lisa Silvestri (Pennsylvania State University) and Wei Sun (Howard University)

4:00 PM - 10:00 PM | Jemez

Executive Council Session I

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Chair: Shinsuke Eguchi (University of New Mexico)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Justin Boren (Santa Clara University)

Committee Members: Kimberly Aguilar (California State University, Sacramento), Heather Canary (San Diego State University), Santhosh Chandrashekar (Univ. of Denver), Anthony Cuomo (West Los Angeles College), Veronica Dawson (California State University Stanislaus), Amanda Denes (University of Connecticut), Carlos Flores (California State University Sacramento), Ashley Givens (Salt Lake Community College), Stephanie Hartzell (California State University, Long Beach), Heewon Kim (Arizona State University), Shane Moreman (California State University, Fresno), Casey Schmitt (West Chester University), Lisa Silvestri (Pennsylvania State University), Wei Sun (Howard University), Averie Vockel (University of Utah), Heather Voorhees (University of Montana), Eric Wilson (Western States Communication Association) and Andi Zamora (Bellingham Technical College)

Friday, February 14

Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference

7:00 AM - 7:45 AM | La Sala Atrium

USRC Registration

8:00 AM - 8:15 AM | Isleta

USRC Welcome

Chair: Carlos Flores (California State University Sacramento)

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM | Isleta

USRC Paper Panel 01

This is the first USRC panel for papers in rhetorical criticism and analysis.

"Dune Through Perspective of Feminist Criticism"

Natalia Szybinska (Northern State University)

"Communications and Policing: A Cluster Analysis of the Oregon Police Training Manual"

Cody Pickar (Linfield University)

"Reclaiming Agency: Rhetoric, Resistance, and the Path to Liberation in The Joys of Motherhood"

Winifred Nkemdilim (Northern State University)

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM | Laguna - AV

USRC Paper Panel 02

This panel centers on submissions addressing discussions and discourses centered on communication technologies and artificial intelligence.

"In AI We Trust: The Effect of Artificial Intelligence on Credibility, Instructor Immediacy, and Future Student Investment"

Bridget LaPorte (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo), Olivia Thomas (Cal Poly San Luis Obispo), Kaley Scheppler (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo)

"Generative Artificial Intelligence: Attitude and Literacy"

Zoe Collier (Trinity University), Olivia Autry (Trinity University)

"Shaping the Future of Learning: AI, AR/VR, and the Evolutionary Landscape of Educational Technology"

Nava Haus (The College of Wooster)

"Surveillance Technologies, Settler Logics: A Critical Examination of Law and Autonomous Drone Surveillance"

Aryan Jain (Arizona State University)

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM | Santo Domingo - AV

USRC Paper Panel 03

This panel is comprised of submissions that delve into analyses of popular culture media such as television and film.

"What Does Horror Media Do To Us?"

Vaughn Sheridan (Montana State University Billings)

"Removing the Blindfold: An Analysis of Blind Stereotypes in Popular Television and Their Real World Impacts"

Clara Johansen (Linfield University)

"Sexy, Cute, and Popular to Boot: The Satirizing of Cheerleading within Bring It On"

Elisabeth Barlin (Southwestern University)

"Symbols of Strength: A Critical Analysis of Kesha's Feminist Narrative in Praying"

Bridget Shishnia (Northern State University)

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM | Navajo

USRC Paper Panel 04

This panel is comprised of submissions that adopt a critical orientation towards analyzing lived experiences and identities.

"'I Want to be as Normal as Possible': A Deep Insight into the Challenges and Experiences Through the Coming Out Process"

Mario Lopez (San Diego State University)

"Black Women's Love Ethic: A Means to Personal Liberation"

Rose Marika Mwansa (Towson University)

"The Impact of Dual Nationality on Identity"

Lucas Chabert (California State University San Marcos)

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM | Navajo

USRC Paper Panel 05

This panel is comprised of submissions that adopt critical approaches to analyzing communication and media.

"Inside the Pink Pony Club: An Analysis of Chappell Roan and the Effects of Queer Expression and Drag within the Music Industry"

Ethan Woods (Southwestern University)

"The Court of Public Opinion vs. Megan Thee Stallion - A Critical Analysis of Megan Thee Stallion's Trial and the Prevalence of Misogynoir in the Media"

Isabella Villagomez (Occidental College)

"Unveiling Diverse Femininities: A South Asian Woman's Journey of Othering and Un/Re/Learning Beauty"

Farah Rizvi (California State University San Marcos)

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM | Laguna - AV

USRC Paper Panel 06

This panel is comprised of submissions examining varied contexts of interpersonal communication.

"Analyzing Reciprocation: Smiling, Eye Contact, Gender, & Clothing"

Zara Holdaway (San Diego State University)

"Environmental Impact Between Couples In Restaurants"

Taylor Williams (SDSU)

"Moreno-Wise Model of Interpersonal Relationships"

Evan Wise (University of Miami), Guillermo Moreno (University of Miami)

"The Perceived Competencies and Incompetencies of Monoracial and Monoethnic Parents in Cultivating Multiracial and Multiethnic Children's Identity Development"

Shylah Waugh (University of San Francisco)

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM | Santo Domingo - AV

USRC Paper Panel 07

This panel is comprised of submissions that delve into communication in the contexts of health.

"EXPLAINING ILLNESS WITH ANALOGIES"

Rand Madafr (University of San Francisco)

"Reassuring Messages in Healthcare: A Test of Two Strategies"

Kyla Seeley (University of San Francisco), Molly Elliott (University of San Francisco)

"Unveiling the Power of Storytelling for People with Disabilities Through Conversation Analysis"

Lauren Torchiana (San Diego State University), Isabella Anisso (San Diego State University), Danielle York (San Diego State University), Connor Jordan (San Diego State University), Alexis Anderson (San Diego State University), Brooke Stoll (San Diego State University)

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM | Isleta

USRC Paper Panel 08

"Narratives of Disability: Short-form Content, Disabled Children & their Guardians"

Stuti Behari (Lewis & Clark College)

"The Strategic Role of Visual Communication in Soccer Branding: Balancing Tradition, Modernity, and Global Appeal"

Alessandro Guzzinati (Dominican University New York)

"Mean Girl Feminism: Latina Narratives, TikTok, and the Fight Against Misogyny"

Vanessa Villarreal (Southwestern University)

"TikTok and the Algorithm: How Surveillance, Neutrality, and Transparency Threaten User Identity"

Alexa Delenela (Southwestern University)

10:45 AM - 11:30 AM | La Sala Atrium

USRC Designated Break

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM | Laguna - AV

USRC - Top Paper Panel

This paper panel is comprised of the top undergraduate papers at the USRC.

"A Look at Relationship Termination Through Knapp's Relational Stage Model: Effects of Communication Style, Attachment Style, Empathy, and Self-Esteem on Termination Strategies."

Ekaterina Pavlova (San Diego State University)

"The Facade of the "Hot Girl" Lifestyle: Who Has Access? Who Benefits? And Why is it so Popular?"

Lauren Sanchez (Southwestern University)

"Just tell me no.": Exploring Sex Through Language and Performative Writing"

Lavinnia Glenberg (Arizona State University)

"Making a "Judicial Examination": Credibility and Rationality in Clelia Duel Mosher's Speech "The Relation of Health to the Woman Movement""

Elisabeth Stevens (Calvin University)

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM | Navajo

USRC Paper Panel 09

"The Dehumanization of Palestinians in U.S. Media: Animal rhetoric through death tolls, Instagram infographics, CNN, and X"

Mia Santoscoy (Southwestern University)

"Grappling With Colonialism in Outdoor Education: Leave No Trace"

Victoria Ayala (Southwestern University)

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM | Santo Domingo - AV

USRC Paper Panel 10

This panel features submissions utilizing participant-driven and qualitative communication research.

"The 13th Step: Power Dynamics that Enable Predatory Behavior in Addiction Recovery"

Alexandra Zabel (University of San Francisco)

"Pokémon GO: Fostering Community in Location--Based Augmented Reality"

Miranda Ward (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo)

"Atrapadxs en un Hoyo: Reproductive Justice and Environmental Health of Latina Mothers and Children in Salt Lake City Utah"

Jasmine Aguilar Lopez (University of Utah)

12:30 PM - 1:00 PM | Isleta

USRC Awards and Closing

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM | Isleta

Graduate Workshop

3:45 PM - 5:00 PM | Anasazi

Graduate Program Open House

Chair: Carlos Flores (California State University Sacramento)

Friday, February 14

Main Conference

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM | Sandia (Quiet Room)

Support Space

This designated quiet space offers a peaceful environment for attendees seeking respite from the conference's bustling activity. Stop by to reflect, meditate, or simply for a moment to step away from the conference. Tables and chairs are setup. We do ask that we preserve the space as a quiet zone.

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM | La Sala Atrium

Registration & Information Desk Open

Stop by the registration desk to pickup your attendee badge and ask any questions you might have.

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM | Apache

Editor's Review Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Chair: Heewon Kim (Arizona State University)

Committee Members: Veronica Dawson (California State University Stanislaus), Shinsuke Eguchi (University of New Mexico), Casey Schmitt (West Chester University), Lisa Silvestri (Pennsylvania State University), Wei Sun (Howard University) and Eric Wilson (Western States Communication Association)

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Tesuque – AV

Preconference Workshop (Registration Required)

Pieces of the puzzle: Supporting Research with Secondary Data

Chan Thai (Santa Clara University), Marie Haverfield (San Jose State University)

Secondary data analysis is a method that is not commonly taught in Communication research methods courses. Yet it is an important and invaluable approach to research as it can reveal trends and patterns among samples, often nationally representative, that are much larger than what collecting our own data can reveal. Participants will be introduced to secondary data analysis methods and data sets that are publicly available. The workshop will include hands-on activities to help participants learn how to explore the data, formulate research questions, and run basic analyses on SPSS. Participants are required to bring their laptops with SPSS software.

This hands-on pre-conference workshop will support graduate students and emerging scholars in their understanding of the availability of pre-existing data sets and interacting with the data to learn the iterative process of developing research questions, connecting it to existing research, and establishing research findings. Potential to network with others and develop publication ideas and projects.

Cost for Attendance: \$5.00

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Hopi – AV
Preconference Workshop (Registration Required)

Generative AI and Ethical Communication: Supporting Educators and Students in a Transforming World

Heather Walters (Missouri State University)

The purpose of this workshop is to provide cutting-edge instruction in the teaching of ethical communication in a world of generative AI. It will highlight ethical concerns with the rise of new technologies, as well as discuss how these concerns intersect with teaching empathy and kindness. The workshop engages answers to questions such as what factors should guide our response and how will these developments implicate our ability to build relationships and support marginalized populations. This workshop seeks to address how the growth in technology and collapse in our structures for teaching ethical foundations and moral capacity threatens our future.

Workshop Agenda

1. The Pedagogy of Ethics

- The importance of ethics – “in this century, a new question is coming to the fore: to what extent should our lives be directed by powerful digital systems and on what terms”
- Lack of capacity for understanding through ethical communication is being used to deny the lived experiences of populations - “We inhabit a society in which people are no longer *trained* in how to treat others with kindness and consideration”
- Concepts like justice and right/wrong are not matters of personal taste – “if what is good, what is right what is true is only what the individual *chooses to invent* – then we are outside the traditions of civility”

2. The Intersection of Ethics and Artificial Intelligence (60 minutes)

- Bias & Manipulation
- Privacy, Safety, and the Environment
- Deception & Transparency
- Responsibility, Work, and Inequality

3. Moving Forward - Direction for Educators & Students in Building Ethical Communication Skills

- Working through case studies
- Focus on genuine dialogue
- Revitalization of core ethical foundations

3. Additional questions and discussion (remaining time)

Cost for Attendance: \$35.00

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM | Tewa
Preconference Workshop (Registration Required)

Centering the Palestinian Civil Society Call for BDS in University Human Rights Efforts

Loretta LeMaster (Arizona State University), Jenna Hanchey (Arizona State University), Ana Termini Ibbri (San Francisco State University), Michael Tristano (Towson University), Blake Harms (Arizona State University), Santhosh Chandrashekar (Univ. of Denver), Mary Katreeb (Arizona State University - Hugh Downs School of Human Communication), Sarah Dweik (Penn State University), Sam Nguyen (Arizona State University - Tempe), Liahna Stanley (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), Ahlam Muhtaseb (California State University, San Bernardino)

The Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, initiated by Palestinian civil society in 2005, calls for international action to pressure Israel to comply with international law and uphold human rights. This workshop aims to explore the BDS movement's relevance and imperative within the context of university principles of human rights and academic freedom. As institutions committed to social justice, universities have a responsibility to engage with global human rights issues, including the plight of Palestinians living under occupation and genocide.

The BDS movement seeks to address the ongoing violations of Palestinian rights through non-violent means, calling for the boycott of Israeli goods and institutions, divestment from companies complicit in these violations, and sanctions against Israel until it meets its obligations under international law. The movement's demands are threefold:

1. Ending the occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantling the Wall.
2. Recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality.
3. Respecting, protecting, and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN Resolution 194.

Universities, as bastions of knowledge and ethical inquiry, play a critical role in fostering dialogue on human rights. By aligning with the BDS movement, universities can demonstrate their commitment to upholding international law and the principles of justice and equality. This alignment also reflects a broader commitment to decolonial and anti-oppressive frameworks within academia, challenging systemic injustices both locally and globally.

This workshop will provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the BDS movement, its origins, objectives, and its alignment with international human rights law. It will delve into the historical and ongoing context of Israeli policies and their impact on Palestinian lives. By integrating perspectives from international law, ethics, and social justice, the workshop will offer a multifaceted view of the conflict and the rationale for BDS as a strategic non-violent resistance movement. Engaging with the BDS movement is not merely an act of solidarity but an ethical imperative for universities committed to human rights. This workshop will highlight the intersectionality of Palestinian struggles with other global and local movements for justice. Drawing parallels with historical and contemporary struggles, such as the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa and the civil rights movement in the United States, the workshop will emphasize the universality of human rights and the interconnectedness of liberation struggles. The workshop will moreover employ a critical pedagogical approach, encouraging participants to critically engage with the material and reflect on their roles as scholars, educators, and global citizens. By fostering an environment of critical inquiry and open dialogue, the workshop aims to empower participants to take informed and ethical stances on global issues. This approach aligns with the principles of critical pedagogy, which advocates for education as a practice of freedom and a tool for social transformation.

In conclusion, this workshop proposes to center the Palestinian Civil Society Call for BDS within university human rights efforts, highlighting the ethical and educational imperatives for such engagement. By aligning with the BDS movement, universities can reaffirm their commitment to international law, justice, and equality. This workshop will serve as a platform for critical engagement, education, and empowerment, fostering a deeper understanding of the Palestinian struggle and the global fight for human rights.

Cost for Attendance: \$5.00

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM | Hopi – AV

Preconference Workshop (Registration Required)

Managing Digital Distractions in the Classroom and Reducing Teaching Workload with AI Ethically

Jarrod Ventura (Chapman University)

Participants will choose between three different device usage policies in the classroom before and after the workshop, a twenty minute working session to collaborate with other faculty on effective strategies, and will have a twenty minute working session to try out Microsoft Copilot for their particular class, and there will be multiple interactions through live polling and surveying.

The learning outcomes of the workshop are:

1. Describe 3-4 instructional implications/applications of Gen Z students (digital engagement)
2. Justify a policy and agreements for device use in the classroom for students.
3. Create a plan for including student input into a set of classroom digital use agreements.
4. Employ research-based strategies to engage and maximize learning for Gen Zs.
5. Create 1-2 concrete examples using Microsoft Copilot for activities, discussions, and case studies in the classroom.
6. Identify four best practices for giving instructions to Artificial Intelligence to reduce teaching workload.
7. Create a culture of support within the workshop regarding the strengths and skills Gen Z brings to the classroom.

Cost for Attendance: \$35.00

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM | Tesuque – AV

Preconference Workshop (Registration Required)

Teaching from a Mental Health Pedagogy: Responding to Student Mental Disorders and Promoting Student Well-being in our Classrooms

Isabelle BAUMAN (Missouri State University)

This course provides innovative practices for responding to student mental health needs in the classroom. The course is designed to introduce central elements of the recently released book, *Interpersonal Communication and Mental Health Disorders*, which will be provided free of charge to attendees.

Cost for Attendance: \$35.00

5:15 PM - 7:30 PM | La Sala Atrium

95th Annual Convention Welcome Celebration & Kickoff: Support

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Join your Western colleagues as we kickoff the 95th annual convention featuring a special performance by **The Kallestawa Dance Group**:

The Kallestewa Dance Group, the pueblo dance group is a combined group of individuals from Laguna, Acoma, Zuni and Hopi Pueblos. It was founded in 2016 with the mutual interest of dancing and sharing their culture with others. Dances connect us to our ancestors, community, and traditions while honoring gifts from our Creator. They ensure that life continues and connections to the past and future are reinforced. Its group members are made up of family members.

The Kickoff Starts at 5:15pm and the special performance starts at **6:00pm sharp**

We will also have Valentine's Day themed treats, a cash bar, a kickoff address by WSCA President-elect Justin Boren and a lot of opportunity to meet and mingle with your Western colleagues

We are grateful to [Arizona State University's Hugh Downs School of Human Communication](#) for their sponsorship of the kickoff



7:30 PM - 9:30 PM | 505 Food Hall (Offsite)

Executives Club Social

Primary Sponsor: Executives Club

The annual Executives Club Dinner/Social is to be held off site at 505 Central Food Hall, which is walking distance from the hotel.

Saturday, February 15

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM | Anasazi

Morning Yoga

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Come stretch, relax, and get grounded for the day. Bring a mat or towel!

With **Joseph M. Conway**

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM | La Sala Atrium

Registration & Information Desk Open

Stop by the registration desk to pickup your attendee badge and ask any questions you might have.

8:00 AM - 6:00 PM | Sandia (Quiet Room)

Support Space

This designated quiet space offers a peaceful environment for attendees seeking respite from the conference's bustling activity. Stop by to reflect, meditate, or simply for a moment to step away from the conference. Tables and chairs are setup. We do ask that we preserve the space as a quiet zone.

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | Apache

2026 Program Planners Meeting I

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Join Dr. Anthony Cuomo, 1st Vice President and 2026 Primary Program Planner to discuss the plans for the San Diego convention. This session should be attended by the program planner for each interest group. There is one session Saturday Morning and one session Sunday Morning.

Chair: Anthony Cuomo (West Los Angeles College)

Committee Members: Justin Boren (Santa Clara University) and Eric Wilson (Western States Communication Association)

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | Isleta

Communication & Instruction Interest Group Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Communication and Instruction

Chair: Kimberly Aguilar (California State University, Sacramento)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Kendra Rivera (Lane Community College)

Committee Members: Marilyn Nimmo (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | Tesuque - AV

Communication Theory and Research Interest Group Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Communication Theory and Research

Join the Communication Theory and Research Interest Group officers and members for the 2025 business meeting. All members of the interest group are welcome as we discuss upcoming programming, elect new officers, and learn more about the research and teaching interest group members are doing. See you there!

Chairs: Arielle Leonard Hodges (George Fox University), Jimmie Manning (University of Nevada) and Reeham Mohammed (Arizona State University)

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | Zuni

Community College Interest Group AM Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Community College

Chair: Nick Chivers (De Anza College)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Kristen Stout (Missouri State University)

Committee Members: Michelle Brownlee (Los Angeles Pierce College) and Rob Leonard (Sinclair College)

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | Acoma

Executives Club Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Executives Club

Chair: Andi Zamora (Bellingham Technical College)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Amy Edwards (Oxnard College)

Committee Members: Audrey Deterding (Independent Scholar) and Bill Eadie (San Diego State University (Retired))

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | Jemez

Freedom of Expression and Political Communication Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Freedom of Expression and Political Communication

Chair: Ryan Stouffer (Longwood University)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Chris Earle (UNR)

Committee Member: Sharon Rodriguez (California State University, Sacramento)

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | Santo Domingo - AV

Intercultural Communication Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Intercultural Communication

Chair: Keisuke Kimura (Miami University)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Tomide Oloruntobi (Arizona State University)

Committee Member: sudhiti naskar (The University of New Mexico)

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | Laguna - AV

Language, Self, and Social Construction Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Language, Self, and Social Construction

Annual Business Meeting for the Language, Self, and Social Construction interest group.

Chair: Christopher Koenig (San Francisco State University)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Kyle Gutzmer (San Diego State University)

Committee Member: Alan Hansen (Carroll College)

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | Hopi - AV

Media Studies Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Media Studies

Chair: Olivia Roe (University of New Mexico)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Carlos Flores (California State University Sacramento)

Moderator: Heather Canary (San Diego State University)

Committee Member: Aryana Gooley-Carson (Sierra College)

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM | La Sala Atrium

Newcomers Meet and Greet

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Is this your first WSCA conference, or are you returning after a long absence? Are you a long-time WSCA Convention attendee and want to welcome newcomers to the association? Looking for a way to connect with other newcomers as well as some long-term veterans of the association? Join us for a Newcomers Meet & Greet hosted by Executives Club to kick off a fabulous convention!

9:15 AM - 10:30 AM | Nambé

Compassion and Support at Work: Navigating Power and Identity in Communicating Support to Employees in Distress

Primary Sponsor: Organizational Communication

Many people are committed to supporting others in their workplaces during times of distress. And yet, employees may fail to experience this support even when well intentioned. Why? While this issue is multifaceted, one core element is the interpersonal challenges that emerge when communicating support in the context of social hierarchy and differing identities. In this panel, researchers of care, compassion, and leadership discuss current research on this emergent topic, in hopes of generating discussions on future research.

Chair: Cris Tietz (University of Denver)

Cris Tietz (University of Denver), Chandler Marr (The Hugh Downs School of Human Communication at Arizona State University), Rebecca Leach (University of Arkansas), Shawna Malvini Redden (California State University, Sacramento), Sarah Tracy (Arizona State University), Ryan Bisel (University of Oklahoma)

9:15 AM - 10:30 AM | Jemez

Freedom of Expression and Political Communication Top Paper Panel

Primary Sponsor: Freedom of Expression and Political Communication

Chair: Randall Lake (University of Southern California)

Respondent: Ryan Stouffer (Longwood University)

"Inoculative Incongruity: The Rhetoric of Comic Relief in Gisele Fetterman's Primary Acceptance Speech"

Brian Snee (University of Scranton)

"A War on Children: Benjamin Netanyahu's Tragic Framing of the Israel-Hamas War"

Natasha Payne (California State University, Long Beach)

"The U.S. Anti-Immigration Movement: White Identity Politics and Right-Wing Discourse"

Aly Hill (The University of Utah), Marissa Medina (University of Utah)

"Jenni Hermoso Won it For Women in Sports: A Cluster Analysis of the Se Acabó Movement"

Julian Stacy (CSU Sacramento)

9:15 AM - 10:30 AM | Apache

G.I.F.T.S.: Argumentation & Persuasion in the Classroom

Primary Sponsor: Western Forensics & Argumentation Association

Explore activities in argumentation and persuasion for every classroom. During this panel, audience members will explore several activities that can be used in persuasion, public speaking, argumentation, or any course to enhance students' learning and critical thinking skills. Activities will include "Unicorn's Nest: Selling the Impossible Product", "You're a Sponsored Influencer", "A Fallacy in a Meme", "Creating Classroom Policies through Critical Decision Making", and "The Logic Puzzle of Debate Pairings". These activities teach about fallacies, persuasive strategies, and the use of argument games to facilitate supportive course climates.

Chair: Ashley Givens (Salt Lake Community College)

Ashley Givens (Salt Lake Community College), Sarah Billington (Salt Lake Community College), Alena Ruggerio (Southern Oregon University), Rob Leonard (Sinclair College), Kevin Briancesco (Los Angeles Valley College)

9:15 AM - 10:30 AM | Laguna - AV

Language, Self, and Social Construction's 34th Annual Data Session

Primary Sponsor: Language, Self, and Social Construction

Come join this hands-on, fun, interactive session! Drawing on the multiple streams of LSSC scholarship, program participants and audience members together as a group will analyze a data fragment of language in use from a variety of settings. For example, we may examine game playing interaction, how stories are told, episodes of friends teasing each other, family members fighting during dinner, co-workers gossiping, giving good news in medical encounters, etc. All are invited and welcome as we collaboratively explore diverse analytic perspectives on the same data segment.

Chair: Charlotte Jones (Carroll College)

Committee Members: Wayne Beach (San Diego State University), Kyle Gutzmer (San Diego State University), Alan Hansen (Carroll College), Brian Heisterkamp (California State University, San Bernardino), Christopher Koenig (San Francisco State University) and Leah Wingard (San Francisco State University)

9:15 AM - 10:30 AM | Tewa

Modularity, Rhetoric, & Science: Considering Environmental Communication across Contexts

Primary Sponsor: Environmental Communication

Chair: Ashleigh Day (Northern Arizona University)

""Mother" Earth: The limits of maternal appeals at the intersections of environmental and reproductive justice"

Emma Mink (San Francisco State University)

"Framing Hoover and Glen Canyon Dams for Visitors: The Technological Sublime and the Fetishization of (the) Concrete on the Colorado River"

Richard Rogers (Northern Arizona University)

"Climate Engineering as "Good Science": Conjuncture, Expertise, and Scientific Authority in the Policy Development of Emerging Technologies"

Megan Cullinan (The University of Montana, Missoula)

"Modularity: A Worlding Infrastructure"

Chris Ingraham (University of Utah)

9:15 AM - 10:30 AM | Zuni

Situating Health in Intersectional and Cultural Contexts

Primary Sponsor: Health Communication

Chair: Chan Thai (Santa Clara University)

Respondent: Kristen Cole (San Jose State University)

""Just Eat Less": Exploring Cultural Intersections of Food and Eating Disorders Within Vietnamese-American Immigrant Families"

Crystal Nguyen (Chapman University)

"Health Communication Support for mental health stigma among internally displaced women in Somalia" Saadia Abdullahi (United States International University- Africa), **ROBERT MAINA** (INDIANA UNIVERSITY)

"Contributing factors of cardiovascular diseases among South Asians"

Harnit Mahal (Oregon State University)

"Exploring Asian immigrant parents' school-based participation from an everyday interpersonal health communication perspective: A case of Albuquerque, New Mexico"

Moonsun Choi (University of New Mexico)

"Intersections of Health and Religion: Experiences and Perceptions of Muslim Refugee Women in the US regarding Communication with Healthcare Providers"

sumaira abrar (UNM)

9:15 AM - 10:30 AM | Acoma

Supporting Queer & Trans Joy through Collaborative Zinemaking

Primary Sponsor: Organization for Feminist Research on Gender Communication

Building support for queer and trans lives means giving time, space, and community to the worlds we cultivate and the ways we communicate. Support attends to encouraging new visions of the world that see queer and trans as sites of joy, counter to the hegemonic narratives of queerness and transness as sites of tragedy and suffering. One way to enact supportive queer and trans worldmaking is through creating zines - zines offer us a creative and collaborative medium to disidentify with these tragic narratives. In this panel, we first offer a discussion of the ways zines can operate as radical disruptions and a method of community building. Then, we invite the audience to join us in making a zine together. Through collaborative zinemaking, we bring queer and trans scholars together in every stage of our careers to foster supportive connections based in creativity and joy.

Chair: Oliver Tripp (Pennsylvania State University)

Oliver Tripp (Pennsylvania State University), Mary Katreeb (Arizona State University - Hugh Downs School of Human Communication), Emerson Armstrong (The University of New Mexico), Damon Darling (University of Utah), Pablo Ramirez (Arizona State University - Hugh Downs School of Human Communication), Liahna Stanley (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), Ana Terminel Iberri (San Francisco State University), Loretta LeMaster (Arizona State University), Drew Finney (Arizona State University), Amy Kilgard (San Francisco State University)

9:15 AM - 10:30 AM | Isleta

Top Papers in Communication & Instruction

Primary Sponsor: Communication and Instruction

This year our Communication & Instruction Interest Group is proud to highlight our Top Four research papers; each explores a timely and relevant topic that will be of interest to all educators.

Chair: Kimberly Aguilar (California State University, Sacramento)

Respondent: Kendra Rivera (Lane Community College)

"'It's not a productive and constructive space for us as Black students': Toward (Re)Imagining Campus-Wide 'Support' for Black Students at AANAPISI/HSIs on the West Coast"

Nicholas Lacy (Purdue University)

"Critical Thematic Analysis as Method for Critical Communication Pedagogical Inquiry"

Brandi Lawless (University of San Francisco), Yea-Wen Chen (San Diego State University)

"Supporting Students Through Virtual Intercultural Exchange: Palestinian-U.S. Facilitated Intercultural Discussions"

Christina Granato Yoshimura (University of Montana), Ramzi Asali (Bethlehem University)

"Neuroqueering Higher Education Through Neurodivergent Autistethnographic Narratives"

Kendra Rivera (Lane Community College), Mycah Powers (Lane Community College), Jeremiah Powers (Lane Community College)

9:15 AM - 10:30 AM | Tesuque - AV

Top Papers in Communication Theory and Research

Primary Sponsor: Communication Theory and Research

Join the Communication Theory and Research Interest Group as we celebrate the top papers submitted for review for this year's convention! These are the presentations that you will not want to miss - see you there!

Chair: Jimmie Manning (University of Nevada)

"(Dis)entangling the Ontopolitics of Ecological Theorizing for Critical Communication"

Tyler Rife (St. Lawrence University)

"Refining McGee's Ideograph: Celebrating 45 Years of Ideographic Criticism"

Ragan Fox (California State University, Long Beach)

"Beyond Transcendent Interactions: The Role of Post-Positivism in the Theory of Transcendent Interactions"

Kyle Shannon (California State University Northridge)

"Tensing Up: Social Tension as Communication Apprehension"

kevin brown (Oregon Institute of Technology), Terence Schliesman (Western Colorado University), Dan Peterson (West Texas A & M), Terri Torres (Oregon Tech)

"Moving Community into Movement Art: A Mixed Methods Study"

Christopher Statton (San Francisco State University)

9:15 AM - 10:30 AM | Santo Domingo - AV

Top Papers in Intercultural Communication

Primary Sponsor: Intercultural Communication

Chair: Keisuke Kimura (Miami University)

Respondent: Shinsuke Eguchi (University of New Mexico)

"'People in in third world countries, foreigners are like, are kind of what people look up to': Colonial inheritances as undesirable learning outcomes for education abroad students"

Nicole Allen (Nicole Allen), Sidi Becar Meyara (Utah State University), Miranda Ross (Utah State University), Kaitlin Phillips (Baylor University)

"Border Wall Expansion's Impacts on Life: Border Rhetoric and Humanism"

Marissa Medina (University of Utah)

"The 'Dream' Student? Mexican DACA College Students' Communication Experiences with Cultural Identifications in Higher Education"

Maya Cancio Vendel (San Diego State University)

"The Challenging Demolition of a Foundational Support System: Chronicles of My Deconversion from Evangelical Christianity"

Elizabeth Root (Oregon State University)

9:15 AM - 10:30 AM | Hopi - AV

Top Papers in Media Studies

Primary Sponsor: Media Studies

This panel represents the top papers in Media Studies, including the top paper, top student paper, and top debut paper

Chair: Carlos Flores (California State University Sacramento)

Respondent: Stephanie Gomez (Western Washington University)

"Godzilla vs The Nuclear Metaphor: Culturally Bound Nuclear Metaphors in Godzilla Minus One and Godzilla"

Benjamin Mason (CSULB)

"Tortillas, Carne, Manos: Exploring Discursive Representations of Neo-Colonialism in Taco Chronicles"

mark Espinosa (Sacramento state university), Sharon Rodriguez (California State University, Sacramento)

"Newsgames: How Interactive Digital Games About News Affect Comprehension, Trust, Empathy, and Persuasion"

Heidi Stevenson (University of Oregon), Maxwell Foxman (University of Oregon), Alex Segrè Cohen (University of Oregon)

"Indigenous Media's Syncretic Memory"

Oscar Mejía (California State University, LA)

9:15 AM - 10:30 AM | Navajo

Whiteness and the Limits of Diversity Discourses: Re-Imagining and Developing Support for Emancipatory Alternatives

Primary Sponsor: Intercultural Communication

This panel seeks to interrogate the boundaries and limitations of contemporary diversity discourses by examining how they often fail to address or even reinforce structures of whiteness in our universities and departments. This panel will critically explore how discourses of diversity may inadvertently maintain whiteness as the normative center, thus impeding more radical, emancipatory alternatives. Through lived experiences, the panel aims to contribute to ongoing critical dialogues about how to re-imagine diversity initiatives that move beyond tokenism and toward genuine structural shifts.

Co-Chairs: Godfried Asante (San Diego State University) and Rebecca de Souza (San Diego State University)

Respondent: Michael Lechuga (The University of New Mexico)

Godfried Asante (San Diego State University), Rebecca de Souza (San Diego State University), Jenna Hanchey (Arizona State University), Michael Tristano (Towson University), Robert Gutierrez-Perez (California State University, San Marcos), Tomide Oluruntobi (Arizona State University), Evans Ankrah (Arizona State University), Soham Sen (The University of New Mexico), Damariye Smith (San Diego State University)

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM | Anasazi

Phoenix of Gaza: Virtual Reality Exhibit

Primary Sponsor: Organization for Feminist Research on Gender Communication

Co-Sponsor: WSCA President-elect



The Phoenix of Gaza is a virtual gateway to pre-destruction Gaza. This extended reality project features hundreds of videos and images of daily activities in Gaza taken with a 360-degree camera. The vast majority of the locations captured are historical places in the Gaza Strip before they were destroyed (about 80% of the Gaza Strip has been destroyed since October 7, 2023). The Phoenix of Gaza XR, with its 360-degree documentation of a land scarred by destruction, includes images and videos of historical monuments, cultural sites, public squares, universities, schools, cafes, streets, agricultural areas, parks, beaches, markets, and amusement places. This virtual tour also connects audiences to Palestinian culture through footage of weddings, stitching workshops, dabke

(traditional dance), palm harvesting, clay and pottery making, and the work of other artisans.

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Apache

Argumentation and Power Dynamics in Global Contexts

Primary Sponsor: Western Forensics & Argumentation Association

Chair: Kristina Rietveld (Cal State Fullerton)

"The Puppet Masters: An Ethical Criticism of Deepfakes in the Israel-Hamas War"

Heather Walters (Missouri State University)

"NetChoice V Paxton: The Dilemma of Prioritizing Open Social Media Discourse or Government Control"

Marissa Guzman (Clovis Community College)

"'Won't somebody think of the children?': International adoption and 'global motherhood' during Palestinian occupation and genocide."

Gabrielle Garza (University of Utah)

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Acoma

Caste and communalism: A critical investigation of power and violence in postcolonial India

Primary Sponsor: Intercultural Communication

India invokes conceptions of a country suffused in ancient history and myth which is slowly finding its rightful place in a changing world order. But such images only present a partial and skewed representation as Indian society has seen an alarming rise in violence against caste-oppressed people, especially Dalits, and religious minorities, particularly Muslims. This panel, which is comprised of scholars of Indian origin, many of whom represent marginalized communities, draws attention to casteism and communalism as imbricated structures of Indian society that have been reinforced with the rise of the Hindu rightwing Bharatiya Janata Party. In doing so, the panelists make a compelling case for critical communication studies scholars to move beyond understanding India as the postcolonial nation-state par excellence by paying attention to caste and communalism as formative structures that need sustained engagement.

Chair: Santhosh Chandrashekar (Univ. of Denver)

Santhosh Chandrashekar (Univ. of Denver), Salwa Kazi (CU Boulder), sudhiti naskar (The University of New Mexico), Soham Sen (The University of New Mexico)

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Jemez

Identity and Belonging in Organizational Contexts

Primary Sponsor: Organizational Communication

In this panel, scholars explore the interplay between identity, power, and organizational dynamics. Papers look at difference in multiple contexts, including academia, to consider how identity shapes our experiences.

Chair: Millicent Elewosi (University of Colorado Boulder)

Respondent: Maria Blevins (Utah Valley University)

"Entrepreneurs' Communication (Non)Accommodation in the Management of Perceived Intra- and Intergroup Identity Gaps"

Christopher Hajek (University of Texas at San Antonio)

"Revisiting the crystallized self: Toward a politic of pebbles"

Mary Katreeb (Arizona State University - Hugh Downs School of Human Communication)

"Faultlines and Conflict in Academic Labor Actions: Negotiating on Two Fronts in a Volunteer-Led Organization"

Bedlam Oak (UCSB), Karen Myers (UCSB)

""There are a lot of faculty in our building who need to get off their high horse": Emergence of Class in Organizational Narratives of Belonging in the Academy"

Sophie Downing (Ohio University), Sarah Jones (Ohio University)

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Nambé

Interpersonal Relationships: From Attraction and Intimacy to Tensions and Turbulence

Primary Sponsor: Interpersonal & Family Communication

This session covers a wide variety of experiences within romantic relationships and other close relationships, including interpersonal attraction, physical and emotional intimacy, and moments of tensions and turbulence.

Chair: Aubree Herman (Texas Tech University)

"The Influence of Dry Texting on Evaluations of Interpersonal Attraction in Text Messages"

Ty Rivas (California Polytechnic State U, San Luis Obispo), Evelyn Walker (California Polytechnic State U, San Luis Obispo), Julia Voss (California Polytechnic State U, San Luis Obispo), **Aubrie Adams** (California Polytechnic State U, San Luis Obispo)

"Moreno-Wise Model of Interpersonal Relationships: Facilitating the Understanding of One's Relationship in Sociocultural Contexts"

Guillermo Moreno (University of Miami), **Evan Wise** (University of Miami)

"'That's not a relationship. That's an acquaintance': An Examination of (Christian) Feminists' Discursive Reconstructions of Family in the Age of Trumpism"

Bobbi Van Gilder (Suffolk University), Eryn Bostwick (Cleveland State University)

"Analyzing my Identity of being in an interracial couple"

Andres De Los Santos (Oregon State University)

"Negative and Positive Interpersonal Resilience in Romantic Relationships: Connections with Relational Turbulence and Anxiety"

April Batson-Bright (Chapman University), Kelly Anthony (Chapman University), Jennifer Bevan (Chapman University), Rachel Judy (Chapman University), Sarah Downey (Chapman University)

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Zuni

Meaning and Impact of Contemporary Health Messages

Primary Sponsor: Health Communication

Chair: Tara McManus (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)

Respondent: Chan Thai (Santa Clara University)

"Social Media Influencers' Support in Health Campaigns: What Draws Gen Z Women to Health Influencers"

Lauren Pick (Chapman University)

"The Moderating Role of Government Trust in the Relationship Between Social Media Use and Preventative Behavior: The Case of COVID-19 in South Korea"

Rachel Taylor (The University of New Mexico), Sun Hong (University of New Mexico), Woohyun Yoo (1Department of Media and Communication & Institute of Social Sciences, Incheon National University)

"Health Infographics -An Examination of Breastfeeding Infographics from the World Health Organization"

Naadiyahtu Iddrisu (Michigan State University)

"Public Perception of Health Communication about Hormones in User-Generated Content"

Kendra Ludwig (Northern Arizona University)

"Guilt Appeals in Public Health and Modern Anti-Queer Applications"

Nick Steinmetz (Illinois State University)

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Isleta

Media Representations

Primary Sponsor: Media Studies

The competitive papers in this panel explore issues around media representations about gender, gender roles, sexuality, body positivity, and mental health.

Chair: Jean Amato (SUNY-FIT)

""Mama, I Happen to Like Myself": Portrayals of Plus-sized Women in TV & Film"

Marel Vazquez (San Jose State University)

"Digital Reflections: Body Image, Beauty Standards, and the Failure of Body Positivity Movement on Xiaohongshu"

WENRONG CUI (University of Kansas), Zhiqi Yi (University of Kansas)

"Reggaetón As a Way to Challenge Machismo and Marianismo: Analysis of Saoco by Wisin featuring Daddy Yankee and BIZCOCHITO by Rosalía"

Miriam Navarro (The University of New Mexico)

"The Secrets of Vanity Fair: An Ideological Critique of the Hypersexualization of the Latina in Television"

mark Espinosa (Sacramento state university)

"No One Likes a Mad Woman: Debating and Gatekeeping Mental Illness and Authenticity in Taylor Swift's The Tortured Poets Department"

Stacey Overholt (University of Utah), Stephanie Gomez (Western Washington University)

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Hopi - AV

Online engagement at scale: Supporting Students and Instructors in High Enrollment Online Courses

Primary Sponsor: Communication and Instruction

As online education continues to expand and higher ed seeks to meet demand with high-enrollment courses, the challenge of maintaining meaningful engagement becomes increasingly complex. This roundtable panel will explore strategies for supporting students and instructors in large online classes, focusing on fostering connections among students, enhancing instructor presence, and creating engaging, AI-proof content. Panelists will discuss practical approaches to building a supportive online learning environment that can scale effectively.

Jen Eden (Arizona state university), Kristin Dybvig (Arizona State University), Raena Quinlivan (Arizona state university)

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | San Juan

Organizational Communication Research-in-Progress

Primary Sponsor: Organizational Communication

Join us for a conversation about emerging organizational communication research. Listen to panelists share their research in progress.

Chair: Chandler Marr (The Hugh Downs School of Human Communication at Arizona State University)

Respondent: Cris Tietz (University of Denver)

"“Finding a Way to Tell Our Story So That People Hear It”: An Investigation of Lay Perceptions of Organizational Communication"

Elaine Schnabel (Weber State University)

"Strategic Use of Facebook During Student's Enrollment in Higher Education Institutions: A Study on Private Universities in Bangladesh"

Bachchu Shekh (Missouri State University - Springfield, MO), Md. Sumon Ali (Ball State University)

"DEI in nonprofit organizations: Friend or foe?"

Athena Cole (San Diego State University)

"A Thematic Analysis of Crisis Response Strategies Followed by Five Shariah-based Lenders in Bangladesh to Tackle Withdrawal of Funds by Depositors"

A K M Zamir Uddin (Missouri State University)

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Tewa

Supporting Students in the Basic Course: Promote Learning of Communication Through a Critical Lens of Student Identities and Intersectionalities

Primary Sponsor: Communication, Identities & Difference

In our "Introduction to Communication" course, our team teaches communication through an identity and intersectional lens. We support our students in understanding communication through critical analysis of our identities and their relation to power. Our round-table discussion will explore the critical analysis of identity as a pedagogical approach and inclusive supportive strategies.

Chair: Dae Romero (New Mexico State University)

Dae Romero (New Mexico State University), Amos Aidoo (New Mexico State University), Irene Angme (New Mexico State University), Emmanuel Kwarteng (New Mexico State University), Barbara "Annie" De Fausell (New Mexico State University), Betty Surikpe (New Mexico State University), Francisca Yeboah (New Mexico State University), Gifty O. Gyan (New Mexico State University), Rachel Berry (New Mexico State University), Charles Okpala (New Mexico State University), Tahrima Opshora (New Mexico State University)

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Laguna - AV

Top Papers in Language, Self, and Social Construction

Primary Sponsor: Language, Self, and Social Construction

This panel features the top papers in Language, Self, and Social Construction interest group.

Chair: Christopher Koenig (San Francisco State University)

"Dari First, then English: Refugees Navigating Language Ideologies in the United States"

Urszula Adamska (University of Colorado Boulder), Em Jessee (University of Colorado Boulder), Elizabeth Pflipsen (University of Colorado Boulder)

"Dating Online as ESL, Japanese, and Asian: Relational Politics of Japaneseness"

Keisuke Kimura (Miami University)

"The Tripartite I-O-F Participation Structure and Support Communities in Classroom Discussion"

Heidi Muller (University of Northern Colorado)

"No! You are black. You can't be white! A Critical Discourse Analysis of white performance among African Americans (An American Celebrity edition)"

Whitney Okumu (University of New Mexico)

"Lessons of the Commons: A Strategic Practice from a Static Place"

Christopher Statton (San Francisco State University)

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Navajo

Toward a Model of Mutual and Intentional Support: A Critical Discussion of the Support Challenge in the Introductory Communication Course at AANAPSI/HSIs

Primary Sponsor: Communication and Instruction

This panel questions how support is performed to/through/for the introductory communication course at Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and Asian American, Native American, and Pacific Islander-serving Institutions (AANAPSI). Panelists will critically reflect upon their experiences as introductory course directors and will collectively interrogate and (re)imagine methods, mechanisms, and meanings of support to positively impact the future of the introductory course at AANAPSI and HSIs.

Chair: Lionnell "Badu" Smith (San Francisco State University)

"Toward a Model of Mutual and Intentional Support: A Critical Discussion of the Support Challenge in the Introductory Communication Course at AANAPSI/HSIs"

Lionnell "Badu" Smith (San Francisco State University), Ana Termini Iberri (San Francisco State University), Sergio Juárez (Cal Poly San Luis Obispo), Kristina Ruiz-Mesa (California State University, Los Angeles)

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Tesuque - AV

Using the Dignity Index in the 2024 Elections to Support Democratic Culture

Primary Sponsor: Freedom of Expression and Political Communication

This panel is about an interdisciplinary and community collaboration using the Dignity Index to understand election dynamics in Nevada state and local elections. Panelists will talk about their experiences working with undergraduate students to identify and rate campaign discourse using the Index in persuasion and philosophy courses. Panelists developed the Index for more advanced qualitative coding. The collaboration has yielded insights into “us vs. them” strategies and use of labels in politics.

Chair: Amy Pason (University of Nevada)

Amy Pason (University of Nevada), Ravi Thakral (University of Nevada, Reno), Jill Tolles (Kenny Guinn Center for Policy Priorities), Hakem Al Meqdad (University of Nevada, Reno), Aidan Peterson (University of Nevada, Reno)

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Santo Domingo - AV

WSCA Distinguished Scholar Session: Dr. Greg Dickinson

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Panelist and audience members will honor Dr. Greg Dickinson, 2024 WSCA Distinguished Scholar, for his valuable scholarly contribution to the discipline.

Chair: Christina Granato Yoshimura (University of Montana)

Respondent: Greg Dickinson (Colorado State University)

Panelists: Eric Aoki (Colorado State University), Kristen Cole (San Jose State University) and Randall Lake (University of Southern California)

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM

Designated Break

Enjoy this break during the convention. You will find grab and go and hot meals available for purchase at the Kiva Concessions from 8am - 3pm (Convention Center, Upper Level)

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM | Chaco - Staff Room

Officer's Review

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

WSCA Officers meet to discuss the convention.

Chair: Shinsuke Eguchi (University of New Mexico)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Justin Boren (Santa Clara University)

Committee Members: Heather Canary (San Diego State University), Anthony Cuomo (West Los Angeles College), Carlos Flores (California State University Sacramento) and Eric Wilson (Western States Communication Association)

12:30 PM - 1:45 PM | Nambé

Experiencing Obstacles and Seeking Support as Graduate Students in U.S. Academia

Primary Sponsor: Communication, Identities & Difference

Composed entirely of graduate students and workers, this panel critiques the many barriers to student support in the field of communication. From an institutional queasiness with truth-telling and accountability, to ableist barriers to undergraduate student participation, panelists offer several strategies to dissolve obstacles. We utilize methods of personal narrative and autoethnography in order to weave our encounters with “non-support” as students and workers. Theories in use by participants vary from critical race theory, LatCrit, critical disability studies, queer and trans health, and voice.

Chair: E.M. Pollard (University of New Mexico)

E.M. Pollard (University of New Mexico), **Andrea Sanchez** (University of New Mexico), **Emerson Armstrong** (The University of New Mexico), **Pauline Alvarez** (Arizona State University), **Stephany Rojas Hidalgo** (Arizona State University/ Hugh Downs School of Human Communication), **Sam Nguyen** (Arizona State University - Tempe)

12:30 PM - 1:45 PM | Apache

Explorations of Evolutions in Digital Health

Primary Sponsor: Health Communication

Chair: Marie Haverfield (San Jose State University)

"Does the generative AI tool provide coping support on postpartum depression: An exploration using ChatGPT"

Hengjun Lin (Salt Lake Community College), **Qi Jin** (Weber State University)

""Mindful Correction: Using Gamified Applications to Combat Misinformation About the Cure for Depression Among College Students""

Emmanuel Atikor (Oregon State University)

"TikTok Videos about Abortion and Users' Abortion-Related Beliefs"

Brooke Pope (University of New Mexico), **David Keating** (University of New Mexico), **Brooklynn Gray** (University of New Mexico)

"Promoting Healthy Equity as a Source of Support In the Age of Artificial Intelligence"

Rita Aga (San Francisco State University)

"The Progress (Bar) of Digital Healthcare: Theorizing Procedural Ideographs"

Kristen Cole (San Jose State University), **Alexis Pulos** (Santa Rosa Junior College)

12:30 PM - 1:45 PM | Jemez

Exploring the Value of Social Support During the Transition from PhD Programs to Early Careers

Primary Sponsor: Communication and Instruction

Navigating the stressful transition from a PhD program into early careers in academia can be particularly stressful and negatively impact mental health. This stress arises from balancing multiple roles, including teaching, publication, and grants (Hanitzsch, 2024). This panel features recent graduates with diverse career paths who will discuss the crucial role of giving and receiving social support to manage this transition. Specific strategies of social support will be offered to other emerging scholars.

Chair: Laura Martinez (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)

Jessica Journeay (Hope International University), Arielle Leonard Hodges (George Fox University), Erin Craw (Fairfield University), Tess Buckley (Chapman University)

12:30 PM - 1:45 PM | Hopi - AV

Finding the Right Words: Locating Belonging within Cultural Spaces

Primary Sponsor: Communication, Identities & Difference

A common theme among these four communication studies is that identities can be reclaimed within structures that seek to contain them. Indeed, individual and collective efforts to create belonging are crucial to reshape cultural spaces so that inclusion is more possible for all. This panel has CID's Top Debut Paper.

Chair: Carrie Mulderink

Respondent: Reslie Cortés Fradera (James Madison University)

"Band of Brothers: Accounting for Identities and Differences in Legal Practice"

kelly anthony (Chapman University)

"Gentefied: Unveiling the Strength of Undocumented Immigrants"

Lizbeth Lemus (California State University Fresno)

"'How Can Women Be Inferior to Men?': Naming, Narrative, and Identity in Contemporary Chinese Gender Discourse"

Hongfei Zhang (Colorado State University)

"Heavenly Loci: Gay Bar as Autoethnographic Memory Palace"

Ragan Fox (California State University, Long Beach)

12:30 PM - 1:45 PM | Zuni

Intergenerational (Co-)Mentoring as Resistance to Neoliberal Multiculturalism: Advocating Support in Mentoring Across Generations

Primary Sponsor: Intercultural Communication

This panel explores the dynamics of mentoring and co-mentoring (hereafter, (co-)mentoring) through an intergenerational and feminist lens, highlighting sustained, intergenerational support in personal and professional growth. Although conversations about mentorship, allyship, and sponsorship have been gaining traction, no research that we know has addressed “intergenerational mentoring” as intercultural communication practices. In light of rising neoliberal multiculturalism in U.S./White/patriarchal/heteronormative academia, this panel brings together three generations of intercultural communication teacher-scholars to offer critical reflections on their (co-)mentoring relationships. Together, the panelists will highlight the challenges and successes encountered in navigating these complex dynamics across power lines and provide recommendations for facilitating more supportive, inclusive, and impactful (co-)mentoring practices. In conversations among the panelists and with audience participants, this panel will spotlight intergenerational (co-)mentoring practices that can resist neoliberal constraints and support genuine relationships across ages, ranks, races, sexualities, classes, and nationalities.

Chair: Matthew Petrunia (Fashion Institute of Technology, SUNY)

"Intergenerational (Co-)Mentoring as Resistance to Neoliberal Multiculturalism: Advocating Support in Mentoring Across Generations"

Yea-Wen Chen (San Diego State University), Mercedes Bertero (University of Washington), DACHENG ZHANG (Arizona State University/ Hugh Downs School of Human Communication), Brandi Lawless (University of San Francisco), Mary Jane Collier (Colorado State University)

12:30 PM - 1:45 PM | Isleta

More-than-Humans, Supportive Communities, & Environmental Rhetoric: What are the Implications?

Primary Sponsor: Environmental Communication

Chair: Joshua Barnett (Pennsylvania State University)

"Humor, Spirituality, and Supportive Communities: More-than-Human Relations in Reservation Dogs"

Maria Blevins (Utah Valley University), Danielle Endres (University of Utah)

"Examining Pathos and Logos in Marine-Focused Nature Documentaries"

Wendy Miyazaki (California Polytechnic State U, San Luis Obispo), **Aubrie Adams** (California Polytechnic State U, San Luis Obispo)

"Human Centeredness and More-Than-Human Rhetoric in Environmental Discourse: What Good is a Poem?"

chloe belgum (San Francisco State University)

"Woke T. rex?: Nonhuman Animal Performativity and the Tyrant Lizard King"

Benjamin Mason (CSULB)

"The Groundwork of Rhetoric"

Joshua Smith (Davidson College)

12:30 PM - 1:45 PM | Tesuque - AV

Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy Papers in Humor and Satire

Primary Sponsor: Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy

Chair: Mary Katreeb (Arizona State University - Hugh Downs School of Human Communication)

"Critical Approach to Cheech & Chong's Race Humor in their Cannabis Campaign on Instagram"

Marissa Medina (University of Utah)

"Punching-Up Between the Lines: A Rhetorical Analysis of Sabrina Wu's Stand-up Comedy Set on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon"

Melissa Cheng (San Francisco State University)

"Meme-ing our Way to Resistance: A semiotic Analysis of Tilapia's E-Levy Meme"

Millicent Elewosi (University of Colorado Boulder)

"Redefining Support: How 'Thoughts and Prayers' Sparked a New Genre of Tragedy Response"

Sarah Sevy (California State University Fresno)

12:30 PM - 1:45 PM | Santo Domingo - AV

Supporting Early Career Qualitative Scholars' Research Program: Choices, Strategies, and Development Opportunities

Primary Sponsor: WSCA President-elect

Join senior qualitative scholars as they describe some mentoring opportunities for early career qualitative scholars. The expert panel will make some suggestions for early career scholars on how to maximize productivity while maintaining meaningfulness of their work and articulate a coherent trajectory. This hybrid roundtable discussion and workshop will be interactive and include exercises and some Q&A.

Chair: Laura Ellingson (Santa Clara University)

Panelists: Angela Cooke-Jackson (CSU Los Angeles), Laura Ellingson (Santa Clara University), Leandra Hernandez (The University of Utah) and Sarah Tracy (Arizona State University)

12:30 PM - 1:45 PM | Tewa

Supporting Feminist Imagining Beyond Communication Studies

Primary Sponsor: Performance Studies

To imagine otherwise has long been a tool of feminist activities, artists, and writers. As feminist scholars and teachers, we find imagining to be critical to our practices and thus gather to discuss how to imagine an otherwise, beyond the Communication Studies discipline. Said differently, the discipline of Communication Studies—rooted in white supremacy, settler colonialism, imperialism, and capitalism—continues to discipline us to specific ways of being. The current sociopolitical and cultural moment underscores the urgency of our roles as worldbuilders within and outside of the academy. Thus, we utilize this panel to imagine, discuss, and set into motion alternative futures outside of the confines of the colonial roots of the academy, and more specifically, of Communication Studies. Performance, the relationship between the body and the world, animates the futures for which we must embody and enact.

Sarah Dweik (Penn State University), Keisuke Kimura (Miami University), Liahna Stanley (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), Pablo Ramirez (Arizona State University - Hugh Downs School of Human Communication), Michael Tristano (Towson University), Ana Termini Iberri (San Francisco State University)

12:30 PM - 1:45 PM | Navajo

Supporting Students: Great Ideas for Teaching Students (GIFTS) Understanding and Belonging

Primary Sponsor: Community College

Chair: Jessica Nodulman (Augustana College)

""No, Prof. I'm Not Ready: Group-Based Strategies to Help First-Gen Students Post-COVID""

Frances Chee (California State University, Los Angeles)

"Using the Power of Theory to Discuss Social Support and Create a Student-Generated Social Support Showcase"

Jessica Nodulman (Augustana College)

"Narrative Mapping and the Interdisciplinary Study of Home and Belonging in the Classroom"

Nurhayat Bilge (SUNY- FIT), Jean Amato (SUNY-FIT)

"Campus Lore: Stories that Build Community"

Ashley Rife (St. Lawrence University)

12:30 PM - 1:45 PM | Laguna - AV

Technologies of Support: Labor Coalitions, Narrative Engagement, Visual Simulation, and the Built Environment of Cultural Identity and Community

Primary Sponsor: Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy

Materializing memories is a powerful communicative mode for support. This panel explores intersecting material, visual, and story-telling practices that provide complex modes of support. Museums like the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory with its community coalition building and the growing digital archives of a collective of Khoisan and Mier artists in the Kalahari Desert (South Africa and Namibia) working to digitize and preserve a collection of art by Vetkat Regopstaan Kruiper perform the support about which they communicate wherein the work of designing museums and building digital archives are material practices that create community. Likewise, using engagement practice frameworks of the Lower East Side Tenement Museum to create a community engagement event at the Avenir Museum of Design and Merchandising in Fort Collins, Colorado offers individuals a chance to share their family's immigration story. These projects hold a space for culture in the present and attempt to foster futurity.

Chair: Greg Dickinson (Colorado State University)

"Technologies of Support: Labor Coalitions, Narrative Engagement, Visual Simulation, and the Built Environment of Cultural Identity and Community"

Greg Dickinson (Colorado State University), Michael Lechuga (The University of New Mexico), **Cari**

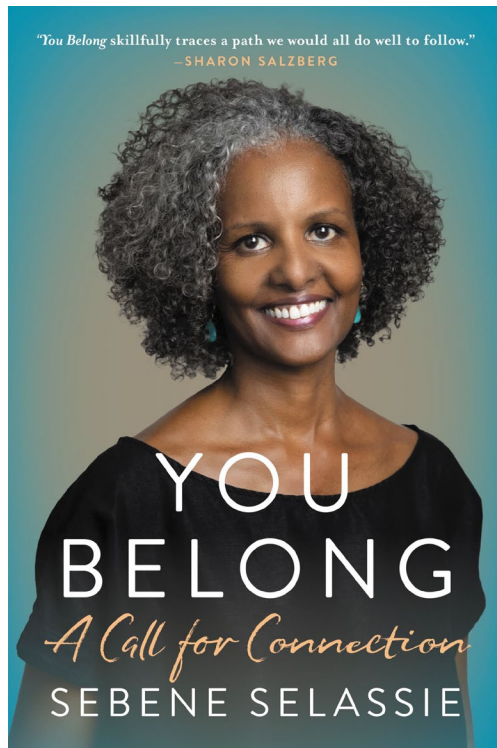
Whittenburg (Colorado State University), Eric Aoki (Colorado State University), Sofie Hecht (University of New Mexico), Teresa Bergman (University of the Pacific)

2:00 PM - 3:15 PM | Ballroom A (upstairs)

Cultivating Belonging for Personal & Collective Support **A Keynote Presentation by Sebene Selassie.**

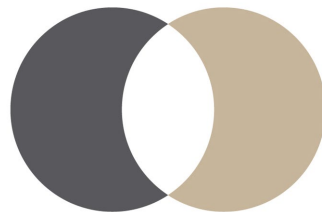
Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Moderator: Justin Boren (Santa Clara University)



Sebene Selassie is a writer, teacher, and speaker who leads meditation, creativity, and nature-based practices for personal & collective liberation. Using ancient wisdom and modern science mixed with her own relational and relatable style, Sebene helps spiritually curious people explore the profound and sacred truth of belonging. She is trained as a meditation teacher, an integral coach, a practitioner of Indigenous Focusing Oriented Therapy for Complex Trauma (IFOT), and is a licensed hiking guide in New York State. She has taught classes, workshops and retreats online and in person for fifteen years. Sebene is a devoted student of mystic traditions, including astrology, and writes the popular newsletter *Ancestors to Elements*. Her first book, *You Belong: A Call for Connection*, is published by HarperOne.

The Keynote Presentation is Sponsored by the **National Communication Association**



NATIONAL COMMUNICATION
ASSOCIATION

Transforming Lives through Communication

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Hopi - AV

Communicating Culture in New Mexico: Articulating Local Perspectives and Amplifying Chicana Support Systems

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Authentic support in New Mexico is multi-layered, holistic, land-based and community-centered. This panel brings together Chicana practitioners of support. The panelists will define support within the context of New Mexico's cultural, literary, mediated, political, and physical landscapes. The panel is transdisciplinary in nature and uplifts communication as an essential element in community protection and development efforts. Local participation requires knowledge sharing. Each panelist will discuss how support is given and received in the form of strategic, land-based communication. New Mexican journalists, archivists, literary critics, and culture bearers hold responsibility to weave the historical narrative of this place with all living things connected to it. The panelists form a key group of practitioners who amplify local narratives through their work in New Mexico. In this panel discussion, participants will discuss how the community of El Prado received "Traditional Historic Community" status, how Las Pistoleras Instituto Cultural de Arte provides a local space for activism through arts and culture; how Generation Justice harnesses the power of community and raises critical consciousness through leadership development; how archives can be activated to protect and project; and how documentation of community can serve local needs. This panel will advance knowledge related to land-based communication, with attention to cultural and physical landscapes in the Southwest United States, New Mexico, and Albuquerque.

Chair: Jaelyn deMaria (University of New Mexico)

Panelists:

Melina V. Vizcaíno-Alemán, Ph.D. (University of New Mexico)

Roberta Rael, Executive Director, Generation Justice

Margie Montañez, Ph.D. (University of New Mexico)

Kathryn Córdova, Ed.D. (University of New Mexico, Taos)

Theresa (Tessa) J. Córdova, Ph.D., Founder of Las Pistoleras Instituto Cultural de Arte

Jaelyn deMaría, Ph.D. (University of New Mexico)

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Acoma

Haunted: Tracing Violence Across Gendered Bodies

Primary Sponsor: Organization for Feminist Research on Gender Communication

This performance panel bridges critical trauma studies and queer, feminist scholarship to explore how violence emerges and is enacted upon gendered bodies. Our panel's approach to tracing violence occurs through various forms of performative writing, embodied, and staged aesthetics. Our performances reject both hierarchical and bifurcated understandings of violence as material or discursive. Rather, the performances illustrate how violence haunts gendered bodies as well as how the gender binary and imposition of gender produces its own haunting. As we testify to violence, we embrace the incommunicability of gender violence by engaging our bodies as tools to trace the material and discursive connections between gender and violence.

Kaylee Mulholland (Arizona State University), **Pablo Ramirez** (Arizona State University - Hugh Downs School of Human Communication), **Mary Katreeb** (Arizona State University - Hugh Downs School of Human Communication), **Emerson Armstrong** (The University of New Mexico), **Nick Steinmetz** (Illinois State University)

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Isleta

Feminist Pedagogies -- OFRGC President's Panel

Primary Sponsor: Organization for Feminist Research on Gender Communication

Chair: Loretta LeMaster (Arizona State University)

Santhosh Chandrashekar (Univ. of Denver)

Raisa Alvarado (California State University, San Bernardino)

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Tesuque - AV

Language, Loss, and Identity

Primary Sponsor: Language, Self, and Social Construction

This paper session highlights Language, Self, and Social Construction approaches to the relationship between language, loss and grief, and social identity.

Chair: Kyle Gutzmer (San Diego State University)

Co-Chair: Alan Hansen (Carroll College)

"Reconnecting in Loss: How Media and Theory Shaped My Grief Journey, an Autoethnographic Approach to Grief"

M. Marie Devlin (University of Delaware)

"Toward Innovative Inclusive Language Training: An Experimental Investigation of Growth Mindset and Inclusive Language Training"

Jihyun Kang (Ball State University), Larissa Durkin (Arizona State University), Reeham R. Mohammed (Arizona State University), Evans Ankrah (Arizona State University), Elissa Adame (Arizona State University)

"1803: Oral Histories of Grief, Space, and Structural Fracturing"

Laura Martinez (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)

"Navigating Cultural Borders: A Collaborative Autoethnography of Non-White International Students' Social Adaptation in the U.S."

Mina Sayadi (University of New Mexico), Amanda Gyesi (University of Kentucky)

"(Poor) working-class white wishing: A daughter's work for a mother's wish"

Kelly Opdycke (CSU, Northridge)

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Zuni

Media and Identities

Primary Sponsor: Media Studies

The competitive papers in this panel focus on identities and identification in the media. This panel will include an extended moderated conversation about the media and identities.

Chair: Ian Derk (Arizona State University)

Moderator: Kerk Kee (Texas Tech University)

"Loving the Sinner, Hating the Sin: Exploring Queer Heteronormativity in Somebody Somewhere"

Sharon Rodriguez (California State University, Sacramento)

"Race, Media & Discrimination, and Celebrities in the U.S.: Is it Really Supportive to Fight Against Racism Reinforcing Racial Stereotypes?"

Laura Torre (University of New Mexico)

"Wearing the Mask: Transgender Themes in the Experience of Spider-Man"

Kai Levato (CSU, Sacramento)

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Navajo

Reflections of and Adaptations to Health Experiences

Primary Sponsor: Health Communication

Chair: Kristen Cole (San Jose State University)

"Human Milk 4 Babies: An Open Reflection on an Obscured Organization"

Rachel Silverman (Boise State University Dept of Communication)

"Applying Communication Privacy Management Theory to Menstrual Health Disclosure: An Example from Northern India"

Meghana Rawat (Utah Valley University), Maria Venetis (Rutgers University), Ashleigh Shields (Northeastern University)

"Communication's Role During Childbirth: The Supportive Communication Advantage"

Carmen Stitt (Cal. State Univ., Sacramento)

"My health my body: An Autoethnographic piece on my intersectional health experience"

Nnenna Udebunu (The University of New Mexico)

"Navigating the New Normal: Resilience, Adaptation, and Psychological Impact of Collegiate Athletes During the Early Stages of the COVID-19 Pandemic"

Colin Storm (pepperdine.edu), Lauren Taylor (Pepperdine University), Lauren Carlton (Pepperdine University), Hailey Benton (Pepperdine University), Rachel Ahrens (Pepperdine University)

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Nambé

Supporting All Debaters: Expanding an Intercollegiate Forensics Program to Include Incarcerated Students

Primary Sponsor: Western Forensics & Argumentation Association

Fresno State has established a debate program for college students at two correctional institutions in Central California. Fresno State faculty coach the debaters, who participate in end-of-semester debates with on-campus team members. This panel will feature a short introduction to our program, an example of a debate including students from each institution, testimonials from the debaters about the impact of the program, and an opportunity for audience questions and comments.

Chair: Douglas Fraleigh (California State University, Fresno)

"Supporting All Debaters: Expanding an Intercollegiate Forensics Program to Include Incarcerated Students"

Douglas Fraleigh (California State University, Fresno), Monica Summers (California State University Fresno), Natalie Cavallero (California State University Fresno), Rhiannon Genilla (California State University Fresno)

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Santo Domingo - AV

Supporting Critical Thinking: Great Ideas for Teaching Students (GIFTS) Digital and Cultural Literacy

Primary Sponsor: Community College

Chair: Natalie Wellman (The University of Texas at Austin)

"Supporting Students' Critical Thinking by Practicing Critical Listening and "Paying"/ Investing Attention"

Colleen McGoff Dean (Whatcom Community College)

"GIFTS Proposal: Gaining Cultural Envy Through Classroom Learning"

Morgan Lankford (Utah State University)

"Cracking the Code: Understanding How Fake News Dominates the Internet and How to Stop It"

Natalie Wellman (The University of Texas at Austin)

"Setting the Stage on Ways to Betray: Using Among Us (2018) as a Launching Pad to Discuss Global Approaches to Deception Management"

Matthew Petrunia (Fashion Institute of Technology, SUNY), Nurhayat Bilge (SUNY- FIT)

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Jemez

Supporting New Community College Tenure-Track Faculty: Program Design & Implementation

Primary Sponsor: Community College

Our roundtable is comprised of faculty who lead new faculty programs at their community colleges and a faculty member currently on a community college tenure-track. **Roundtable participants will share the following:**

- Perspective on what a tenure-track faculty member needs/desires when it comes to mentorship.
- Discuss why Communication Faculty are uniquely positioned to excel in leading these programs.
- Three Different Models for New Faculty Mentorship Programs including the Who, What, When, Where, and HOW.
- Generate ideas for how to begin to advocate for an institutionalized New Faculty Mentorship Program on your campus.

Any community college faculty member who wants to see a new faculty mentorship program on their campus should attend.

Chair: Marie Arcidiacono Kaufman (Los Medanos College)

Marie Arcidiacono Kaufman (Los Medanos College), Nick Chivers (De Anza College), Michelle Brownlee (Los Angeles Pierce College), Andi Zamora (Bellingham Technical College)

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Tewa

That's Not My Name!! A Critical Discussion on Misnaming Black and African Descent People

Primary Sponsor: Communication, Identities & Difference

This panel calls into question the performance of racio-linguistic microaggressions related to pronouncing Black, African, and African American names. Drawing on various critical methods, panelists will grapple with the racial politics embedded in the act of misnaming Black and African descent peoples. This discussion creates space for panelists and audience participants to consider the nuanced nature of misnaming and to reimagine **supportive communication** as an act of resisting, challenging, and disarming anti-Black linguistic racism and xenophobia.

Chair: Lionnell "Badu" Smith (San Francisco State University)

Lionnell "Badu" Smith (San Francisco State University), Mark Hopson (Chapman University), Nicholas Lacy (Purdue University), Gloria Nziba (California State University San Marcos), Tomide Oloruntobi (Arizona State University)

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Apache

Top Papers in Environmental Communication

Primary Sponsor: Environmental Communication

Chair: Megan Cullinan (The University of Montana, Missoula)

Respondent: Emily Plec (Western Oregon University)

"Refuge Amidst the Ruins: On the (Im)Possibility of Safe Haven in the Anthropocene"

Joshua Barnett (Pennsylvania State University), David Gore (University of Minnesota Duluth)

"Water Knowledge, Media Uses, Information Sources, and Risk Perception"

Ashleigh Day (Northern Arizona University), Eric Cerino (Northern Arizona University), Zoe Zidzik (Northern Arizona University), Laura Umphrey (Northern Arizona University)

"Imagining a Floral Politic of Support: The Rhetorics of Florality and Palimpsestic Pansy Visions of Queerness in Bloom"

Damon Darling (University of Utah)

"Conspiring with the Earth: Passive Portrayals of Indigenous-Environmental Connections in Disney Movies"

Julianna Jovillar (University of Nevada Las Vegas)

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Laguna - AV

Top Papers in Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy

Primary Sponsor: Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy

Chair: Liahna Stanley (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)

"Suturing Rhetoric: Synecdoche Sustaining Black History in Langston Hughes' 'Harlem.'"

Darrian Carroll (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo)

"Echoes of Horror: Looking at Candyman through Afropessimism"

Vontrez White (California State University, Fullerton)

"The Living Legacy of the Frontier Myth"

Una Kimoeko-Goes (College of Idaho)

"The Shadow of Trinity: Nolan's Oppenheimer and the Persistence of Nuclear Colonialism"

Sara Velasquez (University of New Mexico)

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | San Juan

Top Papers in the Interpersonal & Family Communication Interest Group

Primary Sponsor: Interpersonal & Family Communication

Chair: Colter Ray (The University of Tampa)

"Distress Produced When Communicating with a Frenemy: The Role of Social Networks"

Panfeng Yu (Arizona State University), **Paul Mongeau** (Arizona State University)

"Creating Space: Dialogic Strategies for Combatting Misinformation"

Haley Noble (SDSU, School of Communication)

"Minimizing the Impact of Low Person-Centered Emotional Support: The Role of Relational Closeness, Goodwill, and Message Accuracy"

Colter Ray (The University of Tampa), Valerie Manusov (University of Washington)

"Supporting the Social Fabric: Exploring Interpersonal Acts of Kindness and Predispositions that Predict Capacity to Savor and Engagement in Communication Savoring"

Tiana Case (University of Washington), Valerie Manusov (University of Washington)

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM | Zuni

Community College Interest Group PM Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Community College

Chair: Nick Chivers (De Anza College)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Michelle Brownlee (Los Angeles Pierce College) and Kristen Stout (Missouri State University) **Committee Member:** Rob Leonard (Sinclair College)

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM | Apache

Environmental Communication Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Environmental Communication

Chair: Ashleigh Day (Northern Arizona University)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Megan Cullinan (The University of Montana, Missoula)

Committee Members: Joshua Barnett (Pennsylvania State University) and Oliver Tripp (Pennsylvania State University)

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM | San Juan

Interpersonal & Family Communication Interest Group Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Interpersonal & Family Communication

Chair: Colter Ray (The University of Tampa)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Leslie Nelson (California Polytechnic State University)

Committee Member: Robert Hall (Utah Tech University)

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM | Navajo

Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy

Chair: Liahna Stanley (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Sarah Dweik (Penn State University)

Committee Member: Ian Derk (Arizona State University) and Matthew Parnell (Pennsylvania State University)

5:00 PM - 6:15 PM | Acoma

Debating on the Backroads: Exploring Strategies of Support, Engagement, and Retention for Rural Intercollegiate Forensic Programs.

Primary Sponsor: Western Forensics & Argumentation Association

This panel explores strategies of building community and support of intercollegiate forensics (speech and debate) students in rural communities. Rural communities offer unique benefits and challenges to speech and debate programs resulting in the need to develop unique strategies for engagement and retention. Very little scholarship and research has been done on recruiting efforts in marginalized and often economically distressed areas. This panel hopes to answer the call of Tarin (2022) to examine marginalized population in the activity by looking at how potential tensions are negotiated: voice, belonging, exclusion, support, and burnout. Exploring these tensions provides a way of understanding how diverse and rural viewpoints might better be supported in the activity.

Moderator: Douglas Mungin (Solano Community College - Fairfield)

Zachary Waters (Communication Studies Department, San Francisco State University), Nathan Wensko (Clovis Community College), Shannan Troxel-Andreas (Butte College)

5:00 PM - 6:15 PM | Hopi - AV

Supporting Scholars: The Promise and Problems of Academic Friendship

Primary Sponsor: Interpersonal & Family Communication

The problems and promises of academic friendships look decidedly different at various stages of academic careers. This panel explores the multifaceted nature of academic friendships, examining their benefits, challenges, and variations across career stages and marginalized identities. Panelists will discuss mentoring relationships, instrumental support, strategies for maintaining and initiating connections, and the unique experiences of marginalized scholars. By exploring these perspectives, the panel aims to deepen our understanding of the supportive and unsupportive roles of academic friendships.

Chair: Jordan Allen (Utah Valley University)

Jordan Allen (Utah Valley University), Maria Blevins (Utah Valley University), Meghana Rawat (Utah Valley University), Leandra Hernandez (The University of Utah), Christina Granato Yoshimura (University of Montana), Jeremy Murphy (Ohio University), Sophie Downing (Ohio University), Grant Lane (University of Montana)

5:00 PM - 6:15 PM | Tesuque - AV

'Co-' Creates Change: Collective, Coalition, Collaboration, Comadrisma

Primary Sponsor: Communication, Identities & Difference

A common theme of these four communication studies is that it's always better with others. Whether through art, media, performance, or mutual support networks—collective strategies build toward survival and, ideally, change. This panel has CID's Top Paper recipient.

Chair: Shelby Crow (Colorado State University)

Respondent: Shane Moreman (California State University, Fresno)

"The Role of Visual Storytelling in Supporting Emancipation and Resistance among the Hungarian Roma"

Maria Subert (California Polytechnic State University)

"Paradoxes of Interethnic Support: Vietnamese Diasporic Citizenships & Asian American Politics after the Atlanta Shootings"

Anh Alan Nguyen (Kansas State University)

"Exorcising Heteronormative Trauma with 'The ConVersion': Queer Collaboration in (Autoethno)Graphic Performance"

Tyler Rife (St. Lawrence University), Loretta LeMaster (Arizona State University)

"Comadrisma as Method: A Reproductive Justice Approach to Community Based Participatory Action Research"

Sarah Upton (The University of Texas at El Paso), Naomi Fertman (The University of Texas at El Paso)

5:00 PM - 6:15 PM | Tewa

Exemplary Teaching Award Panel Recognizing Dr. Ragan Fox

Primary Sponsor: Communication and Instruction

This year's recipient of the WSCA Communication & Instruction Interest Group's Exemplary Teacher Award, Dr. Ragan Fox, reviews teaching innovations he's developed over the last 25 years. Ragan will focus on three areas of instructional design, including gamification, effective pedagogical tools, and creative modes of student assessment. He will also discuss how he integrates inclusion, equity, diversity, and access throughout his teaching

Chair: Kendra Rivera (Lane Community College)

Respondent: Ragan Fox (California State University, Long Beach)

5:00 PM - 6:15 PM | Isleta

Appreciating Argument: Great Ideas for Teaching Students (GIFTS) how to Construct, Support, and Defend their Position

Primary Sponsor: Community College

Chair: Damon Darling (University of Utah)

"Debate Tag"

Colleen McGoff Dean (Whatcom Community College)

"Radio "(M)Ad" Libs"

Aubree Herman (Texas Tech University)

"We Find Each Other in The Details: Supporting Public Speaking and Argumentation Students in Personal Storytelling"

Damon Darling (University of Utah)

"GIFTS Session on Argumentation and Persuasion: Using Logic Puzzles to Create Classroom Debate Pairings"

Alena Ruggerio (Southern Oregon University)

5:00 PM - 6:15 PM | Santo Domingo - AV

Intersectionalities, Narratives, & Social Justice in Intercultural Communication

Primary Sponsor: Intercultural Communication

Chair: Yea-Wen Chen (San Diego State University)

Respondent: Eric Aoki (Colorado State University)

"¿Qué dice, mija?": An autoethnography of two Mexican American sisters' experiences through language brokering"

Gabriela Morales (New Mexico State University), Nadia Morales (University of New England)

"How do we reclaim that story": Vision for the future of the San Luis Valley acequia community"

Urszula Adamska (University of Colorado Boulder)

"Organizational Justice as Anticolonial Intervention: Intersectional and Intercultural Approaches"

Heewon Kim (Arizona State University), Tuminu Awonuga (Arizona State University - Hugh Downs School of Human Communication), Mary Katreeb (Arizona State University - Hugh Downs School of Human Communication)

"When Gendered, Precarious Bodies Resist, Disobey, Exist: Revolutionary Protests of Minoritized Women in the Middle East"

Serap Erincin (ASU)

5:00 PM - 6:15 PM | Nambé

Unmasking Whiteness and Patriarchy: Identity Negotiations and Disjunctures Between Home and School

Primary Sponsor: Communication, Identities & Difference

The persistent legacy of racial segregation and discrimination continues to shape the experiences of diverse students in higher education. Despite legal advancements, underrepresentation and persistent challenges related to inadequate support and inclusivity remain prevalent. Diverse students bring valuable experiences, perspectives, and cultural backgrounds that enrich academic environments. However, on entering higher education institutions, both domestic and international students face the challenging task of negotiating their identities and understanding their shifting positionalities. This panel explores how graduate students navigate the complexities of hegemonic whiteness and patriarchy within their home and school environments. Celebrating SUPPORT, this panel examines (a) how students negotiate intersectional identities, (b) strategies for resistance and resilience, and (c) how academic institutions can more effectively address diverse student needs and concerns.

Chair: Rebecca de Souza (San Diego State University)

Respondent: Colby Miyose (University of Hawaii, Hilo)

Moderator: Godfried Asante (San Diego State University)

"Unmasking Whiteness and Patriarchy: Identity Negotiations and Disjunctures Between Home and School"

Maya Cancio Vendel (San Diego State University), Athena Cole (San Diego State University), Mariah Naea (San Diego State University), Jules Bruetsch (San Diego State University), Khorri Cranford (San Diego State University), Oli Loeffler (San Diego State University), Kyle Pryor-Landman (San Diego State University), Lindsay Smith (San Diego State University)

5:00 PM - 6:15 PM | Laguna - AV

"Chinga tu vida entera": An Embodied Chicanographic Performance

Primary Sponsor: Performance Studies

It is with this poetic rage that de la Garza enters the performance stage. In a performance ritual of about 30 minutes, de la Garza structures personal narrative, embodiment, ritual, and participative elements. Her work is a lesson in decolonial performance and improvisation, thus it refutes the necessity for a script. Instead, an outline of performative intentions guides her work. As part of de la Garza's decolonial praxis, she includes a description of her thematic structure and method (Structured Improvisation). de la Garza wants to create a space that allows everyone to return to a collective space in their beings, rather than leaving as individuals with heads full of unexpressed reactions. Audience will be invited to travel the wheel of a Mindful Heretic's union with ecological interdependence rather than individual attainment as orthodox norm. This situates rage as an ecological response.

Chair: Pablo Ramirez (Arizona State University - Hugh Downs School of Human Communication)

Sarah Amira de la Garza (Arizona State University)

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM | Sandia (Quiet Room)

Recovery Group Meeting

This dedicated meeting time provides a supportive space for attendees participating in recovery programs. This confidential gathering offers a chance to connect with others who share similar experiences and challenges. We encourage those seeking support to utilize this dedicated time and space.

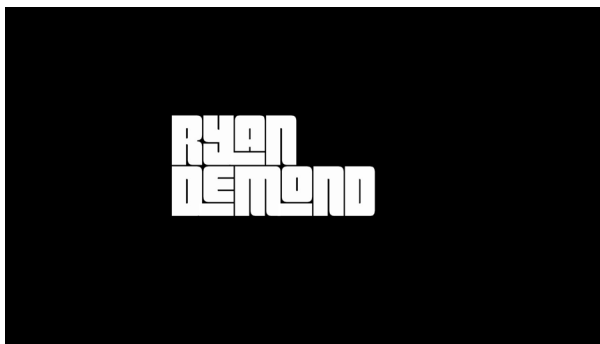
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM | Convention Center Downstairs (Multiple Locations)

Departmental Receptions

9:00 PM - 11:45 PM | Ballroom A (upstairs)

Dance Party 2025

Shake it out together! Join your WSCA Colleagues for an evening of fun and music as we let it all out on the dancefloor.



Music provided by DJ RyanDemond

DJ RyanDemond comes to us from Boston. He transplanted to ABQ and over the past several years his sets are renowned for blending different genres and styles. His seamless transitions and his curated set lists have blessed Albuquerque with a global sound that is next level. Every set consists of the hottest genres across the globe. Expect remixes, mashups, flips and edits from genres include funk/soul, r&B, afrobeats, amapiano, bailefunk, dembow, latinrhythms, afrohouse and more.

His [soundcloud](#) is chalked full of 8000 tracks and his bandcamp has over 25000 plays - so his curation of music is deep and his love of some of the most up & coming producers never stop.

We are grateful to the [Taylor and Francis group](#) for their sponsorship of the Dance Party



Sunday, February 16

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM | La Sala Atrium

Registration & Information Desk Open

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Stop by the registration desk to pickup your attendee badge and ask any questions you might have.

8:00 AM - 6:00 PM | Sandia (Quiet Room)

Support Space

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

This designated quiet space offers a peaceful environment for attendees seeking respite from the conference's bustling activity. Stop by to reflect, meditate, or simply for a moment to step away from the conference. Tables and chairs are setup. We do ask that we preserve the space as a quiet zone.

8:00 AM - 9:45 AM | La Sala Atrium

Morning Coffee and Snacks Provided by Colorado State University



COMMUNICATION STUDIES

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Enjoy coffee and a selection of assorted snacks, sponsored by [Colorado State University](#)

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM | Nambé

2026 Program Planners Meeting II

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Join Dr. Anthony Cuomo, 1st Vice President and 2026 Primary Program Planner to discuss the plans for the San Diego convention. This session should be attended by the program planner for each interest group. There is one session Saturday Morning and one session Sunday Morning.

Chair: Anthony Cuomo (West Los Angeles College)

Committee Members: Justin Boren (Santa Clara University) and Eric Wilson (Western States Communication Association)

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM | Tewa

Communication, Identities, and Difference Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Communication, Identities & Difference

Chair: Shane Moreman (California State University, Fresno)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Carrie Mulderink ()

Committee Members: Santhosh Chandrashekar (Univ. of Denver), Shelby Crow (Colorado State University), Rona Halualani (San Jose State University), Anh Alan Nguyen (Kansas State University), Kent Ono (University of Utah) and Bobbi Van Gilder (Suffolk University)

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM | Isleta

Health Communication Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Health Communication

Chair: Marie Haverfield (San Jose State University)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Colin Storm (pepperdine.edu)

Committee Member: Tara McManus (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM | Laguna - AV

OFRGC Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Organization for Feminist Research on Gender Communication

Chair: Loretta LeMaster (Arizona State University)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Raisa Alvarado (California State University, San Bernardino)

Committee Members: Julie Cannon (UNC Charlotte), Marissa Doshi (Hope College), Jenna Hanchey (Arizona State University), Lydia Huerta, Mary Katreeb (Arizona State University - Hugh Downs School of Human Communication), Dustin Martinez (University of Colorado, Boulder), Hannah Mattingly (California State University, Long Beach), Stephany Rojas Hidalgo (Arizona State University/ Hugh Downs School of Human Communication) and Katie Webber (University of Connecticut)

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM | Jemez

Western States Argumentation Association/ Argumentation, Persuasion, Forensics Interest Group Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Western Forensics & Argumentation Association

Annual Business Meeting for The Argumentation, Persuasion, and Forensics IG (WFAA).

Meeting Includes: Annual Recap, Presentation of Awards, Interest Group Elections

Chair: Damon Darling (University of Utah)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Ashley Givens (Salt Lake Community College)

Committee Member: Kristen Stout (Missouri State University)

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Zuni

Communication and Storytelling in Organizations

Primary Sponsor: Organizational Communication

These papers discuss storytelling and narratives in organizational settings, and ask how narrative shapes identity, relationships, and practices in organizational contexts.

Chair: Blake Harms (Arizona State University)

Respondent: Heather Canary (San Diego State University)

"Real People, Real Stories: Using Employee Video Testimonials as Social Proof Recruitment Strategy"

Ebuka Okoli (Arizona State University)

"Transforming organizational communication: An SD approach to decolonizing the field"

Anne Nicotera (George Mason University), Xavier Clark (George Mason University)

"Public Relations in Collegiate Sports at a Midwestern University"

Bachchu Shekh (Missouri State University - Springfield, MO), A K M Zamir Uddin (Missouri State University), Adam Beck (Missouri State University)

"College-Educated, Professional Women's Compassionate Communication in the Workplace: Organizational and Interpersonal Perspectives"

Alayna Short (California State University, Sacramento)

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Navajo

Culture and Discourse in Professional Contexts

Primary Sponsor: Organizational Communication

Presentations on diverse perspectives about how cultural dynamics shape professional interactions. These papers feature diverse methods and organizational contexts to ask how culture, discourse, and professional practices interact.

Chair: Emma Mink (San Francisco State University)

Respondent: Larry Erbert (University of Colorado, Denver)

"A Mixed-Methods Evaluation of an Intergroup Intervention Between Police and Underserved Community: Analyzing VOICES"

Sofia Cavaness (University of California, Santa Barbara)

"Navigating the High Reliability Organizational (HRO) Cultural Landscape: A Scholarly Expedition"

Sofia Cavaness (University of California, Santa Barbara)

"The CrossFit Affiliate Business Model: The Risks of the "Unknown and Unknowable""

Anasheh Oliven (Pepperdine University)

"Locating and Resisting d/Discourses in Preservation Practice: The Case of Coastal Heritage Foundation"

Ashley Rife (St. Lawrence University)

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | San Juan

Engaging Engaged Theory and Practice: Scholarship in Support of Communities

Primary Sponsor: Communication Theory and Research

This panel explores the intersection of engaged theory and practice in communication scholarship, showcasing research that supports and empowers communities. Panelists will discuss how their work bridges theory and practice, contributing to social change and addressing real-world issues. This session invites a critical dialogue on the responsibilities of scholars and the potential of engaged scholarship to make a meaningful impact.

Chair: Reeham Mohammed (Arizona State University)

Jim Cherney (University of Nevada, Reno), Laura Ellingson (Santa Clara University), Leandra Hernandez (The University of Utah), **Jimmie Manning** (University of Nevada)

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Apache

Fostering and Mastering Support: From Community College Classrooms to the Communities they Serve

Primary Sponsor: Community College

El Paso Community College is uniquely positioned at the 2nd largest binational metroplex in the USA. It serves students of El Paso, Texas, Southern New Mexico, and Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. Many of EPCC's students are first generation college students who are at higher risk for not completing their degrees. This panel examines different means by which professors provide support, ranging from in-class academic interventions, to efforts promoting civic engagement and career preparation, to efforts supporting the dual credit program. This panel examines the symbiotic connection between instructor messages and support. Through the actions of EPCC, we will show how assistance is not only our actions themselves, but the outcomes of our actions. We will show how students are better prepared to not just finish their degrees, but to also master their speech communication skills, serve as active voices in their communities, and gain practical job skills.

Chair: Richard Falvo (El Paso Community College)

Moderator: Richard Falvo (El Paso Community College)

Richard Falvo (El Paso Community College), Laura Erickson Alvarado (El Paso Community College), Tim Watkins (El Paso Community College), Crystal Robert (El Paso Community College), Patricia Islas (El Paso Community College), Susan Selk (El Paso Community College), Eduardo Trevizo (El Paso Community College)

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Tesuque - AV

Mixed Media

Primary Sponsor: Media Studies

The competitive papers in this panel focus on media applications in specific contexts including online forums, newspapers, and television.

Chair: Kathleen Doss (Portland Community College)

"Understanding Reader Attachment to Place via Community Newspapers: An In-depth Look at How Virtual Spaces Have Redefined "Local""

Aaron Atkins (Weber State University), **Samantha Peko** (university of north georgia), Enakshi Roy (Towson University)

"Missed Connections: A Mixed Methods Analysis of Social Media Echo Chambers in Je (Ne) Suis (Pas) Charlie"

Julianna Kirschner (University of Southern California)

"May "PodCred" be with you: A digital rhetorical analysis of the podcast The Redemption of Jar Jar Binks"

Ashley Johnson (CSU Sacramento)

"The fandom IS big; it's just in mourning": Audience-Produced Text on Reddit as Fandom-Based Coping Methods to Cancelled Sapphic Television Shows"

Victoria Boyle (Independent Scholar)

"Soy Alguien Tambien: Confrontations of Mixed Racial Identity Through International Media"

Dayana Calle (University of New Mexico)

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Santo Domingo - AV

Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy Papers in Politics and Social Movements

Primary Sponsor: Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy

Chair: Sarah Dweik (Penn State University)

"Coming Undone: The Self-Immolation of Aaron Bushnell"

Lisa Silvestri (Pennsylvania State University)

"The Rhetorical Life and Times of Elfego Baca: Constructing Nuevomexicano Identity in the Early 20th Century"

Trevor Parry-Giles (University of Maryland)

"Building Communities and Support through the Deliberative Discourse of Popular Trials: A Case Study of the Rittenhouse Verdict"

Iruoma Ezumba (University of Wisconsin Milwaukee)

"Hey You Gay: A Rhetorical Exploration into a Queer Interpellation"

Jeremy Murphy (Ohio University)

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Acoma

The Wise Ones: An opportunity for Collaboration & Support

Primary Sponsor: Community College

Whether you are a full-time faculty member or an adjunct instructor, there is much to learn from our wise, experienced instructors who have insights into academic policies, disciplinary trends, and ways to meet the needs of students with tried-and-true approaches. This panel consists of faculty who recently retired or have been in higher education for decades. Panelists will provide insight into their lived experiences, what they learned during their careers, and how they have navigated professional and personal turbulence. We know that speaking truth to power (especially administrative) can be tricky and knowing when to step up or step back can be part of demonstrating leadership skills within academic communities. This roundtable will be an opportunity to give as well as receive support through dialogue with those members who have a breadth of knowledge and experience to cultivate renewal, reflection, and perspective.

Co-Chair: Amy Edwards (Oxnard College) and Karyl Kicenski (College of the Canyons)

Amy Edwards (Oxnard College), Victoria Leonard (College of the Canyons), Patricia O'Keefe (College of Marin), Karyl Kicenski (College of the Canyons), Kathryn Sorrells (California State University Northridge), Nancy Grass (Santa Monica College)

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Hopi - AV

Universal Support: Making Disability Accommodations a Standard Feature of Your Course

Primary Sponsor: Community College

This roundtable seeks to examine the ways we can adopt disability accommodations into a standard feature of our courses. Many of our common course policies were created under ableist frameworks and passed down without ever being revisited. Aside from the obvious benefits of fostering an inclusive educational environment, our focus will be on how these policies are inclusive of students who may not have access or the ability to receive a formal diagnosis to receive accommodations (but still require support), can boost student confidence, and are just good general policies for ALL students.

Chair: Kevin Briancesco (Los Angeles Valley College)

Kevin Briancesco (Los Angeles Valley College), Nick Chivers (De Anza College), Andi Zamora (Bellingham Technical College), Sarah Black (CSULA), Colleen McGoff Dean (Whatcom Community College), Michelle Brownlee (Los Angeles Pierce College), Dani Soibelman (University of Colorado)

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM | Nambé

Member Services and Marketing Committee Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Chair: Stephanie Hartzell (California State University, Long Beach)

Committee Members: Jim Cherney (University of Nevada, Reno), Anthony Cuomo (West Los Angeles College) and Olivia Roe (University of New Mexico)

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Isleta

Body, Performance, & Hegemony in Intercultural Communication

Primary Sponsor: Intercultural Communication

Chair: Heewon Kim (Arizona State University)

Respondent: Rona Halualani (San Jose State University)

"Soul Food: Cultural Currency and a Preserver of Black Diasporic History"

Brandon Laurent (Cal State University Los Angeles)

"Con Sazón y Amor: Interviews with 8 cultural stewards of Puerto Rico's national cuisine"

Reslie Cortés Fradera (James Madison University)

"Korea's 'Space Pioneers': Analyzing the Impact of American English Hegemony on the Korean Space Program's Driving Initiatives"

James Phillips (University of Oregon)

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Apache

Campus Climate Check-in Post 2024 Presidential Election

Primary Sponsor: Community College

This roundtable focuses not on “politics” per se, rather this roundtable will provide a space to discuss the impact of the newly elected President and his or her administration on our students, faculty and administration. The WSCA Annual Convention will be held 3 weeks after the inauguration of the 47th President of the United States. Clearly, at the time of the proposal submission, we don’t know who the new President will be. Could this be a celebratory discussion full of optimism as we move forward? Might this be a crisis management discussion as we share best practices for dealing with the new presidential administration? Either way, our students, colleagues and administration will likely be impacted in micro and macro ways by the President and his or her administration. This roundtable will provide an opportunity to assess the climate on our campuses. Audience participation will be highly encouraged.

Moderator: Rob Leonard (Sinclair College)

Rob Leonard (Sinclair College), Colleen McGoff Dean (Whatcom Community College), Amy Edwards (Oxnard College), Guy Edwards (SAG-AFTRA), Ashley Givens (Salt Lake Community College), April Hebert (College of Southern Nevada), Patricia O’Keefe (College of Marin), Ronda Picarelli (California State University, Northridge)

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Tewa

Identities, Relationships, Health, and Well-Being

Primary Sponsor: Communication Theory and Research

This panel explores how communication fosters support across various dimensions of human experience, including identity formation, health, and relationships. Panelists critically examine the intersections of language, media, mental health, and social support, offering fresh insights into how communication shapes our well-being and how it can be leveraged to build stronger, more inclusive communities. These studies contribute to the ongoing conversation about the mechanisms of support in personal, societal, and institutional contexts.

Chair: Reeham R. Mohammed (Arizona State University)

"Game On or Game Over? Exploring How Mental Health and Impulsivity Influence Problematic Gaming"

M. Marie Devlin (University of Delaware)

"The Role of Interpersonal Communication in The Influence of Presumed Media Influence on Health Information Seeking"

Sun Hong (University of New Mexico)

"Developing and Pilot Test of Online Social Support Questionnaire (OSSQ): a New Approach for Measuring Online Social Support"

WENRONG CUI (University of Kansas)

"Homosexual vs. Heterosexual Romantic Media: Love When We Need it Most"

Jarrold Ventura (Chapman University)

"Stripperweb: Disciplining Sex/Work"

Hannah Mattingly (California State University, Long Beach)

"Feminist Plural Communication: Deconstructing the tyrannies of monolanguage from the pluriversity"

Susana Martinez Guillem (University of New Mexico)

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Santo Domingo - AV

Land-based pedagogical support at the intersection of health, environment, and media

Primary Sponsor: Communication and Instruction

The landscapes that surround us offer opportunities for learning and community building. Panelists will share strategies and highlight experiences that help to cultivate land-based pedagogical roadmaps that benefit students and encourage healthy communities. Uniquely, place-based learning is supported by our varying regional environments, while media offers a vehicle to communicate the intersections. Thus, we ask: how do we teach in a way that facilitates sustainable movement in health, environment and collective community building from a foundational place-based perspective?

Chair: Jaelyn deMaria (University of New Mexico)

Jaelyn deMaria (University of New Mexico), Jessica Nodulman (Augustana College), Karen Roybal (Colorado College), Sofie Hecht (University of New Mexico), Kee Straits (TLC Transformations), Pauline Alvarez (Arizona State University)

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Zuni

Language, Race, & Identity: A Round Table Discussion

Primary Sponsor: Language, Self, and Social Construction

Language, identity, and race are historically interconnected, with language serving as a proxy for racialized characteristics and social identities. The Language, Society, and Social Change (LSSC) division investigates how language is mobilized to situate diverse identities, including race, ethnicity, and sexuality. This year's conference theme, "Support," aims to examine the role of language in creating, enacting, and performing social identities. Language plays a crucial role in shaping how individuals and groups understand and present themselves within society, reflecting and resisting societal norms. Engaging with these topics can provide valuable insights into language's role in shaping social realities and support for those navigating these complex intersections. To prepare for the panel, speakers will convene before the conference to discuss cross-cutting issues to generate questions for discussion among one another and the audience.

Moderator: Leah Wingard (San Francisco State University)

Leah Wingard (San Francisco State University), Lionnell "Badu" Smith (San Francisco State University), Natasha Shrikant (University of Colorado, Boulder), Shelby N. Carter (University of Arizona), Brandon Mock (Ohio University), Ame Tovo (San Francisco State University)

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Navajo

Predictors and Outcomes of Social Support, Loneliness, & Emotions in Interpersonal Relationships

Primary Sponsor: Interpersonal & Family Communication

This session features four papers that investigate common but important issues in interpersonal relationships, including social support, stress, loneliness, and emotions.

Chair: Robert Hall (Utah Tech University)

"Lacking Interpersonal Connection: Stress and Inflammatory Associations"

Kory Floyd (University of Arizona), Nicole Zenzola (University of Arizona, Department of Communication)

"The effects of friendship standards on the association between support provision and conversation satisfaction"

Tara McManus (University of Nevada, Las Vegas), Jackson Scott (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)

"College Students' Perception of Enacted Social Support Quality During Grief"

Victoria Boyle (Independent Scholar)

"'I Am in Fact Feeling Angry About This': When Emails Violate Expectations and Perpetuate Incivilities in Workplace Relationships"

Kimberly Aguilar (California State University, Sacramento), Shawna Malvini Redden (California State University, Sacramento)

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Acoma

The Body, The Subject, & The Self in Performance Inquiry

Primary Sponsor: Performance Studies

Chair: Tyler Rife (St. Lawrence University)

Respondent: Michael Tristano (Towson University)

"Recentring the Subject in Postmodern Trauma: An Examination of Walker, Warhol, and the World Trade Center"

Julianna Kirschner (University of Southern California)

"Aloha Pedagogy: Weaving Aho as Ways of Knowing"

Colby Miyose (University of Hawaii, Hilo)

"Ghosts of Babies Future: AKA Reflections of Queer Academic Temporalities"

Sarah Beck (Texas A&M University)

"Performing Loss: Telling Stories of the Self as Activism"

Serap Erincin (ASU)

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Jemez

Top Papers in Argumentation, Persuasion, and Forensics

Primary Sponsor: Western Forensics & Argumentation Association

Chair: Damon Darling (University of Utah)

"Does Anything Really Matter? An Autoethnographic Approach to Burnout in College Forensics"

Lindsay Gagnon (University of South Dakota)

"'It's All Fun and Games Until Someone Loses an Eye (-Test): On the Presence and Consequences of an Argument Scheme that Re-Works Our Notions of Evidence and Support'"

Matt Brigham (James Madison University)

"Producing Orientalism in Reality TV: Critical Analysis of African Culture Representation in The Amazing Race"

Marissa Medina (University of Utah)

"'We're All Family Here' An Autoethnographic Reflection of The Family Myth and Abusive Coaching in Forensics"

Nick Steinmetz (Illinois State University)

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Hopi - AV

Top Papers in Health Communication

Primary Sponsor: Health Communication

Chair: Colin Storm (pepperdine.edu)

Respondent: Marie Haverfield (San Jose State University)

"Prompting Family Driven Conversations about Advance Care Planning: Reported Awareness, Resources, Efficacy, and Intention"

Nick Serki (CSULB), **Kehalani Campbell** (CSULB), Jessica Russell (CSULB)

"Using the Risk Perception Attitude Frame to Explore Perceptions of Thirdhand Smoke Exposure Risks and Health Impacts Among Tobacco Industry-targeted Communities"

Rachael Record (San Diego State University), Toby Sandoz (San Diego State University), Mary Gonzales (San Diego State University), Katya Azzam (San Diego State University), Gianna Panzardi (San Diego State University), Lydia Greiner (San Diego State University), Georg Matt (San Diego State University)

"Framing Chronic Illness: An Experimental Study on Attribution of Responsibility and Perceptions of Preventable and Non-preventable Chronic Conditions"

Natalie Wellman (The University of Texas at Austin)

"'After AIDS,' or the Biopolitics of Queer Postmemory"

Nicholas Russell (Loyola Marymount University)

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Laguna - AV

Top Papers in OFRGC

Primary Sponsor: Organization for Feminist Research on Gender Communication

Chair: Loretta LeMaster (Arizona State University)

Respondent: Raisa Alvarado (California State University, San Bernardino)

"A Perverted Misadventure or a Triumph of Humanity: An Analysis of Childfreedom in Poor Things"

Leandra Hernandez (The University of Utah)

"“She is a Good American Citizen”: Transforming Legible Victimhood and Rhetorics of Radical Belief in the Justice Movement for Recy Taylor"

Lauren Buisker (Colorado State University)

"Representing the political body: Ghanaian Women Politicians and the Media"

Felicity Donkor (Colorado State University)

"Toward Asexual Futures"

Stephany Rojas Hidalgo (Arizona State University/ Hugh Downs School of Human Communication), Jenna Hanchey (Arizona State University)

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | San Juan

Understanding Organization Socializing and Support Experiences of International Graduate Students as Graduate Teaching Assistants in US Universities as Organizational Spaces

Primary Sponsor: Organizational Communication

Organizational socialization is defined as the process through which an individual acquires the attitudes, behavior, and knowledge needed to function/ participate as an organizational member. In US universities, GTA experience is restricted to formal training with few studies focusing on navigating organization spaces beyond such training programs facilitated by institutional organizations. In this panel, women-identifying international GTAs share their lived experiences about negotiating identities and finding support through co-cultural interactions in US academic spaces.

Chair: Evans Agyapong (University of Colorado Boulder)

Respondent: Meghana Rawat (Utah Valley University)

Jayita Chakraborty (The University of New Mexico), Julia Giacomet Thomazoni (Texas Tech University), Nnenna Udebunu (The University of New Mexico), Agnes Amoakwa (Arizona State University), Millicent Elewosi (University of Colorado Boulder), Winifred Sekyibea Abakah (University of Colorado Boulder), Subarna Mazumder (The University of New Mexico)

12:00 PM - 2:30 PM | Ballroom A (upstairs)

Luncheon and Awards Celebration

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Join the Western States Communication Association's leadership as we join together for our annual luncheon and awards ceremony.

2:45 PM - 4:00 PM | Isleta

Blackness, Brownness, Whiteness: The Rhetorical Problem of Mestizaje

Primary Sponsor: Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy

Mestizaje is a concept popularized by the queer Chicana feminist, Gloria Anzaldúa, who extended the thinking of Mexican philosopher, José Vasconcelos. As an ideology, mestizaje describes the racial mixture encouraged especially among Black, Indigenous, and European peoples in the postcolonial development of Latin American nations, leading to the creation of a new hybrid race, often described generically as Brown or mestizo/a. Building on rhetorical scholarship that probes mestizaje for how it traffics in anti-Blackness and anti-Indigeneity, this roundtable features rhetoric scholars concerned with mestizaje, Latinidad, and race more broadly, to consider the following kinds of questions: What are the implications for our field's thinking about race when Latine equals "brown"? If, as Lisa Flores suggests, all rhetorical criticism is inherently racialized, how might the primacy of mestizaje in theorizing Latine rhetorical practices shaped our understanding of race in Latine rhetorical practice?

Karma Chavez (University of Texas - Austin), Raisa Alvarado (California State University, San Bernardino), Mikayla Torres (CU Boulder), Raquel Moreira (Southwestern University)

2:45 PM - 4:00 PM | Tewa

How to Develop New Theory: A Support Roundtable Featuring Experienced Theorists in the Field

Primary Sponsor: Communication Theory and Research

This roundtable brings together experienced theorists to share insights and strategies for developing new theoretical frameworks in communication studies. Through interactive discussion, panelists will offer practical advice and mentorship, making this session a valuable resource for scholars seeking to innovate within the field. This panel is designed to demystify the process of theory development and support the next generation of theorists.

Chair: Jim Cherney (University of Nevada, Reno)

Sarah Tracy (Arizona State University), Ragan Fox (California State University, Long Beach), Godfried Asante (San Diego State University), **Jimmie Manning** (University of Nevada)

2:45 PM - 4:00 PM | San Juan

Memorial Panel for Sandra Petronio

Primary Sponsor: Interpersonal & Family Communication

Join us as we celebrate the life and legacy of past WSCA President Dr. Sandra Petronio (1949 – 2024)

Chair: Colter Ray (The University of Tampa)

Panelists: Jan Andersen, Wayne Beach (San Diego State University), Daniel Canary (San Diego State University), Robert Hall (Utah Tech University) and Paul Mongeau (Arizona State University)



2:45 PM - 4:00 PM | Tesuque - AV

QED: A Journal in GLBTQ Worldmaking: The past, present and futures of queer communication publishing

Primary Sponsor: Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy

Academic publishing is vital in our career paths. One challenge for queer scholarship in academia is its lack of mentorship and growth in many disciplines, including communication. QED: A Journal in GLBTQ Worldmaking emerged in the field of Communication over a decade ago due to a dearth of academic publishing options for queer academics. The founding co-editors and new co-editors will host a roundtable to discuss the history of queer communication studies, and the future of it in the journal. In particular, the roundtable will focus on globalized notions of queerness, as well as queer labor in and out of academia. This will be an opportunity for queer scholars at all stages of their career to gain valuable insight into the journal as a venue for their work.

Chair: Loretta LeMaster (Arizona State University)

Andrew Spieldenner (California State University San Marcos), Tom Nakayama (Northeastern University), Charles Morris (Syracuse University), Loretta LeMaster (Arizona State University)

2:45 PM - 4:00 PM | Apache

Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy Papers in Public Memory and Affect

Primary Sponsor: Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy

Chair: Michael Lechuga (The University of New Mexico)

"Genre Subversion at the Post-Museum: Critical Science Education Behind the Glass Barrier"

Jacob Moran (University of Washington)

"Questioning "Unity" in the Statue of Unity: A Rhetorical Study of the Visuality of the World's Tallest Statue"

Sneha Goswami (University of Memphis)

"Colonizing Ketamine: Affective perspectives on psychedelic rhetoric"

Hannah Mattingly (California State University, Long Beach)

"Sublime as Affect: Lucretius Swerve and Dispersement of the Ego"

Katelyn Johnson (University of Denver)

2:45 PM - 4:00 PM | Acoma

Support in Action: Activities for Building Connection

Primary Sponsor: Interpersonal & Family Communication

This panel will share GIFTS that focus on building support both in and outside the classroom. We will share activities and assignments that help students support each other, strengthen relationships, and stay connected with their campus and community. These ideas aim to teach students skills like building relationships, fostering community, and personal growth. By encouraging students to connect with their peers and contribute to the learning environment, these assignments help teach students skills to create supportive relationships. The goal is to give students the tools they need to build meaningful connections and create a sense of belonging.

Elizabeth Coleman (American River College), Andi Zamora (Bellingham Technical College), Hengjun Lin (Salt Lake Community College), Sarah Billington (Salt Lake Community College)

2:45 PM - 4:00 PM | Zuni

Support in Finding your Fit: Opportunities for Academics

Primary Sponsor: Health Communication

This panel is geared towards any conference attendee, regardless of interest group, who has found themselves at a crossroads in their academic journey, whether they are a graduate student, recent graduate, or full professor. Panelists—academics across the career spectrum in both academic and non-academic roles—will share their (often non-linear) paths and discuss the present challenges, validate uncertainties, and highlight the opportunities available to support attendees in finding their academic ‘fit’.

Co-Chair: Marie Haverfield (San Jose State University) and Chan Thai (Santa Clara University)

Marie Haverfield (San Jose State University), Heather Canary (San Diego State University), Chan Thai (Santa Clara University), Alexis Pulos (Santa Rosa Junior College), Stephanie Tikkanen (Meta)

2:45 PM - 4:00 PM | Navajo

Support or Solidarity?: Exploring differences and different stakes

Primary Sponsor: Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy

This panel is intended to be a collaborative dialogue between panelists and audience members about the differences and possible intersections between support and solidarity. Discussion questions will include: How can we use our positionality in the academy to be in solidarity with others? How do we offer “support” that does not anchor oppressive forces such as white heteroprofessionalism? What might we need to be willing to lose to shift from a mindset of support to a culture of solidarity?

Chair: Mary Katreeb (Arizona State University - Hugh Downs School of Human Communication)

Mary Katreeb (Arizona State University - Hugh Downs School of Human Communication), Annika Espinoza (Arizona State University), Nick Steinmetz (Illinois State University), Ame Min-Venditti (Arizona State University), Grace Pizzini (The University of New Mexico)

2:45 PM - 4:00 PM | Laguna - AV

The Human is the Message: Presence within Social Mediated Culture

Primary Sponsor: Communication, Identities & Difference

Across these four communication studies, culture is understood through its production, maintenance, repair, or transformation upon a social media platform. Humanity is centered as digital endeavor with material consequence. This panel has CID's Top Student Paper recipient.

Respondent: Anh Alan Nguyen (Kansas State University)

"El Recetario Goes Digital: Puertorriqueñas' culinary knowledge transmission and social media"

Reslie Cortés Fradera (James Madison University)

"THE WHITENESS PANDEMIC IN THE UNITED STATES: A Critical Discourse Analysis of How Whiteness and “Subverted” Oppositional Decoding are Employed in Two Internet Posts Involving Scott Adams and Robin DiAngelo to Further Neoliberal Agendas"

KRISTIN HANSEN (University of New Mexico)

"Reconstructing Identity: North Korean Defectors' Self-Representation on YouTube"

Lyounghee Kim (University of New Mexico)

"Scars and Stripes: A CTI Analysis of Mental Illness and Reintegration"

Kyle Kirkland (Oregon State University)

2:45 PM - 4:00 PM | Hopi - AV

Top Papers in Organizational Communication

Primary Sponsor: Organizational Communication

Join us to listen to presentations of the top awarded papers in organizational communication.

Chair: Rebecca Rice (University of Nevada Las Vegas)

Respondent: Laura Martinez (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)

"We Created the Policy, So We Don't Need to Use It: A Qualitative Case Study of Consent Policy Implementation"

Alaina Zanin (Arizona State University), Carrisa Hoelscher (Missouri State University), Sarah Wilcoxon (Missouri State University)

"Diversity, Equity, and Exclusivity: Soliciting Feedback During Change"

Brittney Grotz (Arizona State University)

"Houston, We Have a Situation(ship): Food Workers' Identity Management Following a Sexual Relationship With a Coworker"

Alexa Romero (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)

"Useful, But Soul Sucking and Time Wasting: A Metaphor Analysis of Work Email and Workplace Feelings"

Kimberly Aguilar (California State University, Sacramento), **Shawna Malvini Redden** (California State University, Sacramento)

2:45 PM - 4:00 PM | Jemez

Top Papers in Performance Studies

Primary Sponsor: Performance Studies

"Channeling the Desperation of Drying Rivers: Undocumenting Jesús I. Valles"

Eddie Gamboa (Governors State University)

"Communicating Chismé: A Theory in the (Fugitive) Flesh"

Eleanor "Ellie" Estrada (University of Utah)

"A Performative Response to "Channeling the Desperation of Drying Rivers: Undocumenting Jesús I. Valles""

Ana Terminel Iberri (San Francisco State University)

"A Performative Response to "Communicating Chismé: A Theory in the (Fugitive) Flesh""

Pablo Ramirez (Arizona State University - Hugh Downs School of Human Communication)

2:45 PM - 5:30 PM | Santo Domingo - AV

"Ecotones," an Environmental Communication Podcast: Sound Ecology & Composition of Acoustic Communities

Primary Sponsor: Environmental Communication

During the 2020 Western States Communication Association Conference, several environmental communication teachers and scholars collaborated to record the initial episode of "Ecotones," an Environmental Communication podcast. Before the episode could be edited and released, COVID-19 emerged. For a number of reasons, "Ecotones" became a shimmering, whispering memory. **Thus, I humbly propose a session - or, preferably, two - for members of the WSCA Environmental Communication Division to gather and collectively revive and revise "Ecotones."** My hope is that the podcast might become a collaborative place for environmental communication scholars to share, and to meet regularly and "riff" about ecological communication, research, teaching, activism, sorrows and joys. As a publicly circulated mode of communication, the podcast might also engage in civic life and animate listeners towards contemporary *ecotones* - places where ecologies and communities meet and change.

Moderator: Jeremy Gordon (Gonzaga University)

4:15 PM - 5:15 PM | Apache

Organizational Communication Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Organizational Communication

Join us for the business meeting of the Organizational Communication division. We'll discuss division goals and planning for next year, report on current business, and award our top papers!

Chair: Rebecca Rice (University of Nevada Las Vegas)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Laura Martinez (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)

Committee Members: Tiffany Dykstra-DeVette (San Diego State University), Brystal Nevins-Grimm (California State Univ., San Bernardino) and Cris Tietz (University of Denver)

4:15 PM - 5:15 PM | Jemez

Performance Studies Interest Group Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Performance Studies

Chair: Tyler Rife (St. Lawrence University)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Pablo Ramirez (Arizona State University - Hugh Downs School of Human Communication)

Committee Member: Olivia Roe (University of New Mexico)

4:15 PM - 5:30 PM | Navajo

Advocacy, Conservation, & Nature: Examining the Role of Environmental Communication

Primary Sponsor: Environmental Communication

Chair: Oliver Tripp (Pennsylvania State University)

Respondent: Randall Lake (University of Southern California)

"Student Support for Public Lands: From Advocacy to Direct Action"

Joshua Lenart (University of Utah)

"Supporting Sustainable Action: Promoting Sustainability and Closing the Green Gap through Educational Interventions"

LAUREN Kolodziejewski (California Polytechnic State University), Gabby Perich (California Polytechnic State University)

"Linguistic Invention and the Commonplaces of Nature in Environmental Advocacy"

Crystal Colombini (Fordham University), Zoltan Majdik (North Dakota State University)

"Of Sharks and Men: Acknowledging Positionality in Nature and Conservation Documentaries"

Felipe Gómez (San Jose State University)

"A Garden or an Act of Nature: A Conflict Analysis of Arctic Grayling Conservation and Preservation of Wilderness"

Melissa Parks (University of Utah), Mark Bergstrom (University of Utah)

4:15 PM - 5:30 PM | Hopi - AV

Autonomy and Law (OFRGC)

Primary Sponsor: Organization for Feminist Research on Gender Communication

Chair: Loretta LeMaster (Arizona State University)

Respondent: Kaylee Mulholland (Arizona State University)

"Supporting Women in Law: The Influence of Gender in the Legal Profession"

kelly anthony (Chapman University)

"Strutting in the Face of God: Resisting Restrictive Religious Culture in St. George, Utah"

Grace Pizzini (The University of New Mexico)

"'So you wanna talk about power?': Narrative Criticism and Ego Function in Dove Cameron's 'Breakfast'"

Chloe Brownell (Colorado State University)

"Surrogacy and Sin: A Feminist Critique of the Donum Vitae and Pope Francis' Recent Call for a Global Ban on Surrogacy"

Megan Lauricella (California State University Long Beach)

4:15 PM - 5:30 PM | Isleta

Beyond Liberalism: Communicating and Critiquing Support of the Here and Now

Primary Sponsor: Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy

Conceptualizing what it means to offer support in the present moment is limited by its containment within liberalism. We understand liberalism as both a mode of administrative governmentality and as the epistemological center of knowledge within the United States through its reification of individualism, human rights, and western exceptionalism. However, the limits of liberalism are exposed by the international crises exacerbated by extractive capitalism, colonial violence and genocide, and ecological degradation that are not only excused, but enabled by liberal states and their re-production of knowledge. The ongoing genocide perpetuated by the Israeli government against Palestinians functions through the support of the US government and the disregard for its own Leahy Laws. Thus, this panel thinks through support as it is captured within liberal frameworks in the present moment, and how communication theories and strategies from populations at the edge of liberalism's protections may re-orient our political, scholarly, and communal solidarities.

Chair: Santhosh Chandrashekar (Univ. of Denver)

Santhosh Chandrashekar (Univ. of Denver), Eddie Gamboa (Governors State University), Jenna Hanchey (Arizona State University), Loretta LeMaster (Arizona State University), Mary Katreeb (Arizona State University - Hugh Downs School of Human Communication), Michael Lechuga (The University of New Mexico), DACHENG ZHANG (Arizona State University/ Hugh Downs School of Human Communication), Sarah Dweik (Penn State University), Blake Harms (Arizona State University), Ana Terminel Iberri (San Francisco State University), Michael Tristano (Towson University), Liahna Stanley (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), Heewon Kim (Arizona State University)

4:15 PM - 5:30 PM | Acoma

Forensics Spotlight Panel

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

The forensics spotlight panel showcases the work of undergraduate competitors in forensics. Each participant will perform an individual event used throughout the 2024-2025 competitive season. The showcase features various speakers and events in order to demonstrate the complexity and variety of work done and performed by undergraduates. At the conclusion of performances, students will be open to a question and answer period where you can learn more about their pieces, competition, and forensics more broadly.

Chair: Averie Vockel (University of Utah)

4:15 PM - 5:30 PM | Zuni

Intercultural Communication in African Contexts

Primary Sponsor: Intercultural Communication

Chair: Tomide Oloruntobi (Arizona State University)

Respondent: Godfried Asante (San Diego State University)

"Non-Governmental Organizations Intervention in Ghana: An interpretative Analysis of Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence Effort"

Winifred Sekyibea Abakah (University of Colorado Boulder), Amy N. Heuman (Texas Tech University)

"Interrogating post-colonial struggles for democracy as political and intercultural engagement: Possibilities for new cultural communities"

Cleophas Muneri (University of New Mexico)

"The potentiality of Anansesem in addressing contemporary societal and academic issues"

Evans Ankrah (Arizona State University)

"Western validation or cultural authenticity: The Evolving voices of the Nigerian film industry"

Nnenna Udebunu (The University of New Mexico)

4:15 PM - 5:30 PM | San Juan

Memorial Panel for Stephen Littlejohn



Primary Sponsor: Communication Theory and Research

A panel celebrating the life and accomplishments of former WSCA President Dr. Stephen Littlejohn (1944 - 2024).

Chair: John Oetzel (University of Waikato)

Panelists: Peter Andersen (San Diego State University), Kristen Cole (San Jose State University), Vernon Cronen (University of North Carolina Wilmington), Kathy Isaacson (American Indian Higher Education Consortium), John Oetzel (University of Waikato) and Kimberly Pearce (The CMM Institute for Personal and Social Evolution)

4:15 PM - 5:30 PM | Tesuque - AV

Queer and Feminist Horizons (OFRGC)

Primary Sponsor: Organization for Feminist Research on Gender Communication

Chair: Hannah Mattingly (California State University, Long Beach)

Respondent: Dustin Martinez (University of Colorado, Boulder)

"Soft Pleasures"

Michael Tristano (Towson University)

"Where Did the Lesbian Bars Go?: Navigating Identities in "Queer" Spaces"

Shelby Limbach (University of Minnesota)

"'Ain't Life a Brook": Music as queer religious practice in the South"

Emily Scroggins (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities)

4:15 PM - 5:30 PM | Nambé

Support for Social Influence in Communication Theory Scholarship

Primary Sponsor: Communication Theory and Research

This panel explores the support that social influence provides communication studies across diverse sub-disciplines, including health, interpersonal, community, and political communication. Social influence is integral to understanding how people seek and provide support within their social networks, utilizing social support mechanisms such as informational, emotional, or physical assistance to resolve communication tensions. Each panelist focuses on how communication theories can guide research focused on social influence, thus advancing the understanding and development of communication theory.

April Batson-Bright (Chapman University), Lauren Pick (Chapman University), Arielle Leonard Hodges (George Fox University), H. Jenni Jung (University of North Georgia)

4:15 PM - 5:30 PM | Tewa

Supporting Faculty Mental Health & Well-Being in Higher Education: Why we need support, What support looks like, and How we advocate for support.

Primary Sponsor: Community College

Our roundtable is comprised of faculty at various points in their career. Roundtable participants will share the following:

- The reality of the situation as supported by research and U.S. Surgeon General's Framework for Workplace Mental Health & Well-Being and how this can be applied to higher education.
- The impact of trauma-affected brains and adjusting the language around Post Traumatic Stress to support faculty
- Stress as a symptom of success and the violence of extreme productivity
- How the "Fake It, Until We Make It" mentality and lack of teacher preparation are related
- The importance of Professional Development tied to faculty mental health and well-being and ways to do this effectively.

If you are feeling stressed out, burned out, physically exhausted and/or emotionally exhausted come sit with us as we decompress, validate our experiences and search for ways to mitigate these unwanted feelings.

Chair: Marie Arcidiacono Kaufman (Los Medanos College)

Marie Arcidiacono Kaufman (Los Medanos College), Daniel DeVere (Laney College), Colleen McGoff Dean (Whatcom Community College), Michael Brydges (Cypress College), Mary Katreeb (Arizona State University - Hugh Downs School of Human Communication), Alena Ruggerio (Southern Oregon University)

4:15 PM - 5:30 PM | Laguna - AV

WSCA Strategic Planning & Survey Results Conversation

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Join the WSCA Futures Committee for a lively discussion about results of the recent Strategic Planning Member Survey, structure and timeline for developing the WSCA Strategic Plan, and brainstorming ideas to enact our mission and vision to benefit our members for years to come

Chair: Heather Canary (San Diego State University)

Panelist: Shinsuke Eguchi (University of New Mexico)

Heather Canary (San Diego State University), Amy Edwards (Oxnard College), Maria Blevins (Utah Valley University)

6:30 PM - 9:00 PM | Tesuque - AV

WSCA Legislative Assembly Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

The annual meeting of WSCA's governance body - the Legislative Assembly

Chair: Shinsuke Eguchi (University of New Mexico)

Committee Members: Justin Boren (Santa Clara University), Santhosh Chandrashekar (Univ. of Denver), Anthony Cuomo (West Los Angeles College), Amanda Friz (University of Washington), Stephanie Gomez (Western Washington University), Tara McManus (University of Nevada, Las Vegas), Shane Moreman (California State University, Fresno), Chan Thai (Santa Clara University), Bobbi Van Gilder (Suffolk University) and Eric Wilson (Western States Communication Association)

9:15 PM - 11:30 PM | Ballroom A (upstairs)

President's Reception

Join WSCA President, Dr. Shinsuke Eguchi for a reception celebrating *the Western States Communication Association*. Treats available with a Cash Bar.

Monday, February 17

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Tesuque - AV

Books, Memes, Google and Social Media - Political influence in all mediums.

Primary Sponsor: Freedom of Expression and Political Communication

Chair: Chris Earle (UNR)

"Social media's influence: analyzing if social media influences the political beliefs of young adults"

Kya Carter (Longwood University)

"The revolution Will be googled"

mark Espinosa (Sacramento state university)

"Banning Diversity: Hegemony, White Nationalism, and Book Bans"

Sarah Seroy (University of New Mexico)

"The Use of DIM to Exploit the Ban on Books for Conservative Political Gain"

Lindsay Smith (San Diego State University)

"I Quit: Reading Grievance Articulations in Antiwork Memes"

Sharon Rodriguez (California State University, Sacramento)

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | San Juan

Empowering Voices: Cost-Effective Student Events for Community College COMM Studies Students

Primary Sponsor: Community College

This panel explores dynamic strategies for creating impactful student events tailored for community college Communication Studies programs. As community colleges often serve diverse student populations with unique support needs, this session will highlight innovative approaches to fostering student engagement, enhancing communication skills, and building community connections through low-cost tailored events. Panelists will share successful event models, discuss practical challenges and solutions, and offer actionable insights for designing student events that support both COMM Studies majors and GE COMM students at the community college level.

Respondent: Kelsey Mayeda (Diablo Valley College - San Ramon Campus)

Moderator: Leslie Collins (Modesto Junior College)

Leslie Collins (Modesto Junior College), Tiffany Ellington (Modesto Junior College), Kelsey Mayeda (Diablo Valley College - San Ramon Campus), Tiffany Sarkisian (Fresno City College), Taureanna Shimp (Modesto Junior College), Shannan Troxel-Andreas (Butte College)

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Hopi - AV

Media and Methods

Primary Sponsor: Media Studies

The competitive papers in this panel focus on methodological decisions in media studies.

Chair: Alexis Olds (Cuesta College)

"An Examination of Young Adults' Media Habits and the Consistency of Themes Across Media Types"

Melinda Aley (Montana State University Billings), Bailey Hartl (Montana State University Billings)

"Eyes Up, Guardian": An Autoethnographic Exploration of Ambient and Social Support in Destiny"

James Phillips (University of Oregon)

"Exploring Genre Fluidity in Non-Activist Alternative Media"

Matthew Dorr (Southwestern Oklahoma State University)

"One Piece: A Rhetorical Critique of Justice and Morality"

Davis Tran (California State U, Sacramento)

"Is There Really a Difference? An Exploratory Comparison of Technology Mediated and In-person Qualitative Interviews"

kelly anthony (Chapman University), michelle miller-day (Chapman University), Jarrod Ventura (Chapman University), monica dupuy (Chapman University), Hannatu Dimas (Chapman University)

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Laguna - AV

Mediated Horizons (OFRGC)

Primary Sponsor: Organization for Feminist Research on Gender Communication

Chair: Stephany Rojas Hidalgo (Arizona State University/ Hugh Downs School of Human Communication)

Respondent: Jenna Hanchey (Arizona State University)

"Epistemic Echoing: Passing the Platform, Not the Power"

Kaylee Mulholland (Arizona State University)

"Discourse on Motherhood and the Childfree by Choice Movement on TikTok"

Katharina Stroup (California State University, Fullerton)

"Navigating Change: LGBTQ+ Issues in Chinese Social Media Discourse (2015-2024)"

WENRONG CUI (University of Kansas)

"Digital Resilience: How Egyptian Women Navigate social media for Empowerment"

Reeham R. Mohammed (Arizona State University)

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Tewa

OFRGC Research in Progress

Primary Sponsor: Organization for Feminist Research on Gender Communication

Chair: Loretta LeMaster (Arizona State University)

"Casting Republican Motherhood: Senator Katie Britt's Response to President Biden's State of the Union"

Michelle Aaron (California State University, Long Beach)

"Research in Progress: Support for Feminism, Addressing Sexism, and Combating Trolling in Female Superhero Movies in the Marvel Cinematic Universe"

Jarrold Ventura (Chapman University)

"Is it a Human Being or Girl? Muted Group Perspective on Female Entrepreneurial Performance in Ghana"

Esther Korsah (New Mexico State University), Amos Aidoo (New Mexico State University)

"The Fake News of Fixed Femininity: The Weaponization of Fairness for Trans Exclusion from Sport by Mainstream U.S. News Media"

Dakota Park-Ozee (University of Denver), Jason Jordan (Metropolitan State University of Denver)

"'Lemme Put You on Sis': An Integrated Review of the Digital Black Beauty Community on YouTube and TikTok"

Tira Murray (Georgia State University)

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Santo Domingo - AV

Queer/Ecologies: Developing Mycorrhizal Relationships of Intersectional Support Between Persons and Nature.

Primary Sponsor: Environmental Communication

This panel explores the intersection of queer and trans identities and environmental justice. Historically, the concept of "nature" has been weaponized to discredit and legislate against queer bodies, framing non-normative sexualities and identities as "unnatural" (Alaimo, 2010; Stein, 2010). This panel seeks to examine how such rhetoric not only marginalizes queer individuals but also dislocates them from their connection to the natural world, echoing colonial tactics that separate Indigenous peoples from their homelands. By investigating the impacts of this separation and exploring strategies to reconnect with both land and community, the panel aims to challenge and resist these oppressive frameworks. Discussions will include how queer and trans folks can support land-back initiatives, engage with environmental justice, and address current ecological policies, particularly in the context of upcoming elections.

Chair: Damon Darling (University of Utah)

"Queer/Ecologies: Developing Mycorrhizal Relationships of Intersectional Support Between Persons and Nature."

Damon Darling (University of Utah), Oliver Tripp (Pennsylvania State University), Eddie Gamboa (Governors State University), Nick Steinmetz (Illinois State University), Mary Katreeb (Arizona State University - Hugh Downs School of Human Communication), Gabrielle Garza (University of Utah), Ame Min-Venditti (Arizona State University)

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Navajo

The Place and Space of Balconies as Intercultural Support

Primary Sponsor: Intercultural Communication

The place and space of balconies allow humans prolonged and meaningful contact with our local ecology or bioregion. By way of balconies, we form connections with our more-than-human relatives, like trees, cats, and birds. Furthermore, balconies facilitate community building and support between humans. These third spaces (i.e., balconies, rooftops, porches, windows, etc.) hold significant value across both Western and non-Western cultures. For those from Ghanaian, Pakistani, Latinx, American Deep Southern, Indian, and a South Calcutta *para* experience, balconies serve as places and spaces of vulnerability, care, and resistance. Through methods of personal narrative and auto-ethnography, panelists reflect on how settler-colonialism and its corresponding barriers to support are demonstrated through our interactions with and through spaces which traverse the public and private.

Chair: Soham Sen (The University of New Mexico)

Respondent: Jaelyn deMaria (University of New Mexico)

"The Place and Space of Balconies as Intercultural Support"

E.M. Pollard (University of New Mexico), Jayita Chakraborty (The University of New Mexico), Hannah Oxford (University of New Mexico), Amanda Gyesi (University of Kentucky), Saiqa Shahzadi (University of New Mexico), Naadiyahtu Iddrisu (Michigan State University), Stephany Rojas Hidalgo (Arizona State University/ Hugh Downs School of Human Communication)

9:00 AM - 11:30 AM | Apache

Executive Council Session II

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

The WSCA Executive Council meets twice during the convention. This is the second meeting.

Chair: Shinsuke Eguchi (University of New Mexico)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Justin Boren (Santa Clara University)

Committee Member: Kimberly Aguilar (California State University, Sacramento), Heather Canary (San Diego State University), Santhosh Chandrashekar (Univ. of Denver), Anthony Cuomo (West Los Angeles College), Veronica Dawson (California State University Stanislaus), Amanda Denes (University of Connecticut), Carlos Flores (California State University Sacramento), Ashley Givens (Salt Lake Community College), Stephanie Hartzell (California State University, Long Beach), Heewon Kim (Arizona State University), Shane Moreman (California State University, Fresno), Casey Schmitt (West Chester University), Lisa Silvestri (Pennsylvania State University), Wei Sun (Howard University), Averie Vockel (University of Utah), Heather Voorhees (University of Montana), Eric Wilson (Western States Communication Association) and Andi Zamora (Bellingham Technical College)

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Santo Domingo - AV

Adapting Texts: Eurhythmic Approaches to Analyzing and Creating Adaptations

Primary Sponsor: Performance Studies

The panelists have each created an adaptation of an already complete text using Wallin's (2013) Eurhythmic Approach. The panel will feature a variety of performance elements include performance art, and dramatic readings of their adapted texts. In addition, the panelists will discuss their individual process for adapting text based off of medium, audience, purpose, and/or context.

Chair: Jenna Hanchey (Arizona State University)

Respondent: Loretta LeMaster (Arizona State University)

Pablo Ramirez (Arizona State University - Hugh Downs School of Human Communication), Mary Katreb (Arizona State University - Hugh Downs School of Human Communication), Stephany Rojas Hidalgo (Arizona State University/ Hugh Downs School of Human Communication), Sam Nguyen (Arizona State University - Tempe), Charissa Stone (Arizona State University)

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Laguna - AV

Facilitating Intercultural Dialogue: Competencies, Methodology, and Pedagogy

Primary Sponsor: Intercultural Communication

As dialogue becomes simultaneously more important and more contested as a tool in sociocultural change, the importance of identifying dialogue competencies is vital. This panel presents results from a semester-long collaborative research project in which the research team explored competencies, methodology, and pedagogy in facilitating intercultural dialogue while also acknowledging associated limitations. The research team developed a sequential learning path of 12 facilitator competencies that addressed over 75 setbacks intercultural dialogue facilitators may face in various contexts. The presentations will situate these competencies along the proposed learning path, and they will discuss how potential facilitators can develop these competences through case materials. In this pedagogically focused panel participants will gain a deeper understanding of the facilitator role working with students, community members, workers and other groups of people. Below is a brief description of each of the competencies that will be presented by the panelists.

Co-Chair: Blake Harms (Arizona State University) and Sandra Woods (Arizona State University)

Respondent: Benjamin Broome (Arizona State University)

Blake Harms (Arizona State University), Benjamin Broome (Arizona State University), Sandra Woods (Arizona State University), Katherine Mülle (Arizona State University), Evans Ankrah (Arizona State University), Larissa Durkin (Arizona State University), Kaylee Mulholland (Arizona State University), Shelby Singh (Arizona State University - Hugh Downs School of Human Communication), Rezaul Karim (Arizona State University), Lizette Alonso (Arizona State University), Carissa Encinas (Arizona State University), Liming Liu (Arizona State University)

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Tewa

Identity after Graduate School: Exploring postgraduate liminality in relation to identity formation

Primary Sponsor: Communication, Identities & Difference

This panel aims to do two specific things: (1) Explore the sense of liminality individuals may find themselves after a graduate program and how that may impact an individual's sense of identity formation (2) Use that exploration as a foundation in conceptualizing and creating resources for future individuals. This panel contains individuals from a variety of different backgrounds on the basis of race, gender, orientation, epistemological approaches and type of institution. Thus, this panel promotes a multicultural, intersectional approach to discussing the needs of those who have finished a graduate program and find themselves in an ambiguous position seeking to create meaning of their new found identity.

Mary Joseph (Arizona State University), Richard Hu, Brittney Grotz (Arizona State University), Alexis Hughes (Lafayette College), Hailea Stone (Hanna Fenichel Center for Child Development)

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Hopi - AV

Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy Papers in Media and Popular Culture

Primary Sponsor: Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy

Chair: Dacheng Zhang (Utah Tech University)

"Work Without Workers: A Rhetorical Style in Economic Storytelling"

Christopher Duerringer (California State University, Long Beach)

"“There must be more to this”: Understanding Fan-based Citizenship through Lovejoy Fans"

Chloe Brownell (Colorado State University)

"The Blind Soloist: Pathological Economy at the Intersection of Homelessness and Race in Film"

Zachary Waters (Communication Studies Department, San Francisco State University)

"Madam Fuli: An Echo of Colonialism and Power of Masculinity"

Md. Sumon Ali (Ball State University)

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Navajo

Supportive Peer Evaluations

Primary Sponsor: Communication and Instruction

Lecturers, adjuncts, tenure-track, and tenured faculty alike are all subject to peer evaluation with varying degrees of frequency and with tenured faculty performing the evaluations in most instances. Evaluations are an important opportunity for growth, but the process can feel daunting and even punitive at times for evaluator and evaluatee. By shifting focus from critique to support, faculty on both sides of the process stand to gain a sense of personal morale, mentorship, and community.

The panel will cover supportive sequencing of the evaluation process, critical vs. supportive forms of feedback, a transactional approach to support between evaluator and evaluatee, and important cultural differences in feedback. Panelists represent a gamut of evaluation vantage points and experiences - including lecturer/adjuncts and tenured professors - from both university and community college levels.

Chair: GiGi Hessamian (California State University Northridge)

GiGi Hessamian (California State University Northridge), Karyl Kicenski (College of the Canyons),

Michele Mega (California State University Northridge), Victoria Leonard (College of the Canyons)

Author & Presenter Listing

This is a listing of authors & presenters listed in the program. To locate their sessions or see a listing of all conference participants, please use the online version of the program:

<https://wsca.me/2025>

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Western States Communication Association
February 27 - March 2, 2026
San Diego, CA

Call for Papers and Panel Submissions: WSCA 2026 Convention

Theme: Resistance

WSCA President-Elect and Primary Program Planner: Anthony P. Cuomo, West Los Angeles College, acuomo@westcomm.org

Communication is an essential tool for social justice and equity. As we navigate a world marked by systemic oppression and inequality, the concept of resistance emerges as a vital and pressing area of inquiry. For our 2026 convention, WSCA invites scholars, educators, and practitioners to explore the multifaceted relationship between communication and resistance, particularly in the context of social justice.

Resistance can take many forms, from vocal opposition to systemic injustices to subtle acts of defiance within everyday interactions. It encompasses the strategies employed to challenge the status quo, the narratives constructed to amplify marginalized voices, and the ways space is created for dialogue and understanding. This year's theme encourages us to examine how communication facilitates resistance, fosters resilience, and promotes social justice.

Possible questions to explore include:

- How does communication shape our understanding of resistance in various social contexts?
- In what ways can communication amplify the impact of grassroots movements?
- What role does narrative play in reshaping public discourse toward equity?
- How can communication strategies be utilized to empower marginalized communities?
- In what ways do digital platforms serve as spaces for resistance and what are their ethical implications?

- How do interpersonal communication practices contribute to or hinder collective resistance efforts?
- How can we critically analyze the complexities of resistance and its impact on social justice movements?
- How does communication within transnational communities shape collective identities, and what role does this play in fostering or challenging resistance movements across borders?
- How do communication practices among international diasporas influence resistance movements at national borders, and what role does intercultural dialogue play in shaping these dynamics?
- In what ways do communication practices within the classroom setting impact students' ability to engage in discussions about resistance and identity?
- How do rhetorical constructions of resistance shape public discourse, and what strategies do marginalized groups employ to communicate their narratives effectively in the face of dominant cultural narratives?
- How can we use critical discourse analysis to uncover power dynamics within social justice movements and resistance narratives?
- How can humor, satire, and art be used as tools of resistance, and what impact do these forms of communication have on shifting cultural paradigms?
- How do communication practices in authoritarian regimes differ from those in democratic societies in the context of resistance and dissent?
- What are the ethical challenges involved in communicating resistance in highly polarized political environments?

The purpose of this year's theme is to foster dialogue that interrogates the practices, challenges, and possibilities of resistance through communication. As we convene for our 96th convention in San Diego, CA, let us reflect on how our collective efforts can contribute to a more just and equitable society.

All papers and proposals, including pre-conference submissions, should be submitted online to the WSCA website – westcomm.org (click on Convention)



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