



August 12, 2021 | Volume 11, Issue 8

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## Convention COVID-19 Update

The NCA 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Seattle will take place as a face-to-face meeting. We are excited about the return to our typical convention format. However, we recognize that members may have questions and concerns related to the Covid-19 pandemic and that some members may not be able to join us in person. We are in the process of creating a webpage, which will be updated frequently in this fluid situation. The webpage will soon be accessible [here](#) in the "Convention Resources" area.

We look forward to seeing you soon in Seattle for our exploration of "Renewal and Transformation." If you are unable to travel, please join us for our live streamed sessions. Registration will not be required to view these sessions. These sessions will include the [Opening Session](#) focused on Indigenous Peoples; the [Carroll C. Arnold Distinguished Lecture](#) delivered by Tina M. Harris, Louisiana State University; the Saturday afternoon [Presidential Address](#) delivered by David T. McMahan, Missouri Western State University, followed by the NCA Awards Presentation; the four sessions in the "Renewal and Transformation" series ([Democracy](#), [Discipline](#), [Disruption](#), and [Dissent](#)); and two special sessions, one focusing on countering [anti-Asian violence](#) and one exploring [alternative academic careers](#). Additional details about these exciting events and information about how to access the sessions will be shared soon.

--[Roseann M. Mandziuk](#), NCA First Vice President, Texas State University

## Renewal and Transformation: Democracy

The [Democracy](#) session spotlights a multimedia project on rhetoric, democracy, and white supremacist violence, including a screening of a documentary film "Same as it Ever Was: Democracy, Violence, and White Supremacy," which features conversations with rhetorical scholars with very different areas of expertise on the same objects, texts, and events. Scholar and documentary filmmaker Angela Aguayo, University of Illinois, and Casey Ryan Kelly, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, set out to make sense of white supremacist violence of the past year—from the January 6 storming of the U.S. Capitol, the Atlanta Spa shootings, to the police murder of Daunte Wright and George Floyd. In the film, rhetorical critics from different subfields make sense of the same objects as touchstones that illustrate how Rhetoric and Communication Studies can offer indispensable insights into the sights, sounds, verbal discourse, and embodied experience of racist violence. The film brings together scholars of political rhetoric and public address, critical media studies, cultural studies, digital rhetorics, psychoanalysis, visual rhetoric, sound studies, argumentation, body rhetorics, and rhetorics of anti-Black and anti-Asian racism, nativism, and violence. The film showcases how the scholarship in Rhetorical Studies can make sense of racist violence in a nominally democratic culture.

--[Casey Ryan Kelly](#), Session Co-planner, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; and [Angela Aguayo](#), Session Co-planner, University of Illinois

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## Register for a Short Course Today

Many NCA members teach classes as part of our jobs, but sometimes we long to be students again. Short Courses offer NCA members a chance to learn something new, whether strategies for teaching a particular class, advice for grant writing, or innovative approaches to service and community work. When you register for the convention, consider adding one or more Short Courses to your registration. Short Courses cost \$10 for student members and \$20 for all other attendees and occupy a double slot of time at the convention (two and a half hours rather than the usual 75 minutes). Short Courses are a great opportunity to learn new skills, refresh teaching ideas, network with peers, and meet leaders in the field with specialized expertise in teaching, research, and service. For more information, including session descriptions, please visit [NCA Convention Central](#).

--[Leland Spencer](#), Short Courses Program Planner, Miami University

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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 in the lobby of the Washington State Convention Center and the Sheraton Grand Seattle to assist attendees traveling between the two locations.

A quiet area will be available to attendees during convention hours on Thursday - Sunday in both the Washington State Convention Center and the Sheraton Grand Seattle.

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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## 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 seven caucuses. To learn more about the NCA Student Caucus Travel Grants, including application requirements, visit the [NCA Student Caucus Travel Grant](#) webpage.

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## Create Your Convention Schedule

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 your 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. 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 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention print program. Advertisements and payment are due by **August 19**.
- [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 18, 1:00 to 4:00 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 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 19, 9:00 a.m.-noon. 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 can 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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