Failing to Communicate: Learning from Mistakes

After attending the International Communication Association Conference in Dresden, Carlin Romano noted that the research presented seemed to completely overlook the importance of Dresden, WWII, and the potential for great failures in communication to inform Communication scholarship. Certainly this observation should give us pause: Do we ignore context? Do we neglect history? Do we dissect disastrous communication without ever moving to suggestions for avoiding such mistakes?

Inspired by Romano’s observation, this year’s conference will pay particular attention to failed communication. Papers addressing missteps in social, political, and relational communication are all of interest. Strategic miscommunication and its subsequent revelation are also relevant. Research addressing failed communication in New York is particularly pertinent.

Potential topics abound: the Middle East, the Mid-West, the Catskills, the United Nations, Universal Healthcare, Divorce, Disastrous First Dates, Terrible Classes, Baghdad, Betamax, and so on.

Proposals unrelated to the conference theme, from a variety of theoretical traditions, are also welcome. We seek papers in all formats—formal & informal speeches, roundtables, demonstrations, participatory panels, media screenings, or other innovative ideas. Undergraduate and graduate student submissions are also welcome and will be considered for student paper awards.

Submission Guidelines for Completed Papers

1. Detachable cover page with the title of the paper, author’s affiliation, mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address.
2. A running head with an abbreviated title. Student research should include “undergraduate research,” “graduate research” in the running head.
3. A one page abstract on the second page.
4. Please include the statement of professional responsibility below on the second page below the abstract.
   “In submitting the attached paper, I/We agree to present the paper at the 2007 NYSCA Conference if it is accepted.”
5. Papers should be emailed to Dr. Missy Alexander, Missy.Alexander@Marist.edu by June 1, 2007.

Submission guidelines for Panel Proposals

1. Cover page with the title of the panel, chair of the panel, authors’ affiliations, mailing addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses.
2. A description of the topic of the panel not to exceed 150 words.
3. Title, author(s) and abstracts of 50-75 words for individual papers. For roundtables the panel description is sufficient.
4. A statement of professional responsibility should be submitted with the proposal. “In submitting the attached proposal, I/We agree to present the panel at the 2007 NYSCA Conference if it is accepted.”
5. Panel proposals should be emailed to Dr. Missy Alexander, Missy.Alexander@Marist.edu by June 1, 2007.

All requests for video, PowerPoint, overhead projectors, etc. must be included with your paper/panel submission. Attach a list of your requirements to your email. Be sure to include your name and the paper or panel title on your list.

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