

## **2004 Call for Papers**



**Submission Deadline: November 1, 2003**



### **Conference Secretariat**

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## Communication in the Public Interest

In May 2004, ICA meets in New Orleans for its 54th annual conference. The conference theme, “Communication Research in the Public Interest,” is, at first sight, more a normative goal than a descriptive theme. It has, however, a strong potential to stimulate conference contributions on a variety of topics, to be of relevance to all of our sections and interest groups, to raise vivid discussions, and—last but not least—to shape our understanding of the field. “Communication Research in the Public Interest” is very broad and designed to appeal to scholars in many communication fields.

The social sciences have seen years of heated discussions about the general aims and functions of their disciplines: Is it value-free, empirical descriptions and explanations of social phenomena, or is it the deduction and pursuit of specific goals about how people should live and interact together, for example, how they should communicate among themselves and through public media? Some of you might remember a legendary discussion between Ithiel de Sola Pool and Herbert I. Schiller during the 1980 IAMCR conference in Caracas and later printed in the *Journal of Communication* [1981(1), pp. 15–23] under the title, “Perspectives on Communication Research: An Exchange.” This discussion adapted for the field of communication what philosophers and sociologists had long debated. It mirrored an often dysfunctional splitting of the discipline into such different epistemological camps as “quantitative versus qualitative research” or, as Adorno and Lazarsfeld had put it, “critical versus administrative research.”

It does not seem fruitful to our field to repeat these old battles and revive the mutual allegations of the different camps. The field has certainly not gained from these schisms because they have led to more parallel and sometimes paralyzing rather than integrative attempts to fulfill our main job as communication researchers, that of describing and explaining communication phenomena. However, it is certainly worthwhile to look for chances to integrate the several approaches. As ICA President-elect Bob Craig laid out brilliantly in his award-winning article, “Communication Theory as a Field” (*Communication Theory*, 9, pp. 119–161), communication is the prototype of an “integrative science” that combs theories and methods not only from different fields but also with different epistemological grounds.

### DEFINING THE PUBLIC INTEREST

A common denominator of all endeavors in communication research is—and this is a subject for discussion in the scientific community—to strive for research that has the potential to serve general human and democratic values and norms, that is, research in the public interest. It will not be easy to achieve agreement on what these values and norms are. Researchers with different backgrounds, be they national, cultural, or social, will stress different values based on their views of social reality and, more so, on the ideals they use as benchmarks for this reality. But it is worth trying to agree. Social research without normative goals can easily become arbitrary. Of course, norms and values cannot be submitted to empirical tests, but they are easily available in statements of human rights and constitutions of liberal social systems.

Where communication research can start to find such norms and define the “public interest” is a primary topic of the conference. Philosophical, political, and democratic theory, as well as national and international law and declarations, can serve as starting points. Some of these norms are very general and will need to be adapted to communication processes; others already contain more specific guidelines. For instance, plurality and self-determination are such overarching values that they can be explicitly or implicitly found in many constitutions and policy statements. They are directly related to the quality of public communication because they demand structural and content-related aspects of the communication process. These values are mainly based on the assumption that the quality of media and communication systems has to be judged from the recipient’s perspective. They start from the assumption that it is a main objective of communication systems, at least concerning the news media, to present to the audience a picture of reality that enables the individual to form his or her own perceptions as independently and autonomously as possible.

Communication research has the ability to focus on a research agenda that can help people “communicate better,” which is to say, to make up their minds on virtually any issue, confident that they have a sound basis of knowledge and evidence and as uninfluenced by other people or sources as possible, whether by the media or political or economic powers and in a national or global context. This kind of research is to be found in studies of the whole communication process, that is, the journalistic role and influences on news decision making, content research, and reception studies ranging from access to media to information processing. In short, such research would show what people need in terms of communication and particularly media input and how we operate as recipients, cognitively and psychologically as well as socially, when we process information and make up our minds.

## RESEARCH SERVES THE PUBLIC INTEREST

*Media and democracy:* Many researchers bemoan the declining quality of public communication in the democratic process. This criticism relates, among other topics, to changing role perceptions and news values of journalists, commercial pressures put on the profession by owners, the power of political public relations, a decline in the political interest and knowledge of the people and, as a consequence, a deteriorating quality of the public discourse. Communication research in the public interest assesses the degree to which these allegations hold true, identifies their causes, and on this basis, offers solutions. It elaborates what we mean by “quality,” “objectivity,” or “fair news reporting”; what factors influence news decisions; how we expect journalists to perceive their roles; and if a stronger professionalization of journalism is functional and possible. Communication research in the public interest can, for instance, offer solutions to how to regain the “vanishing voter” and how reception theories can be used to raise interest in hard news and participation in the political process.

*Communication gaps:* Communication processes among individuals and communication processes in the public sphere are rarely on equal terms and probably never will be. In mass communication we recognize the knowledge gap that exists, and we are working to close “digital divides” in an era of new communication technologies. Gaps and divides exist within social strata in societies and between countries and regions. Access to and use of news and information are matters of available technology, social class, education, and motivation. Research in the public interest detects and differentiates such gaps, points to their underlying causal relations, and offers possibilities to overcome them.

*Responsible and sustainable attitudes and behaviors:* The welfare of nations and of the global society relies on the individual and institutional attitudes and behaviors of all social actors who take into consideration basic values of humanity. Tolerance of and respect for others, as well as responsibility for the psychological and physiological health of the self, depend on communication content and processing. The role of communication in diplomacy and peace making or peace keeping, in promoting healthful living, and in communication with and about minorities are cases in point. Research in the public interest describes the degree to which such attitudes and behaviors exist and offers strategies for how they can be improved through individual and media communication.

These are only a few of the possible research areas by which the communication research can serve the public interest. Research within all of ICA's divisions and interest groups already has provided theories and findings of direct relevance. Divisions and interest groups are asked to incorporate the essence of this debate in at least one session of their program if possible. As suggested above, the questions of epistemology and of communication norms apply to all research areas of our field, thus the ultimate societal goals also apply to our activities.

The program chair plans for at least two plenary sessions with high-ranking researchers and policy makers on the core issues of the conference theme. One will highlight the more epistemological questions of the general purpose of science and research in light of academic standards and norms. A second session will feature three to four areas in the field of communication research that have already contributed to the public interest or where such service is particularly needed.

The program chair welcomes contributions in the form of papers and panel proposals on these and other topics, especially those spanning divisions and interest groups. As always, competitive papers and panels on communication topics not directly related to the conference theme are also welcome and should be sent to the divisions or interest groups in the appropriate area of expertise.



### Conference Program Chair:

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## General Guidelines for ALL Submissions

**A**s for the 2003 conference, submissions of papers and panels for Theme Sessions as well as for all divisions and interest groups and Affiliate Organizations in New Orleans will be accepted ONLY as *online* submissions. Do not send your papers/proposals to program planners. Contact information is provided for questions only. If extenuating circumstances preclude your submitting online, or if you have specific questions regarding a division or interest group program, please contact the unit program planner for that division/interest group (listed below) far enough in advance of the **November 1** submission deadline to allow for any needed special arrangements. **The following guidelines apply to ALL submissions.** Please read and follow the guidelines carefully:

**Deadline:** All submissions are due online no later than **12:00 midnight EST, November 1, 2003.** To insure against technical problems, early submission is strongly encouraged. The conference submission website will go online around September 15, 2003. To reach the conference website, go to the ICA home page at <http://www.icahdq.org> and follow the link to 2004 Conference Submission.

**Eligibility:** You do NOT need to be an ICA member to submit a paper/proposal for the conference. If you are not currently an ICA member, when you visit the conference submission website, choose the “Non ICA member” category and proceed according to the on-screen instructions.

**Exclusive submissions:** Each paper/proposal may be submitted to only ONE division or interest group, OR to the theme sessions. Submission of the same paper/proposal to more than one unit is NOT permitted. However, you are welcome to submit more than one different papers/proposals to the same or different units.

**Conference registration:** Registration on the conference submission website does NOT enroll you as an ICA member and does NOT automatically register you for the conference itself. If your paper/proposal is accepted for presentation at the New Orleans conference, you will be notified and must then register for the conference and pay the conference fee. Online membership application is always available on the ICA home page. Online registration for the New Orleans conference will be available on the ICA home page beginning in early 2004.

**Email address:** Because the conference system uses email addresses to identify participants, to avoid scheduling conflicts it is important that each conference participant use one and the same email address for all submissions. If you are an ICA member, this should be the same email address you have entered into the ICA membership database.

### Categories of Submissions

Depending on the submission guidelines established by each division or interest group (see below), four categories of submissions may be accepted: full papers, extended abstracts, poster presentations, and panel session proposals. Consult individual division and interest group entries for specifics.

*a. Full papers:* Maximum length is 25 pages plus tables and references.

*b. Extended abstracts:* A few divisions/interest groups accept either full papers or extended abstracts. For further information, consult the division/interest group’s submission guidelines (below). Full papers are usually preferred.

*c. Poster presentations:* Most divisions/interest groups accept poster presentations. A poster presentation is a paper you would like to be considered for presentation at an interactive poster session. If your poster presentation is accepted, you will be expected to prepare a poster display of your research for presentation at the conference.

*d. Panel session proposals:* Most divisions/interest groups and the theme sessions accept proposals for organized panel sessions.

### Submitting a Paper, Extended Abstract, or Poster Presentation

*a. Preparing the file:* Before submitting, consult the guidelines in the Call for Papers and have your paper, poster presentation, or extended abstract ready to upload as a single document (maximum length 25 pages plus tables and references).

All online submissions must be in one of five formats—MS Word for Windows, MS Word for Mac, WordPerfect, PDF, or Rich Text Format. All tables, graphs, and pictures associated with your submission must be included with the main text in a single document.

*b. Author identification:* must be removed for blind reviewing of submissions. Before uploading your paper, remove all author identification from the document including any file properties. (For example, in MS Word, in the “File” menu, select “Properties,” delete any identifying information, click “OK,” and save the document.)

*c. Additional information:* Title, author(s), a 150-word abstract, and other information (e.g., student authorship, special requests) must be entered online when you submit your paper/poster/extended abstract. To begin the submission process, visit the conference website, register as a submitter, select the division/interest group and type of submission, enter all required information, click “Continue,” AND follow the instructions to upload your document. You must upload a paper, poster, or extended abstract in order to complete the submission process.

*d. Tracking number:* Each paper/poster/extended abstract submission is automatically assigned a unique tracking number. Upon completion of the submission process for each paper/poster/extended abstract, the submitter will receive an automatic email acknowledgment including the tracking number. During the peer review process, submissions will be identified by tracking numbers only.

## Submitting a Panel Session Proposal

*a. Getting PINs:* Plan ahead! Before you can submit a panel session proposal, each person who will participate on the panel must visit the conference website to obtain a PIN (identification number), which they must forward to you (the panel organizer). A participant does NOT need to be an ICA member to get this PIN (just choose the “Non ICA member” category and proceed according to the on-screen instructions). Each conference participant needs only one PIN, regardless of the number of panel sessions on which he or she will participate.

*b. Registration of panelists:* All panelists must agree in advance of submission to participate as panel presenters AND to register for the ICA conference. ICA does NOT provide registration waivers for members or for nonmembers.

*c. Texts needed:* If your panel session will include individual presentations, you (the session organizer) also need to obtain a title and 150-word abstract from each presenter before submitting. Also before submitting, you need to prepare a 400-word rationale for your panel proposal and a 75-word panel description for the conference program.

*d. Entering the panel:* If you are the panel organizer, once you have the PIN and other required information for EACH participant, you will then visit the website, submit the panel proposal, and enter all panel information including each participant’s PIN. You will be able to enter the panel title, rationale, panel description, presentation titles, abstracts, and any other required information by cutting and pasting the text from your word processing program.

## Changing or Deleting a Submission

*Changing title/abstract:* Only up until the midnight EST November 1 submission deadline may you return to the conference website, select “View/Edit a previous submission,” click on the title of the submission you wish to change, and edit the information or delete the submission. Follow online instructions for editing submissions.

*Changing Text:* In order to change the document, you must delete the submission and resubmit it as a new submission.

*Changing Unit:* You also CANNOT simply change the unit (division/interest group) to which you submitted. If you need to send your submission to a different unit, you can do so in either of two ways: (1) Delete your submission and resubmit to a different unit, OR (2) email your request to the Conference Program Chair, who can transfer your submission to a different unit.

## Audiovisual Equipment

Not every meeting room can be equipped identically, so audiovisual presentations require special scheduling. **REQUESTS FOR AUDIOVISUAL EQUIPMENT MUST ACCOMPANY PAPER AND PANEL SUBMISSIONS.** ICA makes every effort to provide audiovisual equipment that is essential to the program and when cost is reasonable. Requests that entail extreme costs and any requests that are not made in advance will be denied.

## Ethical Considerations

*Authorship.* Authors must give credit through references or notes to the original author of any idea/concept presented in the paper/proposal. This includes direct quotations and paraphrases.

*Publication/Presentation History.* If material in your presentation has been published, presented, or accepted for publication or presentation, this must be disclosed in your paper/proposal.

*Conference Attendance.* If your panel, paper, or interactive display presentation is accepted for an ICA conference, you have a commitment to register for and attend the conference and perform your assigned role. All chairs and respondents also make this commitment. If extenuating circumstances prevent you from attending, you should find a substitute to perform your duties and notify the program chair and division or interest group contact person.

## Theme Session Proposals

*General:* Submissions to theme sessions must follow all guidelines outlined above. Proposals can be for either an individual paper or a panel on the conference theme and are invited from all sectors of the field, but they must focus on the conference theme. Proposals will be evaluated competitively by anonymous referees. Authors are encouraged to combine the domains for two or more ICA divisions or interest groups or to extend beyond the scope of ICA. However, papers or panels must NOT be submitted simultaneously for consideration to any division or interest group. Submission should have broad appeal across the units of the association.

*Theme focus:* Papers/panels deemed to fit the special interests of one of the divisions/interest groups rather than the conference as a whole will be forwarded to that group for consideration.

*Texts needed:* Panel proposals on the conference theme must include a 400-word rationale explaining how the panel fits the conference theme and 75-word summary of the rationale to appear in the conference program.

### Conference Program Chair:

Michael Delli Carpini  
University of Pennsylvania  
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## Contact Information for Divisions/Interest Groups

### Information Systems

David Roskos-Ewold  
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Three types of papers will be accepted for review. *Category 1:* Completed papers or abstracts reporting on new research. This category includes all data-based single studies reporting new results. Abstracts are limited to 4 pages, double-spaced. Only completed papers will be considered for presentation on the Best of Information Systems panel at the conference. *Category 2:* Theoretical or programmatic research papers. This category includes substantial new syntheses of several related studies (programs of research) or major reviews of important bodies of research. Full papers are required and are limited to 25 pages. *Category 3:* Panel proposals. Panel proposals should include participants' names, abstracts of papers, background information on participants, and a justification for the panel. This justification should explain the importance of the topic and why it is of interest to division members.

### Interpersonal Communication

Sandi W. Smith  
Michigan State University  
Phone: (517) 353-3715  
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This division is interested in papers and panel proposals that address communication processes and outcomes in a broadly construed view of interpersonal contexts, including relational, institutional, social, and cultural. Interest is in the fundamental means by which human beings create, express, interpret, and negotiate their communicative interactions with one another. Papers reflecting diverse theoretical perspectives and both quantitative and qualitative methodological approaches are encouraged. Papers may address pragmatic concerns, theory development, or both.

Panels that include papers addressing the same topic or issue from varying theoretical and methodological perspectives are particularly encouraged. Panel proposals reflecting the conference theme may be submitted to this division if not submitted to the theme chairs. Panel proposals should provide a rationale and abstract for the panel as a whole, as well as an extended abstract of each participant's contribution.

Submitters should review guidelines for the division's new Applied Communication Award (see the division website or email Smith for more information). Only self-nominated papers are considered for this award, so clearly indicate on the cover page your desire to be considered for the award.

## Mass Communication

Sandra J. Ball-Rokeach  
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The Mass Communication Division welcomes paper submissions on various topics, including research on factors that redefine the nature of mass communication and communication media, research that explains or explores effects of or interactions with media systems, media effects, and the changing role of mass communication in society, among other subjects. New appraisals of mass communication theory are especially welcome, particularly those related to the conference theme.

Research based on qualitative or quantitative approaches, as well as a range of theoretical approaches, including political economy and critical theory, are acceptable. The division considers only completed papers. Panel proposals must include written proof of acceptance by all participants.

## Organizational Communication

Steve Corman  
Arizona State University  
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The Organizational Communication Division (OCD) focuses on the description, analysis, understanding, and critique of communication practices in contemporary organizational life. The OCD is concerned not only with internal organizational affairs (such as supervisory-subordinate relations, employee socialization, worker participation, and media/technology usage), but also with interorganizational networks and the roles of the organization in the larger society. OCD members study organizing in all sectors of society (public, private, and independent) and adopt perspectives that include empirical, interpretive, critical, and postmodern. The OCD is committed to the use of multiple methodologies for data gathering and data analysis and especially to the triangulation of diverse and complementary research methods. Both theoretical and applied projects are encouraged. Topics of interest to OCD members range from micro-examinations of negotiation and bargaining tactics to macro-analyses of discourses of globalization. All these concerns, perspectives, and topics are appropriate for paper and panel submissions. The OCD welcomes submission of special panels and programs that truly will enhance multicultural, multinational, and academic-industry interaction, moving the study of organizational communication beyond its accustomed domains. The OCD will consider only completed papers and fully developed panel proposals.



## Intercultural & Development Communication

### *International & Development Communication:*

Karin Gwinn Wilkins  
University of Texas at Austin  
Phone: (512) 471-2007  
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### *Intercultural Communication:*

Min-Sun Kim  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
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The Intercultural and Development Division welcomes full papers (not abstracts) and panel proposals that focus on intercultural, international, and development communication topics. We consider work across a variety of theoretical and methodological approaches, concerning issues of communication across cultural, political, economic, and other boundaries, as well as strategic communication for social change. Approximately 50 percent of submissions are generally accepted after peer review.

Please refer to ICA guidelines for more information on specific instructions regarding paper and panel submissions. When submitting to this division, authors will need to indicate whether their work should be considered within the intercultural or the international/development section. Please contact Karin Wilkins ([kwilkins@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:kwilkins@mail.utexas.edu)) with questions about this division.

## Political Communication

Gianpietro Mazzoleni  
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The Political Communication Division supports research and theory development on the topic of politics and communication. The scope of this topic is broad, as political communication takes place in many settings, including within and between small groups and individuals, organizations, the media, cultures, and nations. Studies of communication in government, media, individual political figures, campaigns, and advocacy groups are all within the purview of this division. The division welcomes papers that address political communication problems at all levels of analysis using a variety of methodologies.

## Instructional & Developmental Communication

Lynda L. McCroskey  
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The Instructional and Developmental Communication Division is concerned with two broad areas: (1) communication related to any learning or instructional process, and (2) communication related to developmental processes across the life span. The division encour-

ages papers and panel proposals that deal with either or both of these topic areas. Division members share a variety of research interests, including, but not restricted to, teacher-student interaction, teaching styles, instructional technology, the impact of mass media on children's development, the development of communication skills across the life span, and communication between generations across the life span.

## Health Communication

John C. Lammers  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
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Email: [jclammer@uiuc.edu](mailto:jclammer@uiuc.edu)

The Health Communication Division is committed to excellence in research and theory development regarding health and communication. The application of theory to health communication problems as well as the development of theory is of interest to the division. Communicating about health takes place intraindividually, interpersonally, within groups and networks, in health care organizations, in the mass media, in institutions, and in the society as a whole. The division welcomes papers that address health communication at all levels of analysis and that use either qualitative or quantitative methods.

## Philosophy of Communication

Christina Slade  
University of Canberra  
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The Philosophy of Communication Division is interested in receiving papers concerned with theoretical, analytical, and political issues that cut across the various boundaries that are often taken for granted within the study of communication. Its primary goal is to provide a forum in which scholars can explore the relations and intersections between the study of communication and a wide range of contemporary philosophical concerns, arguments, and positions, as they are developed in various local, national, and international contexts. The division offers a lively forum for contemporary ideas, from cultural studies and postmodernism to semiotics and the philosophy of language to phenomenological and interpretive study of communication events.

## Communication & Technology

Joseph B. Walther  
Cornell University  
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The Communication and Technology Division is committed to excellence in research and theory development regarding the causes, consequences, and/or context of old, present, and new communication technologies. Studies may focus on the intraindividual, interindividual, small group, organizational, nation-state, or international levels of analysis. Manuscripts need not be limited to classical communication paradigms. Manuscripts that use disciplinary

foci, including, but not limited to, economics, psychology, sociology, political science, information and computer science, and history, are welcomed. Likewise, all methodological approaches, including quantitative, qualitative, historical, critical, institutional, and humanistic, are encouraged. Manuscripts or panel proposals reflecting the conference theme will receive special consideration.

## Feminist Scholarship

Cynthia Carter  
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The Feminist Scholarship Division is interested in receiving formal research papers, „work in progress“ papers, panel proposals and roundtable proposals that explore the relationship of gender and communication, both mediated and non-mediated, within a context of feminist theories, methodologies, and practices. The division explores issues including feminist pedagogy; the social implications of the gendered 'digital divide'; international gender commonalities and differences by 'race', social class, gender, sexuality, nationality, etc.; women's alternative media; feminist political economy of the media; feminist cultural studies; and, transnational feminist theory and political practice, amongst others.

Submissions may be

1. full length **completed research papers** (8,000-9,000 words)(max. 25 pages);
2. shorter **work in progress papers** (4,000-5,000 words) (8-10 pages);
3. **panel proposals** (title, rationale of 400 words maximum and a 150 word description of each panel paper; 75 word rationale for conference programme; a full list of participants); or
4. **roundtable proposals** (same submission criteria as panel proposals) on current issues and debates in the field of feminist communication scholarship.

Authors should submit their paper or proposal to the Feminist Scholarship Division online at the ICA website: (see [www.icahdq.org](http://www.icahdq.org) then follow the links for the 2004 Conference and online submissions). Note: your submission **MUST** indicate into which category it fits (i-iv).

All submissions must be registered online no later than Saturday, November 1, 2003. **Please note:** Submissions arriving after this date will not be accepted.

## Communication Law & Policy

Sandra Braman  
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee  
Phone: (414) 223-3035  
Email: [braman@uwm.edu](mailto:braman@uwm.edu)

The Communication Law and Policy Division welcomes research on historical, existing and proposed law and policy; relations between the law and society; economic and other social scientific inputs into policy-making; and the cultural practices that enable, sustain, and result from the law. The terrain of the division encompasses law and policy for information, communication, and culture across all theoretical and methodological approaches. State-specific, comparative, regional, international, and global issues and techniques

of governance are all of interest. Only full papers and fully-developed panel proposals will be considered for review. Please identify student papers as such so that they may be considered for the student paper competition.

## Language & Social Interaction

Donal Carbaugh  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Amherst, MA 01003  
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The Language and Social Interaction Division welcomes submissions about the social uses or qualities of language, and/or the processes or structures of social interaction that either analyze data, pursue theoretical issues, or address methodological concerns. Research appropriate to the division may rely on either qualitative or quantitative data and usually takes an approach grounded in the traditions of rhetorical analysis, ethnography of communication, conversation analysis, social psychology of language, discourse studies, narrative studies, linguistics (especially applied linguistics or sociolinguistics), or semiotics. Work that focuses on nonverbal aspects of interaction and speech is also appropriate.

Panel proposals should include a rationale for the panel and an extended abstract of each participant's contribution.

Attendees from "soft currency" countries may apply for financial support for the cost of convention registration only. Please apply for consideration by sending a separate message addressed to the program planner listed above.

## Popular Communication

Debra Merskin  
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The Popular Communication Division is concerned with providing a forum for scholarly investigation, analysis, and dialogue among communication researchers interested in popular communication and popular culture. Division members employ diverse theoretical approaches and methodological tools in exploring a wide range of artifacts, processes, effects, and meanings that are associated with the shaping of popular communication and popular culture. The group particularly values critical research that regards popular communication and popular culture as a locus from which to generate useful and provocative questions about everyday life. Submissions that address the conference theme are particularly welcomed.

Students should indicate status in the Abstract section of the online submission form unless otherwise indicated.

Panel submissions must include the following:

1. Official panel listing as it would appear in the program
2. 400-word rationale for the panel
3. 150-word abstract of each of the papers on the panel
4. Description of panelists' qualifications regarding proposed topic
5. Complete contact information for each panelist

## Public Relations

Hochang Shin  
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The Public Relations Division encourages the submission of research papers (both faculty and student) and panel proposals (including theme sessions) that focus on the theory and practice of public relations. Subject areas include (but are not limited to) public relations education, international PR, issues management, crisis management, leadership, employee relations, government relations, management strategies, uses of new technologies in public relations, public relations within different cultural contexts, and the impact of globalization on the theory and practice of public relations. Papers may be quantitative or qualitative in nature, including a range of theoretical approaches, reviews of major bodies of research, case studies, historical research, and data-based studies reporting new results.

Panel proposals should include names and affiliations of participants, rationale for the panel, and an abstract of each participant's contribution. The rationale should point to the importance of the topic and the reasons that division members would be interested in it. Preference will be given to panels that focus on a unifying theme or issue.

Student submissions must clearly indicate student status. The PR Division will consider only completed papers and fully developed panel proposals.

## Visual Communication

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The Visual Communication Interest Group seeks to enhance the understanding of the visual in all its forms, from moving and still images and displays in television, video, and film, to art and design and print and digital media. The group provides a forum for the discussion of research in the creation, processing, function, meaning, and critical consequences of visual representation. Representing an area that touches on all other communication fields, investigating such areas as the interaction of the visual with public policy and law, mass communication processes, corporate image and organization, technology and human interaction, elite and popular culture, philosophy of communication, education, and the social sphere, the Visual Communication Interest Group welcomes interdisciplinary study as well as targeted analyses of all aspects of the visual communication experience.

## Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgender Studies

David Gleason, Director  
TNN Research and Planning  
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Panel proposals should provide a rationale for the panel and an extended abstract for each participant's contribution.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies is concerned with the analysis and critique of sexual systems, discourses, and representations, particularly those that animate, inform, and impinge upon the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. Such systems and discourses occur in institutional, community, domestic, and intimate contexts; are closely connected to other social and cultural practices (such as nationalism, education, or popular entertainment); and play a critical role in the formation and communication of individual and group identity. Members also work with the ICA leadership to represent the concerns of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender scholars in the association.

## Intergroup Communication

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The Intergroup Communication Interest Group came to life at ICA, 2003, in San Diego. The aim of this interest group is to provide a forum for the burgeoning discipline of intergroup relations in all its communicative guises. Among a raft of others, intergroup communication informs mass, organizational, intercultural, political, social cognitive, interactive, and discursive aspects of communication. The intergroup communication interest group will provide a home for experimental, qualitative, and discursive approaches to phenomena in these realms. We welcome perspectives from social psychology, sociology, sociolinguistics, and political science with an aim to providing an exciting interdisciplinary niche for intergroup communication. The intergroup interest group welcomes completed papers (25 pages maximum), and fully developed panel proposals (400-word description, with 100-word abstracts for each paper).

## On Inviting Participants

EVERY conference participant **except Life Members** (whose conference fees are a benefit of that membership category) must pay the registration fee. When proposing your panel, theme session, etc., please include in your plans a method for paying registration fees for any nonmember you invite. Please address the registration fee issue before inviting nonmembers to the conference.

## Travel Grants

Travel grants are available to minority students and to participants from developing/transitional economy countries. Minority student members (African American, Hispanic/Latino/a, Native American, Pacific Islander) and participants from soft currency countries (ICA uses the United Nations for identifying the specific countries in any given year) who wish to be considered for a grant must indicate on their paper submissions to divisions and interest groups or to the theme program that they wish to be considered for a grant. Divisions and interest groups will be asked to submit one or two nominations to the conference program chair, and grant recipients will be chosen from among the nominees by the program chair. The amount of the grant will depend on actual travel costs. Some of the travel grants will be financed by a \$2 surcharge on each conference registration and additional available funds.

Additionally, each division and special interest group may award travel grants to students who are selected for top paper honors or other division interest groups honors. ICA will award a matching grant up to \$300 to each division and interest group for these travel grants.

## About Our Conference Site

### The Hotel

The New Orleans Sheraton is located in the heart of the city, a 5-minute walk from the French Quarter, world-famous Bourbon Street, and the Mississippi River. The hotel offers up-to-date conference facilities with rooms of all sizes and flexibility to adjust to ICA needs. Some members experienced the hospitality during NCA in 2002. Since then the Sheraton has made considerable effort to improve its practical and technical handling of large conferences. Room rates are very affordable for a luxury hotel in a worldwide travel destination such as New Orleans. In addition to its standard restaurant facilities, the hotel will offer stands with cheap and quick lunches between sessions. There are plenty of restaurants and bars of all kinds and all price categories within walking distance.

### The City

In its travel section, a leading European newspaper recently called New Orleans the "capital of anti-America." This was meant to be a compliment for the city without being a criticism of "true America." New Orleans is very, very different and will stun particularly people from outside the U.S. with its liberal street life, particularly in the French Quarter with its numerous bars and restaurants, the seemingly permanent partying almost around the clock, and live music, from jazz to rock, coming from inside the clubs onto the open street.

New Orleans has much more to offer, too—the Mississippi River with huge ocean cruisers and cargo vessels traveling from the Gulf of Mexico and paddle steamers alive with Dixieland music. An hour away, you can visit antebellum plantations that give a glimpse of life in the American South before and after Civil War, of the rich as well as of the slaves and the poor.

The state of Louisiana offers a particular and rare incentive for all visitors with a foreign passport: tax-free shopping. Taxes spent on retail purchases with a specific tax-free emblem in Louisiana will be refunded at the airport or even later by mail. However, this does not apply to the costs for hotel accommodation.

## Paper Distribution

For the New Orleans conference, ICA will have a web-based paper distribution system. All conference registrants, as part of their fees, will have automatic access to all papers from the conference. Papers distributed through the web-based system will be those submitted/accepted during the review process. Nonattendees can purchase access to the web after the conference. Fees will be used to support travel grants for researchers from soft-currency countries.

## ERIC Clearinghouse

For consideration for possible inclusion in the ERIC system, submit papers directly to ERIC:

Coordinator of Documents

ERIC Clearinghouse on Reading & Communication Skills

2805 East 10th Street

Smith Research Center, Suite 150

Bloomington, IN 47408-2698 USA