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Submit to the 108th Annual Convention Today

I am thrilled that the call for submissions for the 108th National Communication Association convention in New Orleans (aka Balbanca) is now open, and will remain so until March 30, 2022. I am also filled with hope for the promise that the convention theme, “Honoring PLACE: People, Liberation, Advocacy, Community, and Environment,” brings, and am in awe of the ways that units have embraced the theme in their calls, offering unique and important ways that submitters can take advantage of the opportunity it provides to move our scholarly and pedagogical conversations forward.

I am also excited about the possibilities to imagine new futures that will emerge from five sub-series that are currently being developed. Each sub-theme that makes up the acronym PLACE will have its own series, led by a particular interest group: “People” led by the Indigenous Caucus, “Liberation” co- led by the Black Caucus and the African American Communication and Culture Division, “Advocacy” led by the Activism and Social Justice Division, “Community” led by the Health Communication Division, and “Environment” led by the Environmental Communication Division. Each sub-series will include up to three sessions, with at least one of those being presented an online format in the two- three months leading up to the convention. I have encouraged each sub-theme organizing group to emphasize the overall theme, and to think both “big” and creatively. I have seen some of the early ideas generated by some of the groups, and I am delighted. I look forward to sharing what ultimately emerges.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at w-afifi@ucsb.edu with convention-related ideas that are consistent with the theme, or with any questions or concerns you have about the Annual Convention in New Orleans.

--[Valid Afifi](#), NCA First Vice President, University of California, Santa Barbara

Call for Submissions: Honoring PLACE

In accordance with NCA's 108th Annual Convention theme, “Honoring PLACE: People, Liberation, Advocacy, Community, and Environment,” we invite individual papers, or proposals for papers, panel

discussion, or performance sessions that acknowledge and honor the material location (*space*) where we convene, as well as the psycho-social one (*place*). We are interested in papers that explore emergent issues from a diversity of approaches. Work that focuses on how research is knowledge generating and/or knowledge affirming, and to what extent that knowledge is held *of* or *against* liberation, is welcomed. New Orleans (aka Balbancha), the site of our convention, has struggled with the misalignment between the stories shared and the stories interpreted about its history, and thus invites us to examine “Truth” as a relative term. In this light, we seek submissions that honor research methodologies as a form of *bridging*, and not as a single viewpoint that negates dynamism. Further, we invite work that centers on the recognition of *with* and not merely *for*, and *based* as opposed to of simply *placed* in communities.

If you are interested in submitting, please visit the [NCA Convention Central](#) for the full call for submissions. Please contact [Jessica Wendorf Muhamad](#), Florida State University, with any questions.

--[Satveer Kaur-Gill](#), Postdoctoral Fellow, CARE, Massey University, Honoring PLACE Co-planner, and [Jessica Wendorf-Muhamad](#), Florida State University, Honoring PLACE Co-planner

Call for Submissions: Research in Progress Roundtables

Do you have a “big” research idea that transcends (sub)disciplinary boundaries and addresses pressing issues of the current moment? Consider submitting to Research in Progress Roundtables (RPR), spaces for lively discussion about research “in progress” that are led by senior scholars and comprised of participants from multiple subdisciplines.

RPR provide more than opportunities for members to receive feedback on their work; they are conversational spaces intended to foster mentorship, collaboration, and disciplinary connections. Research “in progress” extends beyond a single study or product and includes larger projects that challenge theoretical and methodological boundaries and innovate communication praxis.

Participants will convene for a 75-minute conversation wherein they will share a brief description of their research in progress, followed by discussion among the group. Drawing on the convention theme, “Honoring PLACE: People, Liberation, Advocacy, Community, and Environment,” RPR will prioritize submissions from members of NCA’s caucuses (Asian/Pacific American Caucus, Black Caucus, Caribbean Communication Caucus, Caucus on LGBTQ Concerns, Disability Issues Caucus, Indigenous Caucus, La Raza Caucus, South West Asian/North African, Middle East Caucus, and/or Women’s Caucus), from researchers who identify with under-represented groups, and from scholars whose projects address the experience of marginalized communities, either theoretically or methodologically. Reach out to the 2022 RPR program planner, [Charee Thompson](#), with any questions. View the call for submissions and submit to the series on [NCA Convention Central](#).

--[Charee Thompson](#), Research in Progress Roundtables Program Planner, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

NCA 107th Annual Convention General Session Recordings

The 107th Annual Convention general session videos are now available.

The [NCA Opening Session](#), “Honoring Past and Present: Communication, Culture, and Change in Native Seattle,” featured both NCA members and community members discussing the role communication plays in Native communities. The NCA Opening Session was sponsored by the [Waterhouse Family Institute for the Study of Communication and Society](#).

The [Carroll C. Arnold Distinguished Lecture](#), “Intentional Transformation in the Midst of Change,” was delivered by Tina M. Harris, Louisiana State University. Harris challenged us to be change agents who advocate moving from theory to practice. The Carroll C. Arnold Distinguished Lecture was sponsored by [Pearson](#).

NCA President David T. McMahan, Missouri Western State University, delivered the [NCA Presidential Address](#), "Assessing and Advancing the Discipline." McMahan encouraged both reflection and action as the academic world emerges from one of the most tumultuous periods ever experienced. The NCA Presidential Address and Awards Presentation was sponsored by [Routledge, Taylor & Francis](#).

Convention Resource Library

Helpful information covering all aspects of the submission process, as well as general convention information, is available in the [Convention Resource Library](#). The Convention Resource Library is designed to assist you in the submission process, especially if this is your first time submitting or need a refresher. Access step-by-step webinars and PowerPoints instructing individuals on how to create a submission, [information on ensuring an unidentifiable copy of your paper](#), [tips on creating a successful submission](#), the [Professional Standards for Convention Participants](#), and a list of [frequently asked questions](#).

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