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Thank You, Program Planners

In previous notes, I have thanked the Program Planners, submission reviewers, and the many others who make the NCA Annual Convention possible. It truly takes a very large village to pull off this massive convention.

I want to especially thank the Program Planners in this note, now that they have all completed their programming decisions. With some of the aspects of COVID-19 uncertainty waning, the number of submissions for the NCA 108th Annual Convention increased to nearly 4,000.

Program planners had to manage those thousands of submissions, organize hundreds of reviewers, examine whether submissions met the thresholds for acceptance, and then organize paper submissions into appropriate sessions, enter and submit their final decisions into the convention website, and review the final schedule. Thank you, Planners, for all your labor; so much of what makes the convention possible rests on it. Timing for all this work, during the last month of semesters and quarters, is especially challenging. It also undoubtedly took time away from family and friends, and added to your exhaustion. I see you and appreciate you.

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

Convention Program Now Available

The 108th Annual Convention program is now live on [NCA Convention Central](#). The online program is searchable by session or paper title, sponsor, keyword, and participant, and is viewable in a daily grid format. Participants can add sessions and presentations to their personal schedule within NCA Convention Central. A printable (PDF) version of the program will be posted online in October, and the print program book will be available onsite in New Orleans.

Annual Convention Registration Now Open

Registration for the Annual Convention is now open online. Discounted Early Bird registration rates

for in-person attendees are available until September 16, 2022 and offer significant savings to all attendees who register before that date.

This year will feature nine live streamed sessions during the convention and six all-virtual sessions in the weeks leading up to the convention. If you will not be able to attend the convention in-person in New Orleans and would like to access to these 15 sessions, please register as a virtual attendee. [Virtual registration](#) is \$35 for student members, \$45 for regular members, and \$0 for life and retired members. Note, in-person attendees will have access to these 15 sessions included with their in-person registration. Separate virtual session registration is not required for in-person attendees.

Please visit the [Registration Information](#) webpage for more information and deadlines.

Emphasizing Series

As I imagine the NCA 108th Annual Convention, I envision one that is chock-full of conversations centered around the convention theme (Honoring PLACE: People, Liberation, Advocacy, Community, and Environment), along with the wide range of other scholarly, pedagogical, and social experiences that the convention always provides. In an effort to try to organize and highlight theme-related events and sessions, NCA Program Planners have identified sessions within their slates to create the Emphasizing Series:

- **Emphasizing Place:** Sessions that are centered on exploring the importance of geographic place and space (e.g., the physical, historical, social, etc. realities of a physical place or space as a central site of analysis necessary to understand the subject of interest).
- **Emphasizing People:** Sessions that center indigenous experiences, methods, etc.
- **Emphasizing Liberation:** Sessions that center actively anti-racist scholarship and/or take an actively liberatory or decolonial approach.
- **Emphasizing Advocacy:** Sessions that center activism and/or center scholarship that advocates for change, contributes to individuals' or communities' ability to self-advocate, or speaks to the literature on agency toward change, among other forms of advocacy.
- **Emphasizing Community:** Sessions that focus entirely on community-centered or publicly engaged scholarship, or that center community in essential ways.
- **Emphasizing Environment:** Sessions that center environmental justice, environmental or climate change, and/or related scholarly analyses.

To view sessions in each series, select the appropriate Emphasizing co-sponsor from the drop-down menu in the online program in [NCA Convention Central](#).

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

Convention Accessibility

NCA strives to make the Annual Convention accessible for all members and attendees. The information below, and more, is also available on the [Convention Accessibility](#) webpage.

If you would like to confirm the location and accommodations of your presentation room or a meeting room that you plan to visit, please contact the [Convention Team](#). Room relocations/reassignments must be requested **before August 20, 2022**. View the [floor plans](#) online.

If you require assistance with sign language interpretation, sighted guides, or other accommodation, please contact the NCA Convention Team at convention@natcom.org **before September 20, 2022** or check the accommodations check box during the convention registration process to be contacted by the National Office. Attendees who do not make advance arrangements for services or equipment can contact a member of the NCA National Office staff onsite at the registration desk. 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.

First-Time Convention Attendee Resources

[New online resources](#) have been developed especially for people attending the Annual Convention for the first time. Watch videos on how to search the online program and build your personal convention schedule, learn more about preparing your presentation, and see resources especially for student member attendees that may help them defray convention costs.

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