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## Communication for Survival Spotlight Series: Communication, Disability Justice, and Surviving Ableism

From increasing representation in mass media to the centering of disability by prominent theorists such as Sara Ahmed and Jasbir K. Puar, the disability rights movement and the academic field of disability studies have begun to shift the stigmatizing dominant narrative around disability.

Communication, Disability Justice, and Surviving Ableism will examine the centrality of communication practices to the pursuit of disability justice through anti-ableist scholarship and activism. Lydia X. Z. Brown, a celebrated disability justice advocate, organizer, and writer whose work focuses on violence against multiply-marginalized disabled people, will discuss the failures of groups that purport to have liberatory values but perpetuate the violence that they ostensibly seek to disrupt. This session will also feature Communication and rhetoric scholars who will discuss confronting ableism in scholarship and advocacy: James Cherney, author of the forthcoming *Ableist Rhetoric*; Jennifer LeMuesurier; Beth Haller, author of *Representing Disability in an Ableist World*; and Drew Holladay. We invite you to join us for a conversation about how studies of communication and rhetoric can build up and sustain the connection between academic inquiry and disability activism.

--Drew Holladay, *Communication for Survival Spotlight Series Co-planner, University of Maryland, Baltimore County*

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## Enhance Your Convention Experience with a Short Course

Short Courses are opportunities for convention-goers to gain (further) understanding into topic areas in Communication that are both traditional and nontraditional in nature. Led by various experts, Short Course attendees will be able to enhance their learning/training and development skills, cultivate their pedagogical repertoire, dialogue about socially-significant matters, boost their understanding about new areas of scholarship, among other outcomes. These in-depth courses are essential for teachers, scholars, and practitioners who wish to stay up-to-date with the most recent developments in a particular area in the field. These nearly 20 diverse opportunities feature hands-on applications of numerous subjects, with each course leader committed to providing sufficient time for conversation.

What's particularly exciting about this year's courses is the record number that have integrated the convention theme, "Communication for Survival," into their agenda, activities, resources, and hand-outs.

A number of courses are waiting for your participation, courses that cover a gamut of topics, including surviving family conflicts, difficult friendship and colleague encounters, fake news, and microaggressions in the classroom.

Short Courses are \$10 for NCA student members and \$20 for all other attendees. Attendees can register for a short course when completing their convention registration. For more information, including session descriptions, please visit [NCA Convention Central](#).

Come learn, engage, discuss, and have fun as a participant in the Short Courses in Baltimore!

--[Richard West](#), *Short Courses Planner, Emerson College*

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## NCA Student Caucus Travel Grants

In support of its commitment to promoting diversity within the Communication discipline, NCA offers a limited number of travel grants for student members of NCA's caucuses to attend the Annual Convention. Applicants must be student members of NCA, and a member of one of its six caucuses. To learn more about the NCA Caucus Student Travel Grants, including application requirements, visit the [NCA Student Caucus Travel Grant](#) webpage.

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## Convention Accessibility

NCA strives to make the Annual Convention accessible for all members and attendees. Below are useful resources for making your convention experience a success. This information is also accessible on the [Convention Accessibility](#) webpage.

Accessibility assistance volunteers will be stationed at both ends of the skybridge between the Baltimore Convention Center and the Hilton to assist attendees traveling between the two locations.

A quiet area will be available to guests during convention hours on Thursday - Saturday. Please visit the NCA Registration area for a key.

Assistive listening devices will be available for general sessions (the NCA Opening Session, Carroll C. Arnold Distinguished Lecture, and NCA Presidential Address and Awards Presentation). Copies of the convention program in enlarged print are available upon request at the NCA Registration Desk. If you require assistance with sign language interpretation, sighted guides, or other accommodation, please contact the [NCA Convention Team](#) before September 20. After that date, every reasonable effort will be made to assist attendees onsite. However, NCA may not be able to provide all services or equipment due to availability or the time required to obtain them.

A link to information on renting mobility assistance equipment such as scooters or wheelchairs can be found on the [Hotel and Travel Information](#) webpage. A wheelchair/scooter charging station will be located in the front of the Exhibit Hall.

An Area of Evacuation Assistance will be established and clearly marked on each floor of the Convention Center and the Hilton. If you need assistance locating this area, please contact an NCA staff member or site employee. In the event of an evacuation during convention meeting hours, site staff will check this area for attendees who require assistance. In the event of a hotel evacuation outside of convention hours, attendees who require assistance are instructed to remain in their guest rooms. Please be sure to indicate that you may need assistance upon check-in.

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## Create Your Convention Itinerary with NCA Convention Central and the Program App

Build your own convention schedule by using "My Schedule" on [NCA Convention Central](#). Search the online program for your sessions, or for other sessions by presenter, title, or keywords, and then add those sessions to your individual itinerary. "My Schedule" even allows you to add personal activities such as lunch meetings, interviews, or coffee meet-ups to your personal itinerary and to save a list of the exhibitors you want to remember to visit in the Exhibit Hall. Keep all of your sessions and events in one place! You can print your schedule or download it to MS Outlook calendar. Just email your calendar to yourself, save the iCalendar file and then upload it to Outlook. Instructions are available on the "My Schedule" page.

A convention program app for Android and iPhone is also now available. Search and install Eventsential on your mobile device. Once it has been loaded, search for NCA and select the NCA 105th Annual Convention. You can filter the schedule by day and/or session sponsor, or search by name, title, or keyword. Sessions can be saved to your "My

Schedule," and you can create and save personal appointments. You can also browse and save Exhibitors to visit. The app data is refreshed live from NCA Convention Central on a continual basis, so information is always up to date. And, no worries should you lose your signal; the information will cache until you regain your signal.

If you have any questions about these features, please contact the NCA Convention Team.

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## Department Events

The NCA Annual Convention offers several opportunities to promote your department and celebrate its successes over the past year. Department Members of NCA qualify for discounted registration for these department events.

- **Advertising:** Share your latest departmental news and achievements by advertising in the convention program. NCA is now accepting applications for its 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention print program. Advertisements and payment are due by **August 23**.
- **Graduate School Open House:** The Graduate School Open House is a great way for colleges and universities to interact with prospective graduate and doctoral students. The Open House will take place Thursday, November 14, 12:00-3:00 p.m. Every department that registers for the Graduate School Open House will be provided with a booth where faculty members and current students can speak with prospective students, as well as field general questions about admissions and their department. Due to the popularity of this event, space is sure to sell out, so register early!
- **Job Fair:** College and university departments that have open job positions can reserve a booth to meet and interview individuals looking for their next career opportunity. Every department that registers for the Job Fair will be provided with a booth that allows them to showcase open positions and their college or university. The Job Fair will be held in conjunction with the NCA Career Center on Friday, November 15, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. From 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., following a one-hour lunch break, employers may invite candidates back for an opportunity to speak one-on-one in their booth.
- **Department Receptions:** Department Receptions are a wonderful opportunity to bring together current and past colleagues. NCA offers meeting space for departments to host their own receptions. NCA will assign an event space, and then departments are able to work directly with the catering manager to plan the perfect event.
- **Sponsorship:** Support the NCA Annual Convention and promote your department, college, or university. Sponsorships present a unique opportunity to connect with all attendees. NCA is open to new sponsorship ideas; each sponsorship is a collaboration.

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