



New York State Communication Association 2020 Conference Contingency Planning

Statement from the Executive Council

We hope that this message finds you healthy and safe during these strange times. As this ongoing global public health crisis unfolds, we would like to update you about the New York State Communication Association 2020 conference contingency planning.

On April 3, 2020, the New York State Communication Association Executive Council held a virtual semi-annual business meeting on Zoom in place of the in-person meeting scheduled at the canceled Eastern Communication Association conference. The NYSCA 2020 conference planner, Noura Ahmad Hajjaj at SUNY New Paltz, reported that the annual conference venue, Villa Roma Resort and Conference Center, has been closed since March 15, and travel is highly inadvisable to and from Sullivan County as per the statement issued by local public health officials. Prior to their closure, Villa Roma Resort and Conference Center reported no COVID-19 cases on their premises due to their aggressive sanitary measures.

Keeping the severity of this pandemic in mind, the Executive Council has agreed to NYSCA 2020 conference contingency planning in case the Villa Roma Resort and Conference Center does not re-open by the time of the conference in October. Even as we remain hopeful to see you all, we will continue to follow the guidelines of the World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in relation to mass gatherings and travel in October 2020.

With regard to contingency planning, the NYSCA 2020 conference planner, Noura Ahmad Hajjaj, is in the process of exploring several virtual conferencing platforms, and a subcommittee of special planning will test these shortly. While we recognize that a virtual conference might be a difficult decision, given that the physical presence and mingling of attendees at the NYSCA annual conference is an irreplaceable experience, we are determined to adjust and plan according to the circumstances as they might present themselves in October.

The featured keynote at the NYSCA 2020 conference, Dr. Nicholas Bowman of Texas Tech University, has agreed to livestream his Friday address in case of a virtual conference. He has also kindly agreed to deliver his Saturday short course in mass communication and media entertainment at no additional cost to membership online. We are still waiting to hear from the Saturday keynote, Dr. Jasbir Puar of Rutgers University.

The Executive Council at the New York State Communication Association will continue to seek ways to best support our valued membership during these unprecedented times. In this spirit, we voted to cover the electronic subscription cost of the Atlantic Journal of Communication for returning regular NYSCA-NJCA members and NYSCA life members who attend NJCA annual

conferences on a regular basis, and we agreed keep the early bird rates of faculty at \$50, graduate student at \$31.25, undergraduate membership at \$12.50, and NYSCA-NJCA membership at \$31.25 for the duration of the conference registration period.

Given the severity of the pandemic, the submission date for the NYSCA 2020 conference has been extended to July 1, 2020.

We will continue to update you throughout the planning process. In the meantime, feel free to reach out to the 2020 convention planner, Noura Ahmad Hajjaj, at nysca2020@gmail.com with any queries.

Sincerely,

2019-2020 Executive Council

Noura Ahmad Hajjaj, Vice President and Primary Convention Planner (SUNY New Paltz)
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