

2016 Meeting of the Virginia Association of
Communication Arts and Sciences (VACAS)
Call for Papers, Panels, and Programs

April 22-23, 2016
George Mason University
Fairfax, Virginia
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VACAS Conference 2016: Communication Matters

Robert Scott, Professor Emeritus of the University of Minnesota, once wrote a landmark piece defining rhetoric as a means for creating multiple situated truths. In other words, communication *matters*: our sense of ourselves and the world around us is produced *in* and *through* our communication with others. This conference represents an opportunity for communication faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students—especially those based in Virginia—to share their latest work in the field of communication. We encourage submissions across the whole range of the communication field, including, but not limited to: media studies, journalism, political communication and campaigns, public relations, communication theory and rhetorical criticism, critical/cultural studies, science and environmental communication, intercultural communication, interpersonal/small group communication, health and risk communication, and communication education/pedagogy.

We welcome submissions from faculty, graduate students and undergraduate students, and papers/posters can present completed work or work-in-progress. *Undergraduates in particular are encouraged to submit their work.* In short, we envision this conference as a particularly supportive venue for undergraduate students to present their exemplary work in communication research and critical analysis.

Submission Guidelines

All submissions should be sent to Masonvacas16@gmail.com. All submissions are reviewed by VACAS division or section chairs. However, as spelled out below, the process for submitting work differs for faculty/graduate students and undergraduate students.

(1) Proposals from Faculty/Graduate Students:

(a) Individual paper submissions -- Please email a 250-300 word abstract of your paper (or completed paper) to Masonvacas16@gmail.com. Deadline: February 1, 2016.

(b) Panel submissions – Please submit a 400-500 word proposal for your panel which includes (1) A title; (2) A list of panelists and their institutional affiliations, including panel chair and (optional) respondent; (3) Titles and abstracts for each paper or presentation; (4) A rationale of no more than 250 words that states the relevance of the topic for your unit and how panelists will make the topic interactive for the audience (handouts, links to websites, paper distribution, etc.). Panel submissions should be emailed to Masonvacas16@gmail.com. Deadline: February 1, 2016.

Note: Issue-based discussion panels, or roundtables, are welcome as well. We view faculty/graduate student panels as a particularly good venue for discussing pressing issues or challenges facing communication students, graduate students, and faculty in Virginia and beyond.

(2) Undergraduate Student Proposals:

(a) Panel submissions (submitted by faculty sponsor) -- Faculty members are encouraged to submit panels showcasing their students' papers, analyses, or research.

Undergraduate panels can also provide a venue for discussing and reflecting on students' experiences within the professional fields of communication (including in internships or co-curricular activities).

To submit a proposal for an undergraduate panel, the faculty sponsor should submit a 400-500 word proposal for the panel which includes (1) A title; (2) A list of panelists and their institutional affiliations, including panel chair and (optional) respondent; (3) Titles and abstracts for each paper or presentation; (4) A rationale of no more than 250 words that states the relevance of the topic for our unit and how panelists will make the topic

interactive for the audience (handouts, links to websites, paper distribution, etc.). Panel submissions should be emailed to Masonvacas16@gmail.com. Deadline: February 1, 2016.

(b) Individual poster presentations (submitted by individual undergraduate students)— Undergraduate students are encouraged to submit a 250-300 word abstract describing their plan for a poster presentation on their research. Poster presentation abstracts should be emailed to Masonvacas16@gmail.com. Abstracts are due by February 1, 2016. The finished poster must then be submitted to the section or division chair by April 1, 2016. Those undergraduate students who are unable to finish their poster by April 1st will be invited to discuss their research at an undergraduate “works-in-progress” roundtable session where they will receive guidance and feedback from VACAS faculty members.