



New York State Communication Association 2021 Call for Papers  
79th Annual Conference, October 15-17, 2021

Villa Roma Resort and Conference Center 356 Villa Roma Road, Callicoon, NY 12723

**“Changing the Conversation/Conversations about Change”** offers NYSCA scholars the opportunity to address issues and ideas related to their field of communication, especially in its evolution and/or intersections, and in its role in uncertain times. This gathering challenges us to explore the notion of change within individual specializations and across the intradisciplinary/interdisciplinary field of communication. It allows us to address problems and to capture the dynamics of transformations within our discipline. What are the most important changes in the field? How do the separately organized branches of the discipline reshape the study, practice, and education of communication? What are the strengths and weaknesses of increasing, and increasingly narrow, specializations within the discipline? How does growing public distrust in the era of fake news and conspiracy theories impact the viability of communication and media studies programs?

Beyond the academy, we have witnessed conversations for, and because of, change (ie, Black Lives Matter, #MeToo, #FakeNews, #StayHome, the war on terror, the war on science, the war on truth). Conference participants are invited to consider the implications, opportunities, and challenges of communication in an interconnected, yet politically divided, society. Symbols and their mediation facilitate all we know about our world, though the strategies and meanings for that communication are contested. The conference theme encourages exploration of communication’s cognitive, emotional, and social processes in times of turbulence. What is the relationship of activism, social justice, and communication? What are the changing forms and meanings of activist media and mediated activism? How can the scientific community maintain public trust when new evidence changes old messages?

With the arrival of the pandemic, the way we conceive of and practice teaching and learning, research and publication, creative performance, job seeking and hiring, conferences, and service – not to mention errands, socializing, and communal rites – was changed irrevocably. As a result, we have been engaged in conversations we never anticipated, often mediated in formats with which we were previously unfamiliar. This conference theme provides a forum to continue those conversations about change and to reflect on them. What have we learned about our discipline, profession, or craft? What lessons can we apply to a post-pandemic world? What are our responsibilities to higher education, to our communities, to each other, and to the discipline?

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We welcome submissions of completed papers, panels, round tables, fishbowl conversations, student posters, and other innovative and engaging programs, due no later than midnight (ET) on **July 7, 2021** to [christina.knopf@cortland.edu](mailto:christina.knopf@cortland.edu) (in .doc or .pdf formats). Work related to the conference theme is encouraged, as well as scholarship addressing a wide range of communication topics from a variety of theoretical and methodological approaches.

Submitted **papers of no more than 25** pages should be complete and not include any identifying information. **The author, affiliation, and contact information should be provided separately in the body of the email.** Papers should include a running head with an abbreviated title. Completed paper submissions from undergraduate and graduate students will be considered for student paper awards. **Student submissions should indicate “undergraduate” or “graduate,” along with an abbreviated title in the running head.**

For all other presentation formats, including panel proposals, posters (students only), round tables, fishbowls, and other innovative programs, please include the title, the lead contact or panel chair, the participants/authors, affiliations, contact information, and a description of the panel, poster, round table, etc. For each paper in a **panel or round table proposal, please include a title, a list of authors, and abstracts of no more than 125 words for each presenter.**

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Recognizing that the assorted challenges of COVID-19 often interfered with research agendas, this year NYSCA is also accepting submissions of works-in-progress for workshopping, rather than a formal paper presentation. Please submit a 250-word abstract of your project along with a 1-page bibliography. “WIP Workshop” submissions are due by midnight (ET) on August 1, 2021 to [christina.knopf@cortland.edu](mailto:christina.knopf@cortland.edu).

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We are also welcoming submissions for “NYSCA & Chill” screenings. The 79th Annual NYSCA Conference seeks to share faculty and student visual projects. Video/film/audio production shorts of 1-10 minutes in any and all genres are welcome: news reports, documentaries, promotional videos or advertisements, music videos, animation, dramatic and creative works, podcasts, etc. “NYSCA & Chill” submissions are due by midnight (ET) on July 15, 2021 to [christina.knopf@cortland.edu](mailto:christina.knopf@cortland.edu).

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This year, NYSCA is also seeking proposals for short workshop sessions in teaching strategies, research methodologies, town-gown collaborations, curriculum development, workload/time management, program administration, and other topics related to the work of faculty, students, and administrators in Communication and Media programs. We particularly encourage proposals for interactive and collaborative workshops.

Workshops may take the form of a 75-minute short course, roundtable discussion, fishbowl conversation, or other innovative format. Proposals should include: **title of the workshop, organizers names and affiliations, and a one-page description and rationale for the workshop addressing why the topic is important and who in NYSCA membership would be the target audience.** Proposals are due no later than midnight (ET) on **July 7, 2021** to [christina.knopf@cortland.edu](mailto:christina.knopf@cortland.edu).

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**A statement of professional responsibility should be included on the first page of all paper/panel/roundtable submissions, or in the email accompanying video/film files, and should state the following:** *“In submitting the attached paper/panel proposal, poster, or round table, I/we agree to present at the 2021 NYSCA conference if it is accepted. I/we further recognize that all who attend and present at NYSCA’s annual meeting must register and pay the required fees.”*

The COVID-19 pandemic is being monitored closely by conference planners. Currently, we are optimistic that an in-person conference will be viable by mid-October 2021. Such a conference will include adherence to any state, local, and hotel guidelines for health and safety & options for some virtual participation for vulnerable attendees.

**Direct inquiries to Dr. Christina Knopf, Communication & Media Studies, SUNY Cortland at [christina.knopf@cortland.edu](mailto:christina.knopf@cortland.edu).**