



San Diego, CA
February 27 – March 2, 2026



Western States
Communication Association



Santa Clara
UNIVERSITY



Western States
Communication Association

Santa Clara University Department of Communication and
the Western States Communication Association
congratulates



Dr. Justin P. Boren
President 2025-2026
Western States Communication Association

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	3
Online Program & Mobile App.....	4
Westin Gaslamp Meeting Spaces.....	5
WSCA Officers	6
Welcome from WSCA President Justin Boren	7
Welcome from WSCA President Elect Anthony Cuomo.....	8
Land, Labor, & Immigrant Acknowledgements	9
Welcome from Local Host – San Diego State University	10
About the Convention Artwork	11
Sponsors and Exhibitors	12
Convention Synopsis.....	14
2026 Convention Program Planners	19
WSCA Executive Council	21
WSCA Committees	22
WSCA Departmental Members	23
Life Members	24
Past Presidents.....	26
Distinguished Service Award Recipients	29
Distinguished Scholar Award Recipients.....	31
Distinguished Teaching Award Recipients.....	32
Model Communication Program Award Recipients.....	33
WSCA 96th Annual Conference Program	34
Thursday, February 26.....	34
Friday, February 27	37
Saturday, February 28	42
Sunday, March 01	77
Monday, March 02.....	103
Author & Presenter Listing	111
2027 Call for Submissions	117

Online Program & Mobile App

You can view a full digital program using our mobile application, which includes more details than what's available in this print version. You can also use the online program website, which includes the same information as on the app. Use the website or the app to search for presenters, chat with conference attendees, receive urgent alerts from WSCA, download copies of papers, and view more interactive information about the conference.

You can view the online version of the program here:

<https://wsca.me/2026>

Download The Mobile App



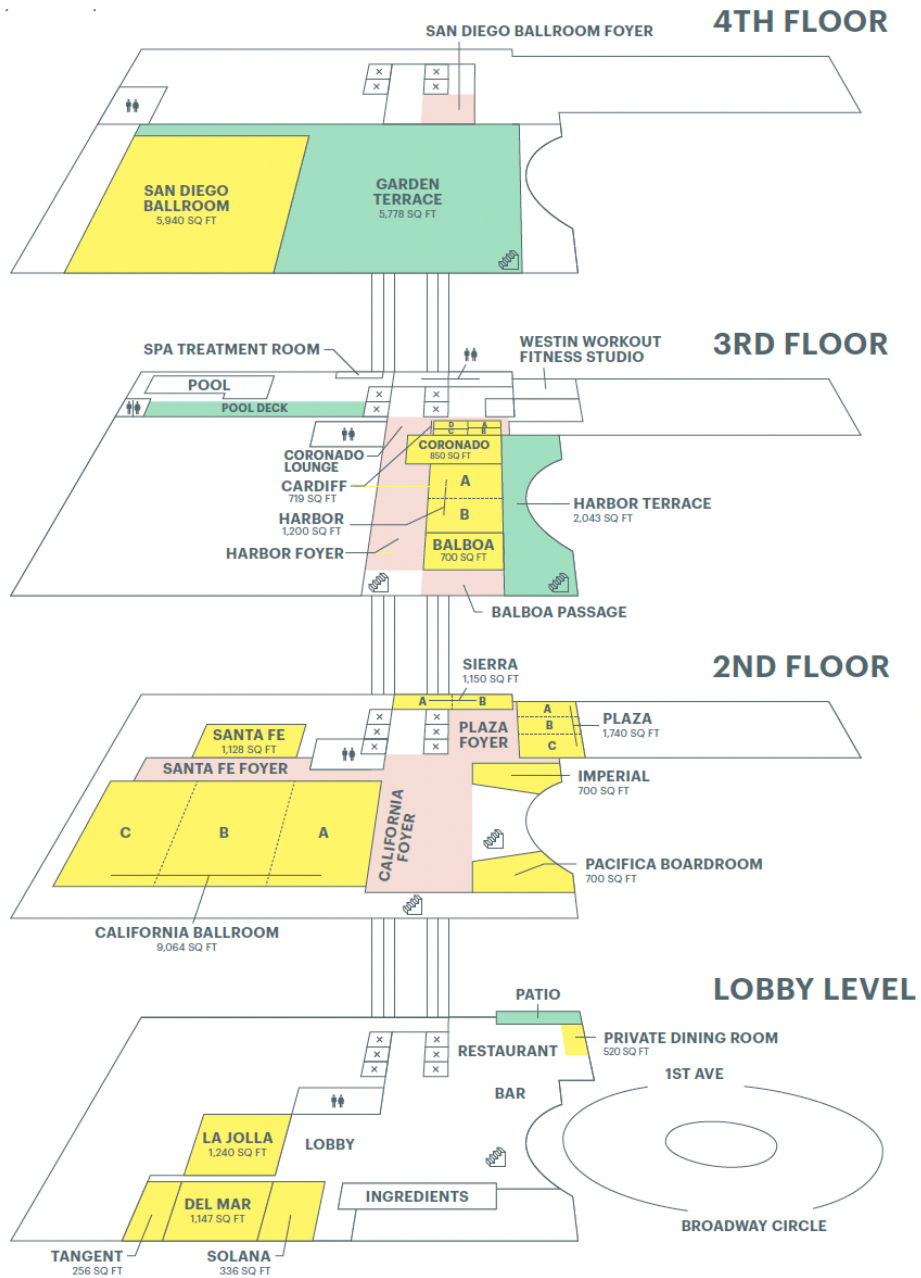
Scan the barcode to download eConference.io app

Then Enter Code:

WSCA26



Westin Gaslamp Meeting Spaces



WSCA Officers



President
Justin P. Boren



President Elect
Anthony P. Cuomo



First Vice President
Donna Gotch



Second Vice President
Stephanie Gomez



Immediate Past President
Shinsuke Eguchi



Executive Director
Eric M. Wilson

Welcome from WSCA President Justin Boren

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 96th Annual Convention of the Western States Communication Association in beautiful San Diego, California. I am honored to gather with you at a moment when our work as communication scholars, educators, and practitioners feels both urgent and deeply consequential.

This year's convention theme, **Resistance**, calls our attention to the ways communication operates as a site of struggle, possibility, and care. Today, we are witnessing intensified forms of marginalization and violence directed toward immigrants, transgender, queer, and gender-diverse individuals, and religious minorities, among many others. These conditions demand our ethical engagement and collective power. **Resistance** is both oppositional and enacted through critical inquiry, pedagogical commitment, coalition-building, and the sustained work of making space for voices that are too often silenced or erased.

Across the panels, performances, workshops, and conversations of this convention, I invite you to consider how **resistance** takes shape in our research, our classrooms, and our institutions. As communication scholars we are positioned to challenge dominant narratives, expose inequities, and imagine more just futures. In gathering together, we affirm that our scholarship can be a form of resistance, especially when grounded in care, accountability, and community.

This convention reflects the extraordinary labor of many individuals. I extend my deepest thanks to **Dr. Anthony Cuomo**, our Convention Planner, whose leadership, vision, and incredible effort have shaped a program that speaks directly to this moment while reflecting the intellectual breadth of WSCA. I am also deeply grateful to **San Diego State University**, our Local Host, for their generosity and partnership. SDSU's commitment to public education and community engagement provides a meaningful context for our conversations.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to Executive Director Eric Wilson, Assistant to the Executive Director Caitlyn Lewis, and Convention Intern Alicia Cho, whose behind-the-scenes work was essential to the success of this conference. I am equally grateful to the Executive Council, Interest Group planners, paper reviewers, panel chairs, and all the volunteers whose collective labor sustains WSCA as our intellectual and professional home.

Thank you for joining us in San Diego and for bringing your scholarship, your engagement, and your commitments to this convention. I hope our days together provide space for meaningful dialogue, renewed connection, and a shared sense of purpose as we continue the critical work of **resistance**.



With gratitude,
Justin Boren, Ph.D.
President, Western States Communication Association

Welcome from WSCA President Elect Anthony Cuomo

Welcome to the 96th annual Western States Communication Association convention and to San Diego, California. I am very excited to welcome you to this vibrant and historically rich city as we learn, connect, and celebrate with each other around this year's convention theme of **"Resistance."** In a world marked by deep polarization and persistent injustice, **resistance** emerges through connection, reminding us that understanding, collective care, and caring for one another are essential. Given the social, political, and humanitarian complexities that face us today, gathering for dialogue around **resistance** is critical and, for some communities, a matter of survival.

This year's convention offers an important opportunity to explore the multifaceted nature of **resistance** through the lens of communication. I invite you to engage with thought-provoking presentations, insightful panels and performances, and enriching discussions that delve into the ways communication can foster empathy, build stronger communities, and provide crucial assistance in times of need. I also want to draw our attention to those communities who need our support the most right now – immigrants, individuals living in the USA who are undocumented, members of the LGBTQ2S+ and BIPOC communities, and all those who are living in fear of their government. Let us continue to find ways to improve the lives of all in our communities through communication. This convention should be more than an academic exchange; let's make this weekend a space for genuine connection, where scholars, educators, students, and practitioners can share experiences, learn from each other, and forge lasting supportive relationships.

I am so grateful to the incredible work of our planning team, especially each of the interest group program planners, for their hard work at building an amazing program this year. There are so many fascinating sessions. Don't forget to drop by the **Kickoff Celebration**, sign up for the **Off-Site Excursion: Turning Border Walls into Tables** at the Registration Desk (Friday, February 27, 2:00-3:30 pm or Saturday, February 28, 11:30 am-1:00pm), and enjoy our annual **luncheon and awards ceremony**. I especially encourage you to attend the keynote address by **Dr. Lore/etta LeMaster**. Her talk titled "Trans. Care. Work.: Communal Resistance and the Politics of Performance Pedagogy" will certainly be engaging, timely, and relevant.

I want to also express my deepest appreciation to our local hosts San Diego State University, the WSCA Executive Director Eric Wilson, Associate Director Caitlyn Lewis, WSCA President Justin Boren, past presidents Heather Canary and Michelle Holling, First Vice-President, Donna Gotch, Second Vice-President Stephanie Gomez, Immediate Past President Shinsuke Eguchi, and our intern Alicia Cho.

I encourage you to not only engage with the conference programming but also to explore the rich cultural tapestry of San Diego, allowing yourself to be inspired by the history, art, and people of this remarkable city. I hope your time here is one of intellectual growth, meaningful dialogue, and a renewed sense of connection within our communication community.



With sincere appreciation,
Anthony P. Cuomo, Ed.D.
President Elect

Land, Labor, & Immigrant Acknowledgements

Land Acknowledgement Statement

We stand upon a land that carries the footsteps of millennia of Kumeyaay people. They are a people whose traditional lifeways intertwine with a worldview of earth and sky in a community of living beings. This land is part of a relationship that has nourished, healed, protected and embraced the Kumeyaay people to the present day. It is part of a world view founded in the harmony of the cycles of the sky and balance in the forces of life. For the Kumeyaay, red and black represent the balance of those forces that provide for harmony within our bodies as well as the world around us. We promote this balance in life as we pursue our goals of knowledge and understanding. We find inspiration in the Kumeyaay spirit to open our minds and hearts. It is the legacy of the red and black. It is the land of the Kumeyaay.

Eyay e'Hunn My heart is good.

These statements are partly adapted from our local host institution, [San Diego State University](#).

Honoring Immigrants in the United States

The United States of America is a country that is built on the strength of immigrants that came here, either voluntarily or involuntarily. Whether they look or speak differently from us, we will do our best to understand, respect, appreciate, and value their cultures and contributions, with the ultimate goal to welcome them and elicit their potential for the betterment of all societies.

Welcome from Local Host – San Diego State University

The entire SDSU Local Host Team warmly welcomes you to (we hope) sunny San Diego! It has been a decade since the WSCA convention was held in San Diego and much has changed since then.

This year's convention location in the historic Gaslamp District of San Diego is a perfect setting for experiencing the WSCA credo of *work hard, play hard*. President-Elect Dr. Anthony P. Cuomo and the many interest group program planners have worked tirelessly to build this exciting program replete with intellectually stimulating activities. We have friendly volunteer staff members throughout the convention space to help you find your convention panel or event. You can identify us with our turquoise polo shirts. We want to help you have a hassle-free convention experience!

If you haven't checked out our [Local Information page](#) on the Convention website yet, I encourage you to do so at your earliest convenience. Our Local Activities Committee Co-Chairs, Drs. Damariyé Smith and Rati Kumar, curated lists of local attractions, restaurants, and bars to help you get the most out of your time in San Diego. Dr. Michelle Holling of CSU San Marcos partnered with the Museum of Us and the Friends of International Friendship Park to plan an off-site excursion free to WSCA convention participants. See the [Local Information page](#) on the Convention website for information about the two scheduled excursions you can choose from during the convention.

There are also multiple opportunities to embrace the convention theme of *Resistance*. First, throughout the entire convention, the Cardiff Suite will be available on the third floor. This suite is set aside to be a space of quiet resistance and restoration, including a quiet room and a lactation room. During your time in San Diego, you might want to check out Chicano Park the Chicano Park Museum & Cultural Center. Details are on the [Local Information page](#).

Don't miss out on the Dance Party Saturday night! Our Dance Party Committee of faculty and students have *worked hard* so you can *play hard* on the dance floor after a day of scholarly engagements.

About the SDSU School of Communication: SDSU is the only CSU campus that has earned the R1 designation due to our very high research activity. The SDSU School of Communication is dedicated to quality teaching, research, and service to the community. Our faculty are recognized internationally for their research and attract research funding from internal and external agencies, including the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. Program reviews indicate that our faculty research productivity out-paces many communication doctoral programs. In 2019, the School of Communication was named the Outstanding Master's Program by the National Communication Association's Master's Education Section. Our faculty are repeatedly recognized for their quality teaching with institutional, regional, and national teaching awards.

Warmly,



Heather E. Canary

And on behalf of the Local Host Faculty Team:

Godfried Asante; Rati Kumar; Rachael Record

Yea-Wen Chen; Matthew Savage; Damariyé Smith; Tiffany Dykstra-DeVette

About the Convention Artwork



The 2026 conference artwork was designed by **natalia ventura** (she/her), a multimedia artist and community organizer who lives, works, and hails from San Diego (Kumeyaay land). natalia is a memory worker and dream worker, remembering the past to create visions of what is yet to come. She leads an inner studio practice that explores her personal experiences as a Mexican-Cuban-American woman, and an outer social practice that engages her community in collective healing of the borderlands. She aims to build a liberated future within and around her through her creative practice.

Website: www.nataliaventura.com

Instagram: @nataliaxventura

Description of the logo:

There is no symbol that evokes "resistance" more than the iconic raised fist--the gesture of revolution. The two fists rise like the mountains, unshakable and grounded, reminding us that true power comes from collective action, and true change begins with the unyielding spirit to overcome. The mountains also represent the Western States Communication Association paying homage to the organization's logo visiting the San Diego region and the borderlands between the United States and Mexico.

Sponsors and Exhibitors

The Western States Communication Association is grateful to our exhibitors and sponsors for this year's conference.

Exhibitors



W. W. NORTON & COMPANY

Independent and Employee-Owned

<https://wwnorton.com/>

For more than 100 years, W. W. Norton has published the best books by the best authors, from Pulitzer Prize winners and Nobel Prize laureates to teachers who have mastered the art of engaging students. Today, we publish dynamic texts and digital resources across many disciplines, including Communication Studies. Collaborating with passionate instructors at a variety of schools, we provide course materials driven by active, passionate leaders in communication studies education, including prominent members of WSCA and NCA.

Kendall Hunt
publishing company

<https://www.kendallhunt.com/>

Kendall Hunt is a premier publisher in both digital and print media with over 80 years of experience and over 9,000 titles. We combine service, innovation, and our pledge of quality to provide you with advantages that are unparalleled in educational publishing

Sponsors

SDSU

San Diego State
University



NATIONAL COMMUNICATION
ASSOCIATION



THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNICATION



Colorado
State
University



Taylor & Francis



W. W. NORTON & COMPANY

Independent and Employee-Owned

museum
Museum of Us — All of us



Friends of
International
Friendship Park



SJSU SAN JOSÉ STATE
UNIVERSITY

Kendall Hunt
publishing company

Transform your Tomorrow



Master of Arts in Communication

- ✓ Mastery of communication theory and practice
- ✓ Teaching Associate & Forensics Coaching opportunities
- ✓ Collaboration on research teams
- ✓ Fieldwork in diverse, socially relevant settings
- ✓ Co-authorship opportunities with faculty
- ✓ Presentations at professional conferences

APPLY TODAY!

SDSU | San Diego State
University



Convention Synopsis

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026

Finance Committee Meeting

1:30pm – 3:30pm | Imperial

Publications Committee Meeting

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm | Pacifica

Executive Council Meeting

4:00 pm - 10:00 pm | Imperial

Registration & Information

4:00 pm - 8:00 pm | California Foyer

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026

Registration & Information

8:00 am - 5:00 pm | California Foyer

Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference

8:00 am - 1:00 pm | Various

Support Space (Quiet Room)

8:00 am - 5:00 pm | Cardiff A

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

9:00 am - 4:00 pm | Various

Editor's Review Meeting

9:00am – 10:00 am | Pacifica

Exhibits

12:00 pm - 5:00 pm | Second Floor Foyer

Off-Site Excursion: Turning Border Walls into Tables

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm | Pre-register at registration and meet in lobby 15-20 minutes before to rideshare

Graduate Student Workshop

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm | Plaza A

Graduate Program Open House

3:45 pm - 5:00 pm | California Ballroom AB

96th Annual Convention Welcome Celebration & Kickoff

5:15 pm – 7:30 pm | Garden Terrace

Executives Club Social

7:30pm – 9:30pm | Garage Kitchen & Bar (off site)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026

Morning Coffee and Snacks provided by Colorado State University

8:00am – 9:45am | California Foyer

Registration & Information

8:00 am - 5:00 pm | California Foyer

Support Space (Quiet Room)

8:00 am - 6:00 pm | Cardiff A

Exhibits

8:00 am - 5:00 pm | Second Floor Foyer

2027 Program Planners Meeting I

8:00 am - 9:00 am | Solana

Interest Group Business Meetings

8:00 am - 9:00 am | Various

Panel Session #1

9:15 am - 10:30 am | Various

Panel Session #2

10:45 am - 12:00 pm | Various

Off-Site Excursion: Turning Border Walls into Tables (Last Opportunity)

11:30 am - 1:00 pm | Pre-register at registration and meet in lobby 15-20 minutes before to rideshare

Designated Break

12:00pm – 12:30pm | Concessions on main level

Officer's Review

12:00pm – 1:30pm | Private Dining Room

Panel Session #3

12:30 pm - 1:45 pm | Various

**Keynote Address featuring Dr. Lore/tta LeMaster
*Inciting Resistance***

2:00 pm - 3:15 pm | California Ballroom AB

Member Services and Marketing Committee Meeting

3:30 pm - 4:45 pm | Plaza A

Panel Session #4

3:30 pm - 4:45 pm | Various

Interest Group Business Meetings

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm | Various

Panel Session #5

5:00 pm - 6:15 pm | Various

Receptions

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm | Various

Dance Party 2026

9:00 pm - 11:45 pm | San Diego Ballroom

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026

Registration & Information

8:00 am - 12:00 pm | California Foyer

Support Space (Quiet Room)

8:00 am - 6:00 pm | Cardiff A

Exhibits

8:00 am - 5:00 pm | Second Floor Foyer

2027 Program Planners Meeting II

9:00 am - 10:00 am | Solana

Interest Group Business Meetings

9:00 am - 10:00 am | Various

Panel Session #6

9:00 am - 10:15 am | Various

Time and Place Committee Meeting

10:30am – 11:30am | Sierra A

Panel Session #7

10:30 am - 11:45 am | Various

Luncheon and Awards Celebration

12:00 pm - 2:30 pm | California Ballroom ABC

Model Communication Award Panel

2:45 pm - 4:00 pm | Harbor B

Panel Session #8

2:45 pm - 4:00 pm | Various

Forensics Spotlight Panel

4:15pm – 5:30pm | Solana

Interest Group Business Meetings

4:15pm – 5:15pm | Various

Panel Session #9

4:15 pm - 5:30 pm | Various

WSCA Legislative Assembly Meeting

6:30 pm - 9:00 pm | Del Mar

President’s Reception

9:15 pm - 11:30 pm | Garden Terrace

MONDAY MARCH 2, 2026

Panel Session #10

9:00 am - 10:15 am | Various

Executive Council Session II

9:00 am - 11:30 am | Imperial

Panel Session #11

10:30 am - 11:45 am | Various

2026 Convention Program Planners

Primary Program Planner

Anthony P. Cuomo, West Los Angeles College

Convention Planning Intern

Alicia Cho, Western States Communication Association

Local Host Team

Heather E. Canary, Yea-Wen Chen, Rachael Record, Matthew Savage, Damariyé Smith, Rati Kumar, Tiffany Dykstra-DeVette, Godfried Asante

Executive Director

Eric M. Wilson, Wichita State University

Assistant to the Executive Director

Caitlyn Lewis, Western States Communication Association

Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference

Stephanie Gomez, Western Washington University
Stacey Overholt, University of Utah

Foundational Course Conference

Colleen McGoff, Whatcom Community College

Communication and Instruction

Kendra Rivera, Lane Community College

Communication, Identities & Difference

Carrie E. Mulderink, University of New Mexico

Communication, Self, and Social Construction

Christopher Koenig, San Francisco State University

Communication Theory and Research

Reeham R. Mohammed, Arizona State University

Community College

Kristen Stout, Missouri State University

Executives Club

Amy Edwards, Oxnard College

Environmental Communication

Megan Cullinan, University of Montana

Freedom of Expression and Political Communication

Chris Earle, University of Nevada, Reno

Health Communication

Colin Storm, Whitworth University

Intercultural Communication

Tomide Oloruntobi, University of New Mexico

Interpersonal & Family Communication

Leslie Nelson, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

Media Studies

Aryana Gooley-Carson, Sierra College

Organizational Communication

Laura Martinez, University of Montreal

Organization for Feminist Research on Gender and Communication

Lore/tta LeMaster, University of Toronto

Performance Studies

Tyler Rife, St. Lawrence University

Ana Isabel Terminell Iberri, San Francisco State University

Michael Tristano, Towson University

Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy

Sarah Dweik, Penn State University

Argumentation, Persuasion, & Forensics

Ashley Givens, Salt Lake Community College

WSCA Executive Council

President

Justin P. Boren
Santa Clara University

First Vice President

Donna Gotch
California State University, San Bernadino

Immediate Past President

Shinsuke Eguchi
Wake Forest University

Finance Committee Chair

Greg Dickinson
Colorado State University

Publications Committee Chair

Santhosh Rangamma-Chandrashekar
University of Denver

Executives Club President**Futures Committee Chair**

Amy Edwards
Oxnard College

Western Journal of Communication**Co-Editor**

Casey R. Schmitt
West Chester University

Communication Reports Editor

Wei Sun
Howard University

Member-at-Large

Shane Moreman
California State University, Fresno

Member-at-Large

Santhosh Rangamma-Chandrashekar
University of Denver

President Elect

Anthony P. Cuomo
West Los Angeles College

Second Vice President

Stephanie L. Gomez
Western Washington University

Executive Director

Eric M. Wilson
Wichita State University

Member Services Chair

Jim Cherney
University of Nevada, Reno

WSCA News & Social Media Editor

Kimberly Aguilar
California State University, Sacramento

Speech Activities Director

Averie Vockel
University of Utah

Western Journal of Communication**Co-Editor**

Lisa Ellen Silvestri
Penn State University

Time and Place Committee Chair

Karen Stout
Western Washington University

Member-at-Large

Keisuke Kimura
Miami University of Ohio

Member-at-Large

Tara McManus
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

WSCA Committees

Nominating Committee

Shinsuke Eguchi (Chair); Stephanie Hartzell; Mo Kalaji; Carrie Muldink; Tomide Oloruntobi; Kyle Gutzmar; Michael Tristano; Sarah Dweik; Tiffany Dykstra-DeVette; Darrian Carroll

Finance Committee

Greg Dickinson; Michelle A. Holling; Kent Ono; Donna Gotch; Eric Wilson

Publications Committee

Santhosh Chandrashekar; Cleophas Muneri; Marie Haverfield; Casey Schmitt; Lisa Silvestri; Wei Sun

Time and Place Committee

Karen Stout; Darrian Carroll; Shane Moreman; Averie Vockel; Shinsuke Eguchi; Eric Wilson

Member Services and Marketing Committee

Jim Cherney; Veronica Dawson; Karen Stout; Donna Gotch

Distinguished Scholar Award

Tara McManus; Ashley Givens; Chan Thai; Michael Tristano Jr.; Shane Moreman; Jennifer Bevan

Distinguished Service Award

Shane Moreman; Shinsuke Eguchi; Amy Edwards; Tara McManus

Distinguished Teaching Award

Santhosh Rangamma-Chandrashekar; Justin P. Boren; Veronica Dawson; Jen Eden; Stephanie Gomez

Model Communication Program Award

Keisuke Kimura; Kristen Stout; Kendra Rivera

Futures Committee

Amy Edwards; Gloria Pindi; Pavithra Prasad; Shinsuke Eguchi; Eric Wilson

B. Aubrey Fisher Award

Aaron Hess; René Dailey; Bernard Armada; Bernadette Calafell

Elected Representatives to the WSCA Legislative Assembly

Keisuke Kimura; Tara McManus

WSCA Representatives to NCA Legislative Council

Bobbi V Gilder; Jimmie Manning

WSCA Departmental Members

Arizona State University
California State University, Los Angeles
Central Michigan University
Chapman University
Colorado State University
Montana State University
San Diego State University
University of California, Merced
University of Nevada, Reno
University of New Mexico
University of Puget Sound
University of Utah

As of 1/21/2026

Life Members

Katherine Adams, California State University, Fresno
Dennis Alexander, University of Utah
James A. Anderson, University of Utah
Robert K. Avery, University of Utah
Kimberly Barnett Gibson, St. Mary's University
Mark Bergstrom, University of Utah
Justin Boren, Santa Clara University
Dawn O. Braithwaite, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
William Bray, San Francisco State University
Nancy Burroughs, California State University, Stanislaus
Daniel Canary, San Diego State University
Heather Canary, San Diego State University
John Caputo, Gonzaga University
Hilda Carpenter, Carpenter Consulting Associates
Yea-Wen Chen, San Diego State University
David Chimovitz, Colorado Mountain College
Robert Clark, University of Oregon
Heather Crandall, Gonzaga University
Audrey Deterding, Independent Scholar
Qingwen Dong, University of the Pacific
Bill Eadie, San Diego State University (Emeritus)
Shinsuke Eguchi, Wake Forest University
Lisa Flores, University of Colorado
Kory Floyd, Washington State University
Douglas Fraleigh, California State University, Fresno
Marlene M. Von Friederichs-Fitzwater, California State University, Sacramento (retired)
Patricia M. Ganer, Cypress College
James M. Gelwicks, Western College of Colorado
Kimberly Barnett Gibson, St. Mary's University
Donna Gotch, California State University, San Bernardino
Jo Anna Grant, California State University, San Bernardino
Cindy Griffin, Colorado State University
Brian Heisterkamp, California State University, San Bernardino
Susan A. Hellweg, San Diego State University
Tracey Quigley Holden, University of Delaware
K.B. Hom, University of Utah
Heather Hundley, University of Nebraska, Omaha
Matthew Isbell, Boise State University
Ronald Jackson II, University of Illinois
Hillary Jones, California State University, Fresno
Jean Krause, California State University, San Bernardino
Michael Lechuga, University of Minnesota
Jimmie Manning, University of Nevada, Reno
Matt Martin, West Virginia University
Sean Maulding, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

Erin D. McClellan, Boise State University
John McClellan, Boise State University
Suzanne McCorkle, Boise State University
Paul A. Mongeau, Arizona State University
Shane Moreman, California State University, Fresno
Tom Nakayama, Northeastern University
Chevelle Newsome, California State University, Sacramento
Marnel Niles Goins, American University
Patricia O'Keefe, College of Marin
Kent Ono, University of Utah
Brian L. Ott, University of Missouri
Douglas Parry, University of Alaska, Anchorage
Sue D. Pendell, Colorado State University (retired)
Sandra Petronio, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
Rodney Reynolds, California Lutheran University (retired)
Kelly R. Rossetto, Boise State University (retired)
Clariza Ruiz De Castilla, California State University, Long Beach
David R. Seibold, University of California, Santa Barbara
William Sharkey, University of Hawai'i at Manoa
Rachel Silverman, Boise State University
Stacey Sowards, University of Texas at Austin
Robert Stockton, Katella High School (retired)
Julie Taylor, California State University, San Bernardino
Mckay West, University of West Virginia
John L. Williams, California State University, Sacramento (retired)
Christina Yoshimura, University of Montana
Stacy Young, California State University, Long Beach

As of 1/09/2026

To learn more or to become a Life Member, visit the registration desk during the convention or this [website](#).

Past Presidents

Name	Year	Affiliation	Convention City
Shinsuke Eguchi	2024	Wake Forest University	Albuquerque
Heather E. Canary	2023	San Diego State University	Reno
Christina Granato Yoshimura	2022	University of Montana	Phoenix
Marnel Niles Goins	2021	American University	Portland
Marnel Niles Goins	2020	American University	no convention
Rodney Reynolds	2019	Cal Lutheran	Denver
Brian Heisterkamp	2018	CSU San Bernardino	Seattle
Michelle A. Holling	2017	CSU San Marcos	Santa Clara/ San Jose
Mark Bergstrom	2016	University of Utah	Salt Lake City
Paul Mongeau	2015	Arizona State University	San Diego
Patricia O'Keefe	2014	College of Marin	Spokane
Brian L. Ott	2013	Univ. of Colorado, Denver	Anaheim
Lisa A. Flores	2012	Univ. of Colorado, Boulder	Reno
Patricia Ganer	2011	Cypress College	Albuquerque
Heather Hundley	2010	CSU San Bernardino	Monterey
Daniel J. Canary	2009	Arizona State University	Anchorage
Sue D. Pendell	2008	Colorado State University	Phoenix
Sara Hayden	2007	University of Montana	Denver/ Boulder
Mary Jane Collier*	2006	University of New Mexico	Seattle
Mary Jane Collier	2005	University of New Mexico	Palm Springs
Myron "Ron" Lustig	2004	San Diego State University	San Francisco
Connie Bullis	2003	University of Utah	Albuquerque
Katherine Adams	2002	CSU Fresno	Salt Lake City
Sandra Petronio	2001	Wayne State	Long Beach
Dawn O. Braithwaite	2000	University of Nebraska	Coeur d'Alene
Dennis C. Alexander	1999	University of Utah	Sacramento
Peter A. Andersen	1998	San Diego State University	Vancouver, BC
Leslie A. Baxter	1997	University of Iowa	Denver
Betsy W. Bach	1996	Univ. of Montana	Monterey Bay

Jolene Koester	1995	CSU Sacramento	Pasadena
Robert K. Avery	1994	University of Utah	Portland
William "Bill" Eadie	1993	CSU Northridge	San Jose
Stephen Littlejohn	1992	Humboldt State University	Albuquerque
Janis F. Andersen	1991	San Diego State University	Boise
Thomas M. Scheidel	1990	Univ. of Washington	Phoenix
Lynn K. Wells	1989	Saddleback Community College	Sacramento
David Natharius	1988	CSU Fresno	Spokane
Malcolm O. Sillars	1987	University of Utah	San Diego
Jo Sprague	1986	San Jose State University	Salt Lake City
B. Aubrey Fisher	1985	University of Utah	Tucson
Jody Nyquist	1984	Univ. of Washington	Fresno
John C. Hammerback	1983	CSU Hayward	Seattle
William W. Wilmot	1982	University of Montana	Albuquerque
Nancy G. McDermid	1981	San Francisco State University	Denver
Robert Vogelsang	1980	Portland State University	San Jose
Carmendale Fernandes	1979	Fremont H. S.	Portland
R. Wayne Pace	1978	Brigham Young	Los Angeles
Lucy M. Keele	1977	CSU Fullerton	Phoenix
Robert D. Kully	1976	CSU Los Angeles	San Francisco
Eldon E. Baker	1975	Univ. of Montana	Seattle
Walter R. Fisher	1974	USC	Newport Beach
Robert R. Boren	1973	Boise State	Albuquerque
John W. Keltner	1972	Oregon State	Honolulu
Donald J. Cameron	1971	CSU Northridge	Fresno
Marcella Oberle	1970	CSU Los Angeles	Portland
James McBath	1969	USC	San Diego
Harold Livingston	1968	Oregon State	Salt Lake City
Milton Dobkin	1967	Humboldt State University	Sacramento
Earl Cain	1966	CSU Long Beach	Seattle
Halbert Greaves	1965	University of Utah	Los Angeles
Ruth Jackson	1964	Palo Alto P.S.	Boulder
Joseph Wagner	1963	CSU Long Beach	San Francisco
John Wright	1962	CSU Fresno	Long Beach
Theodore O. H. Karl	1961	Pacific Lutheran	Fresno
Lawrence Mouat	1960	San Jose State University	Corvallis
Johnnye Akin	1959	Univ. of Denver	Palo Alto
Upton Palmer	1958	UC Santa Barbara	Salt Lake City
Kathleen Pendergast	1957	University of Washington	Santa Barbara
Milton Dickens	1956	USC	Eugene
Wayne Eubank	1955	University of New Mexico	Los Angeles
Alonzo Morley	1954	Brigham Young	Tucson

William McCoard	1953	USC	Fresno
Susie S. Niles	1952	SLC P.S.	Denver
Roy D. Mahaffey	1951	Linfield College	San Jose
Norman Freestone	1950	Occidental	Santa Barbara
Virgil A. Anderson	1949	Stanford	San Jose
Joseph H. Baccus	1948	Univ. of Redlands	Seattle
Robert D. Clark	1947	Univ. of Oregon	Salt Lake City
Mabel F. Gifford	1946	CA Dept of ED.	San Francisco
Alan Nichols	1945	USC	Los Angeles
Horace G. Rahskopf	1944	University of Washington	Divisional
EARL W. WELLS	1943	Oregon State	Denver/Salen
T. Earl Pardoe	1942	Brigham Young	No convention
Charles Lindsley	1941	Occidental	Salt Lake City
J. Richard Bietry	1940	Univ. of Colorado	Los Angeles
Elvina Miller	1939	Seattle P.S.	San Francisco
John L. Casteel	1938	Univ. of Colorado	Seattle
Elwood Murray	1937	Univ. of Denver	Denver
Edward Z. Rowell	1936	Univ. of California	Pasadena
Joseph F. Smith	1935	University of Utah	San Francisco
E. Ray Nichols	1934	Univ. of Redlands	Salt Lake City
Frederick W. Orr	1933	University of Washington	Portland
Ray K. Immel	1932	USC	Los Angeles
Lee Emerson Basset	1931	Stanford	Pasadena
W. Arthur Cable	1930	Univ. of Arizona	San Francisco
W. Arthur Cable	1929	Univ. or Arizona	San Francisco

**But for her untimely death, Leah Vande Berg would have served as President in 2006.*

Distinguished Service Award Recipients

Year	Name	School
2025	Sara Hayden	University of Montana
2024	No Award	
2023	Mark Bergstrom	University of Utah
2022	Heather Hundley	University of Nebraska, Omaha
2021	No award	
2020	Paul Mongeau	Arizona State University
2019	Kathy Adams	California State University, Fresno
2018	Mary Jane Collier	University of New Mexico
2017	Daniel Canary	University of Utah
2016	William F. Eadie	San Diego State University
2015	No Award	
2014	Sue Pendell	Colorado State University
2013	Janis Andersen	Emerson University
2012	Betsy W. Bach	University of Montana
2011	Robert K. Avery	University of Utah
2010	Myron "Ron" Lustig	San Diego State University
2009	John Cagle	California State University, Fresno
	Jo Sprague	San Jose State University
2008	Peter Andersen	San Diego State University
2007	Dawn O. Braithwaite	University of Nebraska
2006	Sandra Petronio	Indiana University, Purdue University - Indianapolis
2005	Leah Vande Berg	California State University, Sacramento
2004	Kenneth Frandsen	University of New Mexico
2003	Dennis Alexander	University of Utah
2002	Lynn K. Wells	Saddleback Community College
2001	William W. Wilmot	University of Montana
2000	Jody Nyquist	University of Washington
1999	David Natharius	California State University, Fresno
1998	Robert Boren	Boise State University
1997	Lucy Keele	California State University, Fullerton
1996	John "Sam" Keltner	Oregon State University
1995	Nancy G. McDermid	San Francisco State University
1994	Thomas M. Scheidel	University of Washington
1993	Jack A. Samosky	California State University, Hayward
1992	Malcolm O. Sillars	University of Utah
1991	James McBath	University of Southern California
1990	Walter Fisher	University of Southern California
1989	Gale Richards	Arizona State University
1988	Robert Kully	California State University, Los Angeles
1987	B. Aubrey Fisher	University of Utah
1986	Carmendale Fernandez Gertrude Baccus	Redlands High School
1985	Milton Dobkin Marcella Oberle	Humbolt State University California State University, Los Angeles
1984	Fred McMahon	California State University, Northridge

1983	No Award	
1982	Janet Bolton	University of Southern California
1981	Anthony Hillbruner	California State University, Los Angeles
1980	No Award	
1979	Thorrell Fest	University of Colorado

Distinguished Scholar Award Recipients

Year	Name	School
2025	Daniel J. Canary	San Diego State University
2024	Greg Dickinson	Colorado State University
2023	Laura Guerrero	Arizona State University
2022	Bernadette Calafell	Gonzaga University
2021	No award	
2020	Kent Ono	University of Utah
2019	Kory Floyd	University of Arizona
2018	Tom Nakayama	Northeastern University
2017	Wayne Beach	San Diego State University
2016	Craig R. Smith	California State University, Long Beach
2015	Sandra Petronio	Indiana University, Purdue University Indianapolis
2014	Dawn O. Braithwaite	University of Nebraska
2013	William R. Cupach	Illinois State University
2012	Peter A. Andersen	San Diego State University
2011	Sonja K. Foss	University of Colorado, Denver
2010	Walter R. Fisher	University of Southern California
2009	Brian H. Spitzberg	San Diego State University
2008	Leslie A. Baxter	University of Iowa

Distinguished Teaching Award Recipients

Year	Name	School
2025	Alena Amato Ruggerio	Southern Oregon University
2024	Leslie R. Nelson	California Polytechnic State University
2023	Brandi J. Lawless	University of San Francisco
2022	Fatima Zahrae Chrifi Alaoui	San Francisco State University
2021	No award	
2020	Erin Willer	University of Denver
2019	Sarah Tracy	Arizona State University
2018	Matthew Sanders	Utah State University
2017	Bryan R. Hirayama	Bakersfield College
2016	Patricia Geist-Martin	San Diego State University
2015	Lisa Keranen	University of Colorado, Denver
2014	Jonathan Bowman	University of San Diego
2013	Stacey Sowards	University of Texas at El Paso
2012	Stephen John Hartnett	University of Colorado, Denver

Model Communication Program Award

Recipients

Year	Institution	City
2025	Modesto Junior College	Modesto, CA
2024	Moorpark College	Moorpark, CA
2023	Santa Monica College	Santa Monica, CA
2022	Pierce College	Los Angeles, CA
2021	No award	
2020	Mt. San Antonio College	Walnut, CA
2019	El Camino College	Torrance, CA
2018	Glendale Community College	Glendale, CA
2017	Salt Lake Community College	Salt Lake City, UT
	East High School	Salt Lake City, UT
2016	College of the Canyons	Santa Clarita, CA
	Irvine Valley College	Irvine, CA
2015	Oxnard College	Oxnard, CA
2014	San Diego Mesa College	San Diego, CA
2013	Gavilan College	Gilroy, CA
2012	Cabrillo College	Aptos, CA
2011	Clark Community College	Vancouver, WA
	Clovis East High School	Clovis, CA
2010	No Award	
2009	No Award	
2008	Bakersfield College	Bakersfield, CA
2007	No Award	
2006	College of the Canyons	Santa Clarita, CA
2005	De Anza Community College	Cupertino, CA
	Granite Bay High School	Granite Bay, CA
2004	Albuquerque Vocational Technical Institute	Albuquerque, NM
2003	West High School	Salt Lake City, UT
	Cypress High School	Cypress, CA
2002	San Mateo College	San Mateo, CA
	Holtville High School	Holtville, CA
2001	Salt Lake Community College	Salt Lake City, UT
2000	Ohlone College	Fremont, CA

WSCA 96th Annual Conference Program

Thursday, February 26

Thu 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM | Cardiff A (Quiet Room)

Event Planning Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Chair: Anthony Cuomo (West Los Angeles College)

Co-Chair: Eric Wilson (Western States Communication Association)

Committee Member: Justin Boren (Santa Clara University), Shinsuke Eguchi (Wake Forest University), Stephanie Gomez (Western Washington University), Donna Gotch (California State University, San Bernardino) and Caitlyn Lewis (Western States Communication Association)

Thu 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM | Imperial

Finance Committee Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Chair: Greg Dickinson (Colorado State University)

Committee Member: Donna Gotch (California State University, San Bernardino), Michelle Holling (California State University San Marcos), Kent Ono (University of Utah) and Eric Wilson (Western States Communication Association)

Thu 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM | Pacifica

Publications Committee Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Chair: Santhosh Chandrashekar (University of Denver)

Committee Member: Marie Haverfield (San Jose State University), Cleophas Muneri (University of New Mexico), Casey Schmitt (West Chester University), Lisa Silvestri (Pennsylvania State University) and Wei Sun (Howard University)

Thu 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM | California Foyer

Registration & Information Desk Open

Stop by the registration desk to pick up your attendee badge and ask any questions you may have.

Thu 4:00 PM - 10:00 PM | Imperial

Executive Council Session I

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

The WSCA Executive Council meets twice during the convention. This is the first meeting.

Chair: Justin Boren (Western States Communication Association)

Committee Member: Kimberly Aguilar (California State University, Sacramento), Jim Cherney (University of Nevada, Reno), Anthony Cuomo (West Los Angeles College), Greg Dickinson (Colorado State University), Amy Edwards (Oxnard College), Shinsuke Eguchi (Wake Forest University), Stephanie Gomez (Western Washington University), Donna Gotch (California State University, San Bernardino), Keisuke Kimura (Miami University), Tara McManus (University of Nevada, Las Vegas), Shane Moreman (California State University, Fresno), Santhosh Rangamma-Chandrashekar (Univ. of Denver), Casey Schmitt (West Chester University), Lisa Silvestri (Pennsylvania State University), Kristen Stout (Missouri State University), Wei Sun (Howard University), Averie Vockel (University of Utah) and Eric Wilson (Western States Communication Association)



Friends of International Friendship Park

Friendship Park is a landmark location and the birthplace of the U.S.-Mexico border on the ancestral lands of the Kumeyaay nation. Our vision is that someday it should be a truly international park, akin to the several such parks that already exist on the border between the United States and Canada.

When we look across borders, we see people who are more alike than different. And so we look always for ways of promoting peace and understanding. We have an important story to tell and many wonderful ways for you to become a part of it.



www.internationalfriendshippark.org



[@friendshipparkusmx](https://www.instagram.com/friendshipparkusmx)



<https://www.facebook.com/FofPark>



communications@friendshippark.org



YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/@friendshiparksandiegotiju8733>



Friday, February 27

Fri 7:00 AM - 7:45 AM | California Foyer

USRC Registration

Fri 8:00 AM - 8:15 AM | Plaza A

USRC Welcome

Primary Sponsor: Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference

Chair: Stephanie Gomez (Western Washington University)

Co-Chair: Stacey Overholt (University of Utah)

Fri 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM | Cardiff A (Quiet Room)

Quiet Room

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

This designated quiet space offers a peaceful environment for attendees seeking respite from the conference's bustling activity. Stop by to reflect, meditate, or simply for a moment to step away from the conference. Tables and chairs are setup. We do ask that we preserve the space as a quiet zone. There is also a separate private room for prayer and another separate private space for lactation.

Fri 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM | California Foyer

Registration & Information Desk Open

Stop by the registration desk to pick up your attendee badge and ask any questions you may have.

Fri 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM | Pacifica

Editor's Review Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Chair: Santhosh Chandrashekar (University of Denver)

Committee Member: Justin Boren (Western States Communication Association), Casey Schmitt (West Chester University), Lisa Silvestri (Pennsylvania State University), Wei Sun (Howard University) and Eric Wilson (Western States Communication Association)

Fri 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM | La Jolla

Foundational Course Conference

Primary Sponsor: Foundational Course Conference

This year's Foundational Course Conference (formerly the Basic Course Conference) will be a rich, interactive session sure to engage all participants. The Conference this year offers a blend of discussions and activities, thoughtful position papers, and relevant G.I.F.T.S. All participants are requested (not required) to send a favorite quote about teaching to the Conference coordinator, Colleen McGoff Dean (cmcgoff@whatcom.edu) by Friday, February 20, 2026.

"The Hour of Humanity: Resisting Hegemony and Reaffirming Community in the Foundational Course"

Ryan Lescure (Skyline College)

"G.I.F.T.S. Submission: The Family History Speech"

Alice Fritz (California State University, Los Angeles), MyHanh Anderson (East Los Angeles College)

"The Mangle of AI and Pedagogy: The Dance of Resistance and Accommodation in an Oral Communication Course"

Alexander Tran (San Diego State University), Heather Canary (San Diego State University), Michael Rapp (San Diego State University)

"How Can Resisting Grade Trauma Transform The Oral Communication Course Into A Space For Process, Growth, And Resilience?"

Lucia Gordon (CSUSM)

"How can issues of identity, power, and systematic inequality be effectively integrated into an introductory interpersonal communication course?"

Jackson Miller (Linfield University), Clara Johansen (Linfield University)

"How to resist COVID and AI deficits in the Foundational Course"

Dana Marshall (Cal Poly Pomona)

"Resisting Pedagogical Devaluation in the Face of Systemic Educational Devaluation"

Kristen Herring (Oregon State University)

"'Informative Pundits': A Reimagining of the Traditional Informative Presentation Format"

Alice Fritz (California State University, Los Angeles), Michael Kaznetsis (East Los Angeles College)

Fri 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Coronado

Preconference Workshop (Registration Required)

Resistance in Qualitative Research in Communication Studies: Using Critical Thematic Analysis

This workshop introduces participants to Critical Thematic Analysis (CTA), a rigorous and reflexive approach to qualitative research in communication studies. Drawing from our published article (Lawless & Chen, 2019), we will provide an overview of the method, demonstrate its application, and engage participants in hands-on exercises using assigned examples: introductions (20 minutes), demonstration (30 minutes), 1st break (20 minutes), interactive practice (70 minutes), 2nd break (20 minutes), and round-table discussion (40 minutes).

Facilitators: Brandi Lawless (University of San Francisco), Yea-Wen Chen (San Diego State University)

Cost for Attendance: \$20

Fri 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM | Plaza A

USRC Awards and Closing

Primary Sponsor: Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference

Chair: Stephanie Gomez (Western Washington University)

Co-Chair: Stacey Overholt (University of Utah)

Off-Site Excursion: Turning Border Walls into Tables

Friday, February 27, 2:00–3:30 pm or
Saturday, February 28, 11:30 am–1:00 pm

Step into a story of resistance, art, and connection at one of the most symbolically charged sites of resistance on the West Coast at the California/Baja California border. This private, WSCA-only excursion invites you to gather around an original border wall segment once rooted in Friendship Park/El Parque de la Amistad—now transformed into one of 21 powerful cultural artifacts after they were replaced by the U.S. federal government in 2023.

Now preserved by the Friends of International Friendship Park and the Museum of Us, these towering pieces of steel are being reimagined as border tables—places where ordinary people can gather and reimagine objects meant to divide us.



Friends of
International
Friendship Park

museum
Museum of Us – All of us

During this intimate experience, you'll join in conversation around a preserved segment of the old border wall, hear of its history, and learn how activists, artists, and community leaders are reshaping public memory through the Border Wall Preservation Project. You'll also engage with an organizer who has actively worked to advance a vision of amistad a través de las fronteras—friendship across borders—and who will share where the movement goes next.

Location: The Museum of Us, San Diego. Participants will ride-share to the museum. **Registration required. WSCA is pleased to offer this excursion at no cost. Please scan QR code below to register.**



Fri 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM | La Jolla
Preconference Workshop (Registration Required)

Grief, Grounding, and the Bell: Communicating Through Burnout Toward Belonging

This restorative workshop explores how grief, burnout, and emotional labor impact our work as educators. Through mindful rituals like “inviting the bell,” breathwork, and trauma-informed communication, participants will learn practices that regulate the nervous system and restore connection in the classroom. Grounded in Communication Studies and somatic wisdom, this session offers tools to support healing, resilience, and resistance through relational pedagogy.

Facilitator: Skye Gentile (Cabrillo College & NCU)
Cost for Attendance: \$20

Fri 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM | Plaza A

Graduate Workshop

Primary Sponsor: Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference
Chair: Stephanie Gomez (Western Washington University)
Co-Chair: Stacey Overholt (University of Utah)

Fri 3:45 PM - 5:00 PM | California Ballroom AB

Graduate Program Open House

Primary Sponsor: Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference
Chair: Stephanie Gomez (Western Washington University)
Co-Chair: Stacey Overholt (University of Utah)

Fri 5:15 PM - 7:30 PM | Garden Terrace

96th Annual Convention Welcome Celebration & Kickoff: Resistance

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association
Join your Western colleagues as we kickoff the 96th annual convention. We will have a cash bar, a kickoff address by WSCA President-elect Anthony P. Cuomo and a lot of opportunity to meet and mingle with your Western colleagues.

We are so grateful to [W. W. Norton & Company](#) for their sponsorship of the Kickoff.



W. W. NORTON & COMPANY

Independent and Employee-Owned

Fri 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM | Garage Kitchen & Bar (Offsite)

Executives Club Business Meeting & Social

Primary Sponsor: Executives Club

The annual Executives Club Dinner/Social is to be held off site at Garage Kitchen & Bar, which is walking distance from the hotel.

Saturday, February 28

8:00 AM - 9:45 AM | California Foyer

Morning Coffee and Snacks Provided by Colorado State University



COMMUNICATION STUDIES
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Enjoy coffee and a selection of assorted snacks, sponsored by [Colorado State University](#).

Sat 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM | California Foyer

Registration & Information Desk Open

Stop by the registration desk to pick up your attendee badge and ask any questions you may have.

Sat 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM | Cardiff A (Quiet Room)

Quiet Room

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

This designated quiet space offers a peaceful environment for attendees seeking respite from the conference's bustling activity. Stop by to reflect, meditate, or simply for a moment to step away from the conference. Tables and chairs are setup. We do ask that we preserve the space as a quiet zone. There is also a separate private room for prayer and another separate private space for lactation.

Sat 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | Solana

2027 Program Planners Meeting I

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Join Donna Gotch, 1st Vice President and 2027 Primary Program Planner to discuss the plans for the Los Angeles convention. This session should be attended by the program planner for each interest group. There is one session Saturday Morning and one session Sunday Morning.

Chair: Donna Gotch (California State University, San Bernardino)

Committee Member: Eric Wilson (Western States Communication Association)

Panelist: Anthony Cuomo (West Los Angeles College)

Sun 4:15 PM - 5:15 PM | Plaza B

Argumentation, Persuasion & Forensics Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Argumentation, Persuasion, & Forensics

Chair: Ashley Givens (Salt Lake Community College)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Kristen Stout (Missouri State University)

Committee Member: Matthew Parnell (Baylor University)

Sat 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | Sierra A

Community College Interest Group AM Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Community College

Chair: Kristen Stout (Missouri State University)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Michelle Brownlee (Los Angeles Pierce College)

Committee Member: Kevin Briancesco (Los Angeles Valley College) and Nicole (Nikki) Morrison-Fountain (Independent Scholar)

Sat 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | Sierra B

Intercultural Communication Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Intercultural Communication

Chair: Tomide Oloruntobi (Arizona State University)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Dacheng Zhang (Utah Tech University)

Committee Member: Soham Sen (The University of New Mexico)

Sat 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | Santa Fe

Interpersonal & Family Communication Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Interpersonal & Family Communication

Chair: Leslie Nelson (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Morgan Morley (California State University, Sacramento)

Committee Member: Shelby Singh (Arizona State University - Hugh Downs School of Human Communication)

Sat 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | Plaza A

Communication, Self, and Social Construction Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Communication, Self, and Social Construction

Chair: Kyle Gutzmer (San Diego State University)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Alan Hansen (Carroll College)

Sat 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | Imperial

Performance Studies Interest Group Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Performance Studies

Chair: Tyler Rife (St. Lawrence University), Ana Terminel Iberri (San Francisco State University) and Michael Tristano (Towson University)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Sam Nguyen (Arizona State University - Tempe)

Committee Member: Eleanor "Ellie" Estrada (University of Utah)

Sat 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | Plaza C

Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy

Chair: Ian Derk (Arizona State University), Sarah Dweik (Penn State University), Matthew Parnell (Baylor University) and Liahna Stanley (University of Utah)

Panelist: Ragan Fox (California State University, Long Beach)

Sat 9:15 AM - 10:30 AM | Solana

When DEI Can't Save You: Using Intercultural Communication to Conceptualize Resistance To/Through/From/Within/Around DEI-Related Issues on College Campuses

Primary Sponsor: Intercultural Communication

This panel will use intercultural communication theory to explore strategy and resistance to/through/from/within/around DEI-related issues. Panelists will discuss experiences with (anti)diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts within US colleges and universities. DEI is a controversial issue impacting scholars in different ways. Surely, intercultural communication has something to say about current events.

Recently the US federal government alleged illegal actions at UCLA, UC Irvine, UC Berkeley, Stanford and other universities throughout the West Coast (Kaleem, 2025). On the East Coast, the Trump administration demanded an apology from a university president for diversity practices (U.S. News & World Report, 2025).

The panel will conceptualize strategic resistance through narratives about marginalized identities and non-dominant voices at a time when national policies are impacting diverse individuals and groups. The panel meets the WSCA Intercultural Communication Interest Group's commitment to amplify spaces for dialogue and understanding by using theories of intercultural communication to explore unique experiences.

Chair: Tomide Oloruntobi (Arizona State University)

Respondent: Damariye Smith (San Diego State University)

Panelist: Shreya Chhagan (Chapman University), Serap Erincin (ASU), Rona Halualani (San Jose State University), Mark Hopson (Chapman University) and Lionnell "Badu" Smith (San Francisco State University)

Sat 9:15 AM - 10:30 AM | Plaza C

Bridging Roles: The Pedagogical Duality of Graduate Teaching Assistants in Communication Studies

Primary Sponsor: Communication and Instruction

This panel bridges the complex and often conflicting experiences of Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTA's) who navigate the roles of both graduate student and instructor within the field of Communication Studies. Panelists will explore a wide range of topics that center the tensions of these dual identities and resistance towards harmful pedagogical and institutional norms. An interactive discussion will center GTA's development of communication, pedagogy, and their emerging expertise.

Moderator: Nicole (Nikki) Morrison-Fountain (Independent Scholar)

Panelist: Tumininu Awonuga (Arizona State University), Aly Hill (The University of Utah), Naadiyahtu Iddrisu (Michigan State University), Emma Mink (San Francisco State University), Sarah Sevy (California State University Fresno) and Zachary Waters (Communication Studies Department, San Francisco State University)

Sat 9:15 AM - 10:30 AM | Plaza B

Critical Race and Ethnic Encounters Through Performance

Primary Sponsor: Performance Studies

Chair: Tyler Rife (St. Lawrence University)

Respondent: Tyler Rife (St. Lawrence University)

"Not Like Us": Unraveling Black American Disidentification"

Kelsey Stanfield (Bowling Green State University)

"Waves; Waves of Her"

Gavin Vincent Ebo (California State University Northridge)

"Rock Too Hard, and the Boat Will Sink: A Filipino American Settler Colonial Autoethnography"

Miguel Christopher Tanjuakio (California State University Northridge (CSUN))

"Untamed: An Autoethnographic Performance of Black Girlhood and Resistance"

Yaminah Legohn (Cal State Northridge)

"A Metaphorical Criticism Of Kendrick Lamar's Halftime Performance"

Nadalie Leon-Munoz (CSULB)

Sat 9:15 AM - 10:30 AM | Sierra A

ELEVATE Resistance via Reader's Theater

Primary Sponsor: Community College

Reader's Theater is a performative vehicle that can create a space where levels of consciousness are raised with a shared experience that challenges and resists the status quo. Irvine Valley College's ELEVATE AAPI, an Asian American Pacific Islander academic support program, uses the power of performance vis-à-vis a Reader's Theater to combat stereotypes that perpetuates the Model Minority Myth. The cast will perform identifiable and engaging stories and perform poetry to bridge the gap of the unknown with the known. With an ensemble cast of community college students, ELEVATE AAPI's Reader's Theater troop offers a 25-minute performance that resists the Model Minority Myth, combats the viewpoint of the perpetual foreigner to see the cast members of community college students as the unique individuals they are, agents of change armed with a black belt in storytelling. Be entertained and moved to resist what you already know about this student population.

Chair: Edwin Tiongson (Irvine Valley College)

Respondent: Amy Edwards (Oxnard College)

Sat 9:15 AM - 10:30 AM | Coronado

Exploring the Communication of Resistance at the Intersections of Food, Community, and Place.

Primary Sponsor: Environmental Communication

Together we will explore critical questions relating to food, community, and identity formation through place-based practices. Through articulation of three separate projects, we will illustrate the possibility for resistance and identity-building in community spaces related to food and its emplaced practices. We will explore the role of communication in building, maintaining, and amplifying these food-related movements and how communication fosters new relationships with local environments and ecological systems.

Chair: Kristen Cole (San Jose State University)

Panelist: Donovan Conley (University of Nevada, Las Vegas), Greg Dickinson (Colorado State University) and Christina Yoshimura (University of Montana)

Sat 9:15 AM - 10:30 AM | Plaza A

Great Ideas for Teaching Students (GIFTS) - Learning Through Game Play and Interconnectedness

Primary Sponsor: Community College

"G.I.F.T.S. - Resistance Through Reflection: Intersectionality & Mapping Identity"

Shanti Charan (Ohlone College)

"Intercultural Communication Journal"

Ivan Ornelas (College of Marin)

"WHO DUNNIT? THE USE OF THE MYSTERY BOX IN SMALL GROUP COMMUNICATION"

Lindsay Gagnon (Colorado State University)

"Heads Up 3 Up! Commodity Fetishism Edition"

Ruby Knizewski (California State University, Long Beach)

"“Is This Supposed To Be Buttering Me Up?” Employing Role-Playing Ideas for Persuading Your Audience"

Nancy Bressler (West Virginia Wesleyan College)

"Zines! Creativity and Resistance in the Age of AI"

Colleen Mihal (College of Marin)

"Resisting the Robot: Guiding Students Through Ethical AI Use"

Andi Zamora (Bellingham Technical College)

Sat 9:15 AM - 10:30 AM | Imperial

LOST AND FOUND IN THE COUNTERARCHIVE OF WORLD MUSIC ~ A SOLO PERFORMANCE ~

Primary Sponsor: Performance Studies

What does it mean to inherit a song that is not yours, yet has already shaped the world you live in? This 45 minute solo work blends memoir, music journalism, theory, and live dulcimer performance to explore how Indigenous musics have both ushered in and been erased by modernity. From Afunakwa's *Rorogwela* to Appalachian echoes and queer club anthems, the piece navigates cultural border crossings, archival gaps, and the strange intimacies of early internet culture. Embodying Diana Taylor's provocation to consider both archive and repertoire, it stages performance as resistance: a polyphony of memory, authorship, and entanglement.

Chair: Michael Tristano (Towson University)

Respondent: Michael Tristano (Towson University)

"LOST AND FOUND IN THE COUNTERARCHIVE OF WORLD MUSIC ~ A SOLO PERFORMANCE ~"

Pavithra Prasad (California State University, Northridge)

Sat 9:15 AM - 10:30 AM | La Jolla

Public Memory as Resistance to Gender Erasure

Primary Sponsor: Organization for Feminist Research on Gender Communication

This hybrid interactive panel seeks to consider how communication scholars and practitioners can use the theoretical framework and practices of public memory to engage in resistance to gender erasure as larger systematic and systemic systems seek to erase gender diverse peoples and their accomplishments. Scholars from across the discipline and career points will discuss how we can challenge erasure through public memory from a feminist/gendered lens.

Chair: Victoria McDermott (University of Alaska Fairbanks Troth Yeddha)

Panelist: Victoria Dropps (University of Alaska Fairbanks Troth Yeddha), Ayleen Gontz (University of Alaska Fairbanks Troth Yeddha), Leandra Hernandez (The University of Utah), Stevie Munz (Utah Valley University), Jakki Padilla (University of Alaska Anchorage), Laura Pignato (College of William & Mary) and Olivia Truban (Virginia Commonwealth University)

Sat 9:15 AM - 10:30 AM | Sierra B

**Race, Resistance, and Identity: Language Use in Racial and Ethnic Identity
Construction and Defense**

Primary Sponsor: Communication, Self, and Social Construction

Chair: Alan Hansen (Carroll College)

Co-Chair: Christopher Koenig (San Francisco State University)

"Making Space Asian: Negotiating Race in an Asian American Sorority"

Yitong Ma (University of Colorado Boulder)

"Asexual of Color Resistance to Allonormativity and Minority Stress: A Word Association Study"

ben Brandley (Eastern Arizona College)

"Neoliberal Multiculturalism Meets Love Island: Language, Middle Eastern Representation, and Discursive Identity Work"

Saeed Dabbour (University of Oregon)

"“Land talk” and construction of ecocultural identities in southern Colorado"

Urszula Adamska (University of Colorado Boulder)

"Discursive Construction of Legal Knowledge and Advocacy for Native Rights: A Study of a Native Rights Law Clinic"

Mervenur Cetin (CU Boulder)

"Constructing Feminism in the Ghanaian Political Space: A Critical Rhetorical Analysis of the 2024 Outdooring Speech of a Female Running Mate"

Winifred Sekyibea Abakah (University of Colorado Boulder)

"A critical race discourse analysis of r/SexWorkers: postcolonial eroticism, postimperial delusions and anti-black postracialism"

Xiaodong Yan (University of Colorado Boulder)

Sat 9:15 AM - 10:30 AM | Harbor B

Resistance Rhetorics in Pop Culture and Music

Primary Sponsor: Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy

Chair: Charlotte Addison (Colorado State University)

"Equipment for Living in The Real Housewives of Salt Lake City"

Jeremy Murphy (Ohio University)

"Resisting Rhetorics of Perfection in Musical Discourse"

Jeff St. Onge (Ohio Northern University)

"The Kaiju of War: (Re)imagining Rhetorical Agency and Embodiment of Identity in Godzilla Minus One (2023)"

Keisuke Kimura (Miami University), **Tyson Jung** (Miami University)

"Screams of the Oppressed with Rage Against the Machine"

Luis Garcia (California State University Northridge)

"Resistance and Rebellion in ‘Do the Right Thing’ at the intersection of Rhetoric and Race"

Rita Aga (San Francisco State University)

Sat 9:15 AM - 10:30 AM | Balboa

Resistance will be Televised

Primary Sponsor: Media Studies

Chair: Aryana Gooley-Carson (Sierra College)

"What War?: Examining South Korean Ideologies on Class and Globalization in Culinary Class Wars (2024)"

Kai Levato (CSU, Sacramento)

"Let Them Eat Flower Sprinkles: Meghan Markle, Performative Poverty, and the Tradwife Aesthetic"

Stacey Overholt (University of Utah), Stephanie Gomez (Western Washington University)

"Don't Say Gay, Don't Say Zombie: A Queer Criticism of Santa Clarita Diet"

Chloe Hogan (California State University Long Beach)

"I am Mourning the Loss of Michael Stirling": Romance Readers' Discourse about the Gender Swap in Bridgerton"

Stephanie Gomez (Western Washington University), Victoria Boyle (Independent Scholar)

Sat 9:15 AM - 10:30 AM | Del Mar

Sex, Horror, Pop Sensations, & the Dispute over Public Lands

Primary Sponsor: Environmental Communication

Chair: Megan Cullinan (The University of Montana, Missoula)

"'Nature is closed': settler entitlement and the case of Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument"

Natalie Hamren (University of New Mexico), Sarah Seroy (University of New Mexico)

"Horrorifying Images of the Environment: A Rhetorical Analysis of Gender in Eco-Horror Films"

Emma Bloomfield (UNLV), Julianna Jovillar (University of Nevada Las Vegas)

"#OnlyParks: Social Media Resistance and the Memeification of Image Events"

Melissa Parks (University of Utah), **Maria Blevins** (Utah Valley University), Megan Cullinan (The University of Montana, Missoula), Meaghan McKasy (University of Utah), Mariko Thomas (Skagit Valley College)

"'The Rhetoric of No.": A Critical Discourse Analysis of Grassroots Environmental Messaging in the Fight to Protect Public Lands"

Joshua Lenart (University of Utah)

"The Anti-Hero of the Climate Movement: Examining Taylor Swift and Jetgate"

Natalie Hamren (University of New Mexico)

Sat 9:15 AM - 10:30 AM | Harbor A

Top Papers in Communication, Identities & Difference

Primary Sponsor: Communication, Identities & Difference

"When Scholars Confront Alienation (WSCA): Navigating Language Choices and Cultural Identity in Academic Spaces"

Lizbeth Lemus (College of the Sequoias)

"Caught in Circulation: Digital Im/mobility and Fragmentation of Sex Worker Discourse"

Hannah Elizabeth Rose Mattingly (California State University, Long Beach)

"Paws, Privilege, and Pigment: The Narrative of Latinos' Invisible Battle with Colorism"

Camila Polanco (CSULB)

Sat 9:15 AM - 10:30 AM | Santa Fe

Top Papers in Interpersonal & Family Communication

Primary Sponsor: Interpersonal & Family Communication

Chair: Morgan Morley (California State University, Sacramento)

"Good Things Come to Those Who Wait? Untangling the Role of Memorable Messages for Evangelical Couples Coping with Painful Intercourse During Early Marriage"

Arielle Leonard Hodges (George Fox University)

"When Are Low Person-Centered Support Messages Effective and Appropriate? A Qualitative Validation and Revision of the LPC Message Effectiveness Model"

Holly Rushing (The University of Tampa), Colter Ray (University of Tampa)

"It Doesn't Matter What Happens, It Doesn't Matter How You Feel. None of it Matters. Just Get Through It": Exploring the Content and Impact of Memorable Messages about Mental Health in Black Families"

Leslie Nelson (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo), Rowan Colleary (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo)

"Rejection Sensitivity as a Mediator of Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Intimate Partner Violence"

Ella Cuneo (University of Washington)

Sat 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Plaza C

Academic Freedom Under Fire: Holding the Line in Higher Education

Primary Sponsor: Freedom of Expression and Political Communication

This roundtable gathers emerging and early-career scholars to examine higher education as a contested site of free expression and resistance. Panelists address barriers to inquiry under DEI crackdowns: studying migrants and refugees through technology and power; exposing how technologies shame women's bodies amid Trump-era attacks; navigating academia as an international-U.S. doctoral student researching undocumented populations; and confronting DEI bans that simultaneously threaten research trajectories and PhD applications. Collectively, they highlight repression while modeling resistance.

Panelist: Maya Cancio Vendel (University of Colorado, Boulder), Athena Cole (San Diego State University), Molly Frizzel (University of Southern California) and Eduardo González (San Diego State University)

"Academic Freedom Under Fire: Holding the Line in Higher Education"

Maya Cancio Vendel (University of Colorado, Boulder), Athena Cole (San Diego State University), Eduardo González (San Diego State University), Molly Frizzel (University of Southern California)

Sat 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | La Jolla

Data Analysis: Thirty Fifth Annual Data Session

Primary Sponsor: Communication, Self, and Social Construction

Come join this hands-on, fun, interactive session! Drawing on the multiple streams of LSS scholarship, program participants and audience members together as a group will analyze a data fragment of language in use from a variety of settings. For example, we may examine game playing interaction, how stories are told, episodes of friends teasing each other, family members fighting during dinner, co-workers gossiping, giving good news in medical encounters, or considering this year's theme, moments of resisting! All are invited and welcome as we collaboratively explore diverse analytic perspectives on the same data segment

Chair: Charlotte Jones (Carroll College)

Panelist: Wayne Beach (San Diego State University), Kyle Gutzmer (San Diego State University), Alan Hansen (Carroll College), Brian Heisterkamp (California State University, San Bernardino), Charlotte Jones (Carroll College), Christopher Koenig (San Francisco State University) and Leah Wingard (San Francisco State University)

Sat 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Del Mar

Feminist Pedagogy: Teaching Resistance in Times of Crisis

Primary Sponsor: Communication and Instruction

This panel brings together editorial board members from Feminist Pedagogy to explore resistance as a foundational principle of feminist teaching and an essential tool for intervening in a world marked by systemic oppression and inequality. As educators committed to feminist praxis, we understand the classroom as a critical site of struggle and possibility—a space that facilitates resistance, fosters resilience, and promotes social justice.

Chair: Rachel Silverman (Boise State University Dept of Communication)

Moderator: Emily Ryalls (California Polytechnic State University)

Panelist: Janell Bauer, Diane Keeling (University of San Diego), Megan Lambertz-Berndt and Jillian Tullis

Sat 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Sierra B

Identity & Power in Communication

Primary Sponsor: Intercultural Communication

Chair: Shirleena Baggett (Independent Scholar)

Respondent: Godfried Asante (San Diego State University)

"Psychological Pathways to Secession: Happiness as a Mediator Between Perceived Discrimination and Preferences Towards the Form of State."

Elvis Nshom (CSU San Marcos)

"The Orient in the Southwest: How spiritual tourism perpetuates cultural colonialism and orientalism"

Natalie Hamren (University of New Mexico)

"Divergent interpretations of Oppenheimer: Stories Told, Storied Omitted"

Tomoko MASUMOTO (Kansai University)

Sat 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Coronado

International Rhetorics in Resistance

Primary Sponsor: Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy

Chair: Larissa Favela (Ohlone Community College)

"Bridges of Belonging: African Markets as Transnational Spaces of Memory and Identity"

Faizat Asifat (Arizona State University)

"Rohingya Representation in The Daily Star: Framing Analysis Through Rhetorical Perspective"

Subarna Mazumder (The University of New Mexico)

"From Immersion to Resistance: Rethinking Bordering Rhetoric and the Global Imaginary in Study Abroad Programming"

Nicole Allen (Nicole Allen)

"Hijacked Victimhood and Internalized Orientalism: An Asian Critical Theoretical Approach to Duterte's Rhetoric in the War on Drugs"

Ruby Knizewski (California State University, Long Beach)

"STRONGLY WORDED LETTERS: Identity, Ideology, and Written Resistance in the Luddite Riots"

Jared Jensen (CSU Sacramento)

Sat 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Santa Fe

Intersectionality, Erased Perspectives, & Striving for Flourishing Community Health

Primary Sponsor: Environmental Communication

Chair: Ashleigh Day (Northern Arizona University)

"Environmental Health Literacy through an Intersectional Perspective: A Content Analysis of NIEHS-Funded Community Engagement Cores of P30 NIEHS-funded projects"

Mina Sayadi (University of New Mexico), Tamar Ginossar (University of New Mexico)

"The Forrest Galante Digital Safari: Parachute Science and the Erasure of the Indigenous Person"

Benjamin Mason (El Camino College)

"The Taft-Nicholson Environmental Humanities Education Center (TNEHEC): Case Study on Balancing Communities through the Indigenous Six Rs"

Dalaki Livingston (University of Utah), Melissa Parks (University of Utah), Mark Bergstrom (University of Utah)

"Understanding Water Risks Through Communication: A Path Toward Social Change"

Zoe Zidzik (Northern Arizona University)

"The Role of Aesthetics Across Rhetoric and Performance, Vegetally"

Oliver Tripp (Pennsylvania State University)

Sat 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Harbor A

Joy as Resistance: Reimagining Classrooms and Learning Communities

Primary Sponsor: Community College

This panel explores joy as a necessary form of resistance in classrooms, learning communities, and broader educational systems. Too often, academic spaces privilege struggle, rigidity, and exclusivity and leave little room for students to experience learning as joyful. Panelists will discuss working definitions of joy that can coexist with hardship, honoring struggle while also making space for laughter and belonging. This panel invites participants to reimagine joy as resistance on four levels: faculty presence, student practices, instructional structures, and systemic change. Together, we will ask: How can joy disrupt oppressive norms, honor hardship, and reclaim the intrinsic love of learning? While sharing personal and researched definitions of joy, as well as, the various challenges community college students face while pursuing their academic goals, panelists will discuss how their classrooms become spaces of resistance. Replicable practices that transform classrooms into centers of belonging and resistance will be shared.

Chair: Elizabeth Coleman (American River College)

Panelist: Sarah Billington (Salt Lake Community College), Tanika Byrd (Cosumnes River College), Sheryl Rix (Pikes Peak State College) and Andi Zamora (Bellingham Technical College)

"Joy as Resistance: Reimagining Classrooms and Learning Communities"

Elizabeth Coleman (American River College), Tanika Byrd (Cosumnes River College), Sarah Billington (Salt Lake Community College), Sheryl Rix (Pikes Peak State College)

Sat 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Sierra A

Political Rhetoric & Public Deliberation of Environmental Policy

Primary Sponsor: Environmental Communication

Chair: Joshua Smith (Davidson College)

"Reagan's Enigmatic Environmentalism: Reconstructing an Unspoken Rationale for the Regulation of Industry"

Leah Ceccarelli (University of Washington)

"Public Sphere's Theoretical Disruption of Dominant Frameworks: Laughing in Darkness as Resistance and Advocacy in Ecuador's Outage Crisis"

Denisse Vasquez-Guevara (Cal Poly Pomona), Judith McIntosh White (University of New Mexico)

"Towards a Political Ecological Frame Analysis: Tracing the socio-natural framing of "water over gold" in El Salvador"

James Alejandro Artiga-Purcell (San José State University)

"Defying the Green Gap: Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis of Jane Goodall's Advocacy Communication"

Victoria Dripps (University of Alaska Fairbanks Troth Yeddha)

Sat 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Imperial

Top Papers in Feminist Research on Gender and Communication

Primary Sponsor: Organization for Feminist Research on Gender Communication

Top Paper Award: Ana I. Terminel Iberri, "Examining Cultura and Identidad: Platicando with Latinx Youth"

Top Student Paper Award: Clara Lopes C Fiuza Borges, "Bitch, I don't want to ride a horse": Menstruation Commercials and the Reinforcement of Colonial and Capitalist Power Through Whiteness"

Brenda Allen Travel Grant Awardee: Dustin Martinez, "(Re)Claiming Joterianess: The Constant Baile of (Un)Defining Queer Borders through Joteria*Cultural Criticism"

Top Debut Paper: Millicent Elewosi and Evans Asante Agyapong, "Naked Protests in Africa: A Critical Reading and Theorizing of African Resistance"

Top Debut Paper: Dorothy McGinnis, "Country or Cuntry? Buckle Bunnies, Blondeness, and Resistant Storytelling in American Country Music"

Chair: Brystal Nevins-Grimm (Colorado State University)

Respondent: Raisa Alvarado (California State University, San Bernardino)

Sat 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Plaza B

WSCA Distinguished Scholar Session: Dr. Dan Canary

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Panelist and audience members will honor Dr. Dan Canary, 2025 WSCA Distinguished Scholar, for his valuable scholarly contribution to the discipline.

Respondent: Daniel Canary (San Diego State University)

Panelist: Peter Andersen (San Diego State University), Dawn Braithwaite (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), Laura Guerrero (Arizona State University, Hugh Downs School of Human Communication), Valerie Manusov (University of Washington), Brian Spitzberg (San Diego State University) and Harry Weger (University of Central Florida)

Sat 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Plaza A

“Defying Forensic Borderlands”: Exploring Forms of Resistance through Intercollegiate Forensic Outreach and Engagement with Local Community Support Programs

Primary Sponsor: Argumentation, Persuasion, & Forensics

Understanding the theme of “examining how communication facilitates resistance, fosters resilience, and promotes social justice”, this roundtable discussion explores how intercollegiate forensic programs assist in resisting dominant discourses by working alongside grassroots organizations within their local communities. Discussing the ways forensic programs can lend their skills in advocacy, argumentation, persuasion, and performance to expand the impact of these grassroots organizations, this roundtable highlights strategies and opportunities for forensic programs to participate further in community engagement.

Moderator: Nicole (Nikki) Morrison-Fountain (Independent Scholar)

Panelist: Abel Chavez (Butte Community College), Kylie Duncan (San Francisco State University), Charlie Garcia-Spiegel (City College of San Francisco), Ryan Guy (Modesto Junior College), Nicole (Nikki) Morrison-Fountain (Independent Scholar), Douglas Mungin (Solano Community College - Fairfield) and Zachary Waters (San Francisco State University)

Sat 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM

Designated Break

Sat 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM | Private Dining Room

Officer’s Review

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

WSCA Officers meet to discuss the convention.

Chair: Justin Boren (Santa Clara University)

Committee Member: Anthony Cuomo (West Los Angeles College), Shinsuke Eguchi (Wake Forest University), Stephanie Gomez (Western Washington University), Donna Gotch (California State University, San Bernardino), Eric Wilson (Western States Communication Association)

Sat 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM | Del Mar

Building Big Dreams on a Community College Budget: Virtual Production and LED Wall Filmmaking at Salt Lake Community College

Primary Sponsor: Media Studies

This session features student-produced clips and behind-the-scenes photos showing how the LED wall transforms both production work and classroom instruction at Salt Lake Community College. This session will also feature an original documentary film screening of *Costal Consiounsness* along with a presentation/discussion with the filmmaker.

"A Filmmaker's Dream: Pathways of Resistance"

David Lehleitner (Salt Lake Community Central Re)

"Coastal Consciousness: San Diego (Documentary, 2025/ Competitive Interactive & Digital Media)"

James Wicks (Point Loma Nazarene University), Nathan Gibbs (Point Loma Nazarene University)

Sat 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM | Sierra B

Bill Eadie Memorial Panel

Please join us to share memories and pay respect to our colleague Dr. Bill Eadie.

Chair: Heather Canary (San Diego State University)

Panelist: Kathy Adams (California State University, Fresno), Wayne Beach (San Diego State University), Dawn Braithwaite (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), Patricia O'Keefe (College of Marin)

Sat 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM | Plaza B

Elevating Intersectional Servingness of Latine Students at Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)

Primary Sponsor: Communication and Instruction

This panel examines how resistance informs the work of serving Latine students at Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs). Panelists highlight the tensions of supporting students whose identities intersect across race, ethnicity, class, gender, ability, caregiving status, and immigration experience. Sharing personal and professional insights, participants resist deficit-oriented framings that depict Latine students as lacking, instead centering students' strengths, resilience, and lived experiences. Drawing from diverse institutional contexts and professional roles, the panel explores how relational mentorship, culturally sustaining curriculum, and advocacy efforts challenge systemic inequities. Topics include resisting assimilationist pressures through pedagogies that affirm cultural identities, resisting marginalization by amplifying faculty mentorship and community care, and resisting institutional inertia through policy reforms, inclusive hiring, and accountability measures. Collectively, these conversations invite attendees to imagine intersectional servingness as an act of resistance, an intentional disruption of exclusionary norms that too often undermine Latine student success in the basic course and beyond.

Panelist: Raisa Alvarado (California State University, San Bernardino), Robert Gutierrez (California State University, San Marcos), Sergio Juárez (Cal Poly San Luis Obispo), Oscar Mejía (California

State University, LA), Kelly Opdycke (CSU, Northridge), Ana Terminel Iberri (San Francisco State University) and Melissa Tindage (California State University Northridge)

Sat 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM | Plaza C

Environmental Archives as Inventional Scenes of Memory and Resistance

Primary Sponsor: Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy

This panel lingers on the tensions of environment and archive, exploring how rhetorical and communicative practices of collecting, recording, remembering, and forgetting are reshaped when environments become—or resist becoming—archival. Each presentation investigates the capacities of environmental archives to constrain and to invent more just futures. Within this epoch of polycrisis, when climate crisis, racial injustice, and urban violence underscore the urgency of documenting and imagining otherwise, the question of how we conceptualize and practice environmental archives is necessary. The panel brings together diverse approaches—theoretical explorations of environmental archivism, research-creation methods, coalitional memory work, community-based living archives—to expand rhetorical studies' engagement with archives beyond traditional boundaries.

Panelist: Leslie Harris (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Nicolas Hernandez (Santa Clara University), Michelle Holling (California State University San Marcos), Jason Kalin (DePaul University), Diane Keeling (University of San Diego) and Nathan Stormer (University of Maine)

Sat 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM | Plaza A

Great Ideas for Teaching Students (GIFTS) - Top GIFTS of the 2026 Convention

Primary Sponsor: Community College

Chair: Kristen Stout (Missouri State University)

"G.I.F.T.S. - "Whose Voice Is Missing?": Teaching Muted Group Theory Through Resistance-Oriented Media Analysis"

Shanti Charan (Ohlone College)

"Woke? MAGA? Can Someone Please Tell Me What's Cool?": Exploring Critical Listening and Persuasive Techniques to Employ Resistance"

Nancy Bressler (West Virginia Wesleyan College)

"Resisting Traditional Hierarchies in the Communication Classroom through Ungrading and Grading Contracts"

Toni Maisano (Oregon State University)

"Fact or fiction: Cultivating Media Literacy Through Fake News Creation"

Maura Snyder (Canisius University), Alanna Peebles (San Diego State University)

"Fairness for All: Experiential Role-Play to Build Trust and Equity in the Classroom"

Michelle Brownlee (Los Angeles Pierce College)

"LOOK CLOSER: RESISTING MINDLESS ACCEPTANCE OF GENERATIVE AI RESULTS USING LOGICAL FALLACIES"

Leslie Collins (Modesto Junior College)

Sat 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM | Imperial

Media Explorations of Identities

Primary Sponsor: Communication, Identities & Difference

Chair: Jim Cherney (University of Nevada Reno)

Respondent: Jim Cherney (University of Nevada Reno)

"A different man, the same burden: An ideological critique of neoliberal disability discourse and the individualization of impairment in A Different Man"

Megan Lauricella (California State University Long Beach)

"Sex Kitten to Sultry Cougar: Brooke Shields, the Aging White American Female Sex Symbol"

Kelsey Stanfield (Bowling Green State University)

"Ayoko! (I refuse): A Textual Analysis of Ruby Ibarra's Circa91"

Miguel Christopher Tanjuakio (California State University Northridge (CSUN))

"Harmonious Resisting: A Chinese Culture-centered Feminist Analysis of Women's Negotiations of the Gendered Label "Fe-male" (女汉子)"

Hongfei Zhang (Colorado State University)

Sat 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM | La Jolla

Methodological Mavericks: Creative and Participatory Approaches to Communication Inquiry

Primary Sponsor: Communication Theory and Research

Tired of the same old research methods? This panel showcases creative, participatory approaches that make communication inquiry more engaging, equitable, and alive. Panelists highlight innovations ranging from composite performance figures and asset-based storytelling to drawing analysis, photovoice, and LEGO® Serious Play®. Together, they demonstrate how methodological imagination can disrupt mainstream norms, amplify marginalized voices, and open fresh pathways for qualitative scholarship, social justice, and methodological joy.

Panelist: Ragan Fox (California State University, Long Beach), Jessica Kamrath (CSU-Fullerton), Shawna Malvini Redden (California State University, Sacramento), Laura Martinez (University of Montreal) and Sarah Tracy (Arizona State University)

Sat 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM | Harbor A

Outties vs. Innies: Organizational Toxicity and Resistance in Severance

Primary Sponsor: Organizational Communication

Severance is an Apple TV+ program that debuted in 2022. The premise is a workplace in which employees undergo a procedure in which their minds separate their work and personal lives, with no recollection or connection between. This TV show has been a cultural phenomenon, sparking conversation about workplace identity and ethics. This panel will explore how organizational communication theory is put into practice through the various plotlines, as employees grow to resist their controlling workplace. Topics such as organizational perception, security parodies, romance and consent, work-life balance, and employee activism will be explored through a roundtable

discussion. Warning: This panel will discuss plot points that could be considered spoilers if you have not yet enjoyed the show.

Panelist: Maria Blevins (Utah Valley University), Bedlam Oak (UCSB), Meghana Rawat (Utah Valley University), Rebecca Rice (University of Nevada Las Vegas) and Julie Taylor (California State Univ., San Bernardino)

Sat 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM | Harbor B

Performative Interludes: Embodied Performances of Resistance

Primary Sponsor: Performance Studies

This panel features short performances which speak to a variety modes of resistance from different embodied perspectives.

Chair: Angela Labador (De La Salle University Manila)

"Performing Life, and By The Way, Cancer"

Heather Smith (George Mason University)

"Echoes in the Wasatch: Resistant Composite Histories of Queer Utahns"

Damon Darling (University of Utah)

"Resistance: It Ain't A Revolution If You Can't Nap During It"

Christopher Statton (San Francisco State University)

"A Performative Response: Resisting in a Time of Oligarchy"

Angela Labador (De La Salle University Manila)

Sat 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM | Balboa

Performing Resistance to Fascism, Capitalism, and Normativity

Primary Sponsor: Performance Studies

Chair: Sam Nguyen (Arizona State University - Tempe)

Respondent: Sam Nguyen (Arizona State University - Tempe)

"Navigating What "Home" Is and Means Through Autoethnographic Research: Is "Home" a Place, a Feeling, Both? What Is Home?"

Miriam Navarro (The University of New Mexico)

"CCP 498: Learning How to Dive"

Tyler Rife (St. Lawrence University), Misha Ockene (St. Lawrence University), Maille McMahon Ockene (St. Lawrence University)

"CRUISING THE CRUISERS: AN AUTOETHNOGRAPHIC APPROACH TO QUEER RESISTANCE, SURVEILLANCE, AND SPACE"

Edwin Ramirez (University of South Florida)

"The Warp & Weft of Grief in Crisis: Soil, Fiber, Blood, and Bodies Under Capitalist Time"

Sam Silva (Communication Studies Department, San Francisco State University)

Sat 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM | Coronado

Risk Communication & Safety Messaging

Primary Sponsor: Health Communication

Chair: Colin Storm (Whitworth University)

"Motivated Information Management in a Pandemic: Examining How Emotion, Efficacy, and Uncertainty Shape COVID-19 Message Engagement Among African American and Hispanic Healthcare Consumers in Central Texas"

Sean Upshaw (University of Texas at Austin)

"Beyond infrastructure: Understanding Slum-Dwelling women's perceptions of agency and empowerment through WASH interventions narratives in Lagos and Accra"

Solomon Tommy (University of Oklahoma), Matthias Aboba (University of Oklahoma), Ifesinachi Ayogu (University of Oklahoma)

"When Participants Perform to Be Persuaded: Considering Demand Characteristics in Persuasive Message Studies for Risk Information Seeking"

yadong ji (western washington university)

"Perceptions of Warning Labels on Food Items that are Choking Hazards for Children Under 4-Years Old"

John McGrath (Trinity University)

"Commands and Resistance: Applying the Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication Model to Police-Civilian Interaction on an Airplane"

Taylor Williams (SDSU), Ekaterina Pavlova (San Diego State University)

Sat 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM | Santa Fe

The Word Around Town: Featured Book Reviews in Communication and Democracy

Primary Sponsor: Freedom of Expression and Political Communication

Book review provides is an opportunity to keep the academic community engaged in conversation with one another. The book reviews in Communication and Democracy were specifically chosen to provide journal readers a glimpse into their colleagues' insights about how communication impacts democratic practices and institutions. The purpose of this round table will be to extend that conversation to the WSCA convention community. Participants will provide summaries of the books they reviewed and engage in conversation about the role of communication in modern democracies.

Panelist: Jennifer Asenas (California State University, Long Beach), Shelia Lalwani (University of Texas, Austin), Rhiannon Lewis (CSULB) and Nicole Tanquary (Colgate University)

Sat 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM | Solana

Unalive and Unwell: Social Media Language Innovation as Digital Resistance

Primary Sponsor: Community College

Social media content creators have developed an entire shadow vocabulary to discuss sensitive topics: "unalive" for suicide, "seggs" for sex, "SA" for sexual assault, and "PDF" for pedophile. Content creators are conducting real-time experiments in linguistic adaptation that can offer invaluable insights into algorithmic suppression on social media.

This roundtable brings together actual content creators with a combined monthly reach of several hundred million views. People who aren't theorizing about platform dynamics, but actively navigating them at massive scale while maintaining audiences that rival traditional media outlets.

These panelists have developed sophisticated workaround vocabularies, building entirely new communicative frameworks and establishing community bonds through shared coded language. They're demonstrating how power structures inadvertently generate the very resistance mechanisms they're designed to prevent.

Above and beyond linguistic censorship, these practices reveal what the future of mediated communication will look like when algorithms are always listening.

Chair: Kevin Briancesco (Los Angeles Valley College)

Panelist: Gabriel Cruz (NC Central University), Arielle ("Mrs. Frazzled") Fodor (Mrs. Frazzled), Sylvia ("Tono Latino") Salazar (Tono Latino), Neil (@ProfessorNeil) Shyminsky (Cambrian College) and Pari WomenInAmerica (Women In America)

Sat 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM | California Ballroom AB

Keynote: Dr. Lore/ta LeMaster



Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Title: Trans. Care. Work.: Communal Resistance and the Politics of Performance Pedagogy

Featuring accompanying performance by
Maclean Frey
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education
University of Toronto

Description: *Trans people are speaking* (Patterson, 2020), while legislators structure their[our] erasure (Bragman, 2026). To illustrate, in 2025, state lawmakers proposed 1,020 anti-trans bills across 49 states of which 125 passed while over 513 are actively debated. These in addition to the 109 national-level anti-trans bills targeting trans people across social areas of healthcare, education, sport, travel, documentation, marriage, parental rights, and incarceration to name but a few. These numbers continue to swell, beginning with the first recorded contemporary wave of anti-trans bills in 2022, which saw 174 bills proposed across 33 states with 26 passing into state policy and law. The structural disenfranchisement of transness is not new for trans people; the current wave of rising *transantagonisms*, energized through fascist statecraft is (Cram, 2024). And it is indeed breathtaking, quite literally taking breath away. And yet, trans people cultivate joy, building worlds out of ruins.

Centering and affirming trans people providing and receiving care while under duress, this keynote theorizes trans communication as a performance pedagogy that enables worldbuilding beyond state capture and control. Join Loretta LeMaster for a multimedia performance presentation that weaves interviews with trans workers reflecting on hostile workplace experiences with personal narratives reflecting on a life committed to trans life, love, and worldbuilding when the world would rather you were gone.

Bragman, W. (2026). Experts warn U.S. in early stages of genocide against trans Americans. *Lemkin Institute*. Retrieved 16 January 2026, from <https://www.lemkininstitute.com/single-post/experts-warn-u-s-in-early-stages-of-genocide-against-trans-americans>.

Cram, E. (2024). Fascist energizing: Rhetorics of transantagonism as affective metabolism. *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, 110(3), 442–459. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00335630.2024.2368572>

Patterson, GP. (2020). Because trans people are speaking: Notes on our field’s first special issue on transgender rhetorics. *Peitho*, 22(4). Retrieved 16 January 2026, from <https://cfshrc.org/article/because-trans-people-are-speaking-notes-on-our-fields-first-special-issue-on-transgender-rhetorics/>

Dr. Lore/tta LeMaster (pronouns: she/they) is an award-winning scholar, teacher, and artist who engages the intersectional constitution of cultural difference. Her current research prioritizes (1) trans approaches to work and labor, (2) critical performance pedagogy, and (3) popular constructions of transness in terms of monstrosity. Her research is published in handbooks, anthologies, and in peer-reviewed journals including, for example, *Women’s Studies in Communication*, *Journal of Homosexuality*, *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*, and *Liminalities: A Journal of Performance Studies*. Her recent book *Pedagogies of the Enfleshed: Critical Communication Pedagogy, Otherwise*, (Bloomsbury 2025) interrogates Communication Studies’ disciplinary complacency in U.S. settler colonial expansion at the start of the twentieth century and proffers an “enfleshed” means of doing critical pedagogy in ways that labor against empire and toward communal worldbuilding via communication.

Dr. LeMaster is a mixed-race Asian/white queer femme transsexual settler who lives, loves, and works on the traditional lands of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississauga’s of the Credit, where she serves as Associate Professor of Queer Studies in the Department of Social Justice Education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at the University of Toronto. When she is not organizing in community, Dr. LeMaster can be found perusing Toronto’s many neighborhoods with her cat, Luci; together they read poetry, play video games, and are always on the hunt for new art classes in community.

Sat 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM | Plaza C

Environmental Communication Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Environmental Communication

Chair: Megan Cullinan (The University of Montana, Missoula)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Joshua Smith (Davidson College)

Committee Member: Ashleigh Day (Northern Arizona University) and Julianna Jovillar (University of Nevada Las Vegas)

Sat 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Plaza B

Argumentation, Persuasion, and Forensics Paper Panel

Primary Sponsor: Argumentation, Persuasion, & Forensics

Chair: Ashley Givens (Salt Lake Community College)

"Argumentation and Identity in Public Debates About Homelessness"

Vontrez White (California State University, Fullerton)

"Transgenderism and Gender Ideology Narratives in American Politics: The Ethics of Debate"

Sydney Harrison (Clovis Community College)

"Erasing Diversity, Controlling Culture: The True Agenda Behind America's Book Bans"

Paige Smith (Clovis Community College)

"The Hidden Curriculum and Duo that Never Was: Resisting Gendered Labor and Reimagining Pedagogy in Forensics"

Oli Loeffler (San Diego State University), Jules Bruetsch (Irvine Valley College)

Sat 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Imperial

Closet Reconsiderations in Trump's Authoritarian Era

Primary Sponsor: Communication, Identities & Difference

This queer intergenerational roundtable reconsiders closet communication. Panelists will reassess the relevance and utility of closet theory and its critiques, as well as closet logics, forms, performances, communities—passing, secrecy and disclosure, enclave and oscillation, fugitivity, coming out and outing—shaped by emergent and lasting authoritarianism in the U.S. and around the globe. Opening statements will be followed by open engagement among the panelists and with the audience.

Chair: Keven Rudrow (Mississippi State University)

Panelist: Godfried Asante (San Diego State University), Loretta LeMaster (University of Toronto), Charles Morris (Syracuse University), Alyssa Samek (California State University, Fullerton), Andrew Spieldenner (California State University San Marcos), Michael Tristano (Towson University) and Dacheng Zhang (Utah Tech University)

Sat 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Sierra B

Exemplary Teaching Award: Prof. Victoria Leonard

Primary Sponsor: Communication and Instruction

Chair: Randi Picarelli (California State University, Northridge)

Panelist: Victoria Leonard (College of the Canyons)

Sat 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | La Jolla

Film and the Art of Resistance

Primary Sponsor: Media Studies

Chair: Stephanie Gomez (Western Washington University)

"Depression on Screen: How Young Women Interpret Popular Film and Television Portrayals of Depression"

Monica Dupuy (Chapman University)

"Between Land and the Legal in Jai Bhim (2021): Mediating Indigeneity through radical Media Images"

Sneha Goswami (University of Memphis)

"Resisting the Script: Black Masculinity and Counter-Narrative in Sinners"

Lionnell "Badu" Smith (San Francisco State University), Mark Hopson (Chapman University), Darrian Carroll (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo), Nicholas Lacy (Purdue University), Rico Self (North Carolina State University), Damariye Smith (San Diego State University), Sean Upshaw (University of Texas at Austin)

"They Live, We Sleep: Horror and Science Fiction as Vehicles for Social Resistance"

Eric Forno (California State University, Northridge)

"Machine as Mirror: A "Companion" Reader"

Hannah Elizabeth Rose Mattingly (California State University, Long Beach)

Sat 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Balboa

Honoring Dr. Randy Lake

Dr. Randall Lake recently retired from University of Southern California. Join us to celebrate his contributions in research, mentoring, teaching, and service.

Chair: Greg Dickinson (Colorado State University)

Respondent: Randall Lake (University of Southern California)

Panelist: Kevin Baaske (California State University Los Angeles), Emma Bloomfield (UNLV), Beth Boser, Steve Goldzwig, Tom Hollihan, Peter Marston, Barb Pickering, Patricia Riley, Paul Turpin, Don Waisanen

Sat 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Del Mar

Interaction and Resistance: Disrupting Silence and Reframing Identity in Institutional Talk

Primary Sponsor: Communication, Self, and Social Construction

This panel centers resistance as an interactional process, exploring how people challenge dominant ideologies, institutional power structures, and taken-for-granted assumptions through everyday communication. Resistance may emerge in family life, public discourse, art, carceral spaces, social media, or institutional settings, and is expressed through language and performance.

Panelists use a Language, Symbols and Social Construction lens to examine how resistance is enacted and negotiated across diverse contexts. Presentations could include concepts such as Critical Discourse Studies, Ethnography of Communication, Critical Discourse Analysis, among others. Topics may include facework, language choice, reframing, narrative, and embodied discourse as tools for disrupting silence, containment, and erasure.

Together, the panel considers how communicative practices open space for critique, transformation, and the reimaging of social roles and relationships.

Chair: Leah Wingard (San Francisco State University)

Panelist: Shanti Charan (Ohlone College), Lauren Fukushima (University of Minnesota Twin Cities), Alan Hansen (Carroll College), Ralina Joseph (University of California, Los Angeles) and Jimmie Manning (University of Nevada)

Sat 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Plaza A

Member Services and Marketing Committee Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Chair: Jim Cherney (University of Nevada, Reno)

Committee Member: Kimberly Aguilar (California State University, Sacramento), Veronica Dawson (California State University Stanislaus), Donna Gotch (California State University, San Bernardino) and Karen Stout (Western Washington University)

Sat 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Sierra A

Motherhood as Resistance: Navigating Loss, Care, and Teaching in Community Colleges Participants

Primary Sponsor: Community College

This roundtable centers the diverse experiences of community college faculty whose stories examine motherhood as a site of resistance. The first panelist will discuss miscarriage, the pressure to return to work quickly, and the absence of formalized leave policies, framing her testimony as resistance to institutional silence. Another will highlight the persistent struggle of balancing heavy teaching loads with caregiving amid the lack of affordable childcare. A third panelist will reflect on sustaining a career across the long arc of motherhood, illustrating how boundary-setting and workload negotiations function as long-term resistant practices. The final panelist will explore how motherhood reshapes pedagogy, emphasizing the struggle of full-time caregiving without access to childcare.

Together, the roundtable amplifies the voices of mothers who feel their lived experiences are often

silenced in the academy, aligning with WSCA's 2026 theme of communication as resistance for equity and justice.

Chair: Alyse Johnson (CUNY-Kingsborough Community College)

Panelist: Carrie Foster (Moreno Valley College), Katie Labreau (Santa Ana College) and Christina Rose (Coastline Community College)

Sat 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Santa Fe

Resisting Boundaries: Reviewing and Extending Theories and Perspectives within IFC Research

Primary Sponsor: Interpersonal & Family Communication

This session highlights work that extends and reimagines foundational interpersonal communication theories to address uncertainty, disclosure, and identity across diverse relational contexts. Through this theoretical innovation, these papers frame the process of building and expanding interpersonal communication theory and contexts as an act of resistance.

Chair: Colter Ray (University of Tampa)

"State of Theory of Motivated Information Management and Opportunity for Future Application"

Gianna Panzardi (San Diego State University)

"Positive Disclosure: A Systematic Review from Sexual Assault Survivors Point of View"

Sol Ricco (California State University, Sacramento)

"Relational Refuge: A Review and Extension of Uncertainty Reduction Theory and the Case for Nonbinary Inclusion"

Sydney Stafford (San Diego State University)

"Shifting Responsibilities: Legal Vulnerability and Family Dynamics in Mixed-Status Households"

Maya Cancio Vendel (University of Colorado, Boulder)

Sat 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM | Harbor B

Business Meeting and Top Papers in Freedom of Expression and Political Communication

Primary Sponsor: Freedom of Expression and Political Communication

FOE-PC Business Meeting followed by a paper presentations concerning freedom of expression and new media, including FOE-PC's Top Paper and Top Student Paper.

Chair: Chris Earle (UNR)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Amy Pason (University of Nevada)

Committee Member: Sharon Rodriguez (California State University, Sacramento)

"How digital-first news nonprofits communicate impact, financial transparency, and commitment to diversity to the public: The local news disadvantage"

Nik Usher (University of San Diego), Marissa Schaad (University of San Diego), Katelyn Smith (University of San Diego), Anjali Dalal-Whelan (University of San Diego), Ava Cumello (University of San Diego), Eleanor Fitzpatrick (University of San Diego), Cherishann Diamzon (University of San

Diego)

"Symbols, and the Screen: Facebook's France Filter as Accessible Activism"

Olivia Schultz (Oregon State University)

"Social Media: Russian Interference in the 2016 Election, Propaganda, Distrust, and Public Opinion"

Janell Contreras (CSULB)

"Tiktoking to Transgress: Exvangelical Identity Construction as Digital Rhetorical Resistance"

Andrea Terry (CSU Sacramento)

Sat 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM | Plaza B

Communication & Instruction Interest Group Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Communication and Instruction

Chair: Kendra Rivera (Lane Community College)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Randi Picarelli (California State University, Northridge)

Sat 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM | Plaza C

Communication Theory and Research Interest Group Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Communication Theory and Research

Join us for the annual Communication Theory and Research Interest group business meeting! Learn about what initiatives the interest group is currently promoting, celebrate with award winners, and learn how you can be part of the action. All members of the interest group are invited to attend!

Chair: Reeham R. Mohammed (Arizona State University)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Arielle Leonard Hodges (George Fox University)

Panelist: Jimmie Manning (University of Nevada)

Sat 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM | Plaza A

Community College Interest Group PM Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Community College

Chair: Kristen Stout (Missouri State University)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Michelle Brownlee (Los Angeles Pierce College)

Committee Member: Kevin Briancesco (Los Angeles Valley College) and Nicole (Nikki) Morrison-Fountain (Independent Scholar)

Sat 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM | Harbor A

Media Studies Interest Group Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Media Studies

Chair: Carlos Flores (California State University Sacramento)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Aryana Gooley-Carson (Sierra College)

Committee Member: Darrian Carroll (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo)

Sat 5:00 PM - 6:15 PM | Sierra B

III. SOLO/ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCES: THE TURNAWAY PLAY

Primary Sponsor: Performance Studies

Chair: Judith Pimentel (San Francisco State University)

The Turnaway Play is about what really happens when people are denied access to abortion. This ethnodrama is inspired and informed by the groundbreaking Turnaway Study, that followed 1,000 women from across the country who sought an abortion for five years and obtained the first scientific results on the consequences people face when either having or being denied an abortion. Combining data from the study with narratives of the participants and the researchers, The Turnaway Play aims to bust myths about abortion and finds that receiving an abortion does not harm the health and wellbeing of women, but in fact, being denied an abortion results in worse financial, health and family outcomes. This is a staged reading that invites session attendees to participate in the performance.

"III. SOLO/ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCES: THE TURNAWAY PLAY"

Suzanne Pullen (San Francisco State University)

Sat 5:00 PM - 6:15 PM | Balboa

Identity & Ideology in Communication

Primary Sponsor: Intercultural Communication

This panel explores trauma-informed pedagogy as a critical form of resistance both within and beyond carceral classrooms, recognizing the ability to educate oneself is constrained not only by institutional control, surveillance, and systemic erasure inside but also by structural inequities and stigmatization outside in society. Drawing from direct teaching experience in jails, prisons, and post-incarceration community contexts, panelists share a diverse range of communication-based strategies can challenge dominant narratives, restore student agency, and uphold the integrity of higher education across the reentry continuum. Together, the panelists demonstrate how trauma-informed, resistance-oriented pedagogy can serve as a space for voice, resilience, and transformative learning across carceral and post-carceral environments.

Chair: Soham Sen (The University of New Mexico)

Respondent: Yea-Wen Chen (San Diego State University)

"Ingroup identification and prejudice towards immigrants in Finland. The mediating role of immigrant threat perception"

Elvis Nshom (CSU San Marcos)

"Ideological State Apparatuses and Hegemonic Structures: How Black Performance Calls out Power Inequities in the U.S."

Monica silveira (NA)

"From Armenian to American: The Loss of Cultural Identity Through the Pursuit of Whiteness"

Kristine Mouradian (CSUN)

Sat 5:00 PM - 6:15 PM | Sierra A

Reclaiming Curriculum: Trauma-Informed, Resistance-Oriented Pedagogy in Carceral and Post-Carceral Spaces

Primary Sponsor: Freedom of Expression and Political Communication

This panel explores trauma-informed pedagogy as a critical form of resistance both within and beyond carceral classrooms, recognizing the ability to educate oneself is constrained not only by institutional control, surveillance, and systemic erasure inside but also by structural inequities and stigmatization outside in society. Drawing from direct teaching experience in jails, prisons, and post-incarceration community contexts, panelists share a diverse range of communication-based strategies can challenge dominant narratives, restore student agency, and uphold the integrity of higher education across the reentry continuum. Together, the panelists demonstrate how trauma-informed, resistance-oriented pedagogy can serve as a space for voice, resilience, and transformative learning across carceral and post-carceral environments.

Panelist: Shanti Charan (Ohlone College), Alex Elabed (Ohlone College), Karl Haase (Cal State University, East Bay) and Oona Hatton (San Jose State University)

Sat 5:00 PM - 6:15 PM | Solana

Resisting Normative Classrooms

Primary Sponsor: Communication and Instruction

Chair: Nicholas Lacy (Purdue University)

"'It's Not a Race Thing, But...': Navigating Emotional Labor Through a Racial, Gendered, and Hierarchical Lens"

Alexander Tran (San Diego State University)

"Neuroaffirmative Communication Pedagogies: Resisting Neuronormative Forms of Classroom Communication"

Kelly Opdycke (CSU, Northridge)

"Embracing Embodied Knowledge to Question Civility: Pláticas as Liberatory Pedagogy"

Ana Terminel Iberri (San Francisco State University)

"Empowering Voices: A Queer Communication Pedagogy Workshop for Navigating and Resisting Microaggressions"

Richard Hernandez (San Jose State University)

"Reclaiming the Classroom: An Autoethnography of Educational Trauma and Resilience"

Natasha Payne (California State University, Long Beach)

Sat 5:00 PM - 6:15 PM | Coronado

Resisting traditional methods of teaching

Primary Sponsor: Community College

This panel discusses a broad range of topics related to the theme of “resistance,” exploring how communication both shapes and enables challenges to traditional teaching practices and broader systems of inequity. The panel examines how pedagogical choices are themselves communicative acts that reflect, resist, or reinforce power dynamics. How can digital platforms be reimagined as spaces of resistance, and what ethical implications arise in doing so? In what ways do classroom narratives amplify or silence marginalized perspectives? How does rethinking instructional communication create conditions for students to see themselves as active agents of resistance and change? By interrogating these questions, this panel positions education as a crucial site where resistance is communicated, enacted, and reimagined in the pursuit of social justice.

Chair: Alex Dejean (College)

Panelist: Wesley Hernandez (Bakersfield College), Raquel Moscozo (Citrus College), Abraham Nesheiwat (Cypress College) and Benjamin Sigala (Rio Hondo College)

Sat 5:00 PM - 6:15 PM | La Jolla

Spectacles of Power, Stages of Resistance

Primary Sponsor: Organization for Feminist Research on Gender Communication

Chair: Stephany Rojas Hidalgo (Arizona State University/ Hugh Downs School of Human Communication)

"Sitcoms and Superheroes: Tracing the Four Waves of Feminism in WandaVision"

Chloe Hogan (California State University Long Beach)

"Parallels Between BoJack Horseman and the #MeToo Movement: A Feminist Critique"

Macie Morgan (Colorado State University)

"The Community Found in “Herstories”: A Feminist Media Analysis of SIX: The Musical"

Brystal Nevins-Grimm (Colorado State University)

"“ARE YOU MAN ENOUGH TO BE A FAG?”: Artistic Rejections of Cisheteronormativity in Digital Queer Counterpublics"

Kai Levato (CSU, Sacramento)

Sat 5:00 PM - 6:15 PM | Santa Fe

Top Papers in Organizational Communication

Primary Sponsor: Organizational Communication

Chair: Laura Martinez (University of Montreal)

Respondent: Chandler Marr (University of Kentucky)

"“It is very white man, and white men like to talk to white men”: Constructing and Challenging Inequality Regimes in an Engineering College"

Sophie Downing (University of San Diego), Sarah Jones (Ohio University)

"The Ability to Say No: An Oppositional Discourse Analysis of Everyday Organizational Consent"

Talk"

Alaina Zanin (Arizona State University), Carrisa Hoelscher (Missouri State University)

"Sealing Lips and Spilling Beans: Predictors of Micro-Level Secrecy Behaviors in Organizations"

Craig Scott (The University of Texas at Austin), Mir Rabby (The University of Texas at Austin),
Nicole Butterbaugh (The University of Texas at Austin), Anita Vangelisti (The University of Texas at Austin)

"Resistance within Resistance: The Formation of Spontaneous Activist Coalitions"

Bedlam Oak (UCSB)

Sat 5:00 PM - 6:15 PM | Del Mar

Top Papers in Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy

Primary Sponsor: Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy

Chair: Sarah Dweik (Penn State University)

"Genocidal Demagogues: A Rhetorical Analysis of Zionist Demagoguery"

Matthew Parnell (Baylor University)

"The Symbolic Return: as an Implied Ideograph in the Trump Era"

Ragan Fox (California State University, Long Beach), Nikki Nadler (California State University, Long Beach)

"Peer Review is Resistance: The (Westside) Community Review Board as Methodological and Ethical Intervention in Rhetorical Fieldwork"

Eleanor "Ellie" Estrada (University of Utah)

"Rewriting the Script: Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson's Rhetoric of Progressive Originalism"

Katie Gibson (Colorado State University)

"We've Always Been Here: Bisexual Identification as Counterpublicity "

Aly Holmberg (University of Nebraska Omaha)

Sat 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM | Santa Fe

Dr. Pablo Ramirez Memorial Panel

Primary Sponsor: WSCA

Please join with us in collectively remembering and honoring the life of Dr. Pablo Ramirez and the many contributions he made to WSCA and beyond. Pablo inspired many through his generosity, mentorship, engaged teaching, performances, creativity, and immense love. This panel will feature performances from Pablo's graduate advisors, will invite attendees to watch and engage Pablo's performance work, and reflect on his legacy.

Chair: Tyler Rife (St. Lawrence University), Ana Terminel Iberri (San Francisco State University) and Michael Tristano (Towson University)

Respondent: Amy Kilgard (San Francisco State University) and Loretta LeMaster (University of Toronto)

Sat 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM | La Jolla

**San Diego State University, San José State University & CSU San Bernardino
Reception**

Please join San Diego State University, San José State University and CSU San Bernardino's Departments of Communication Reception to network and learn more about their programs.



Sat 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM | Del Mar

University of Utah Reception

Please join University of Utah's Department of Communication Reception to network and learn more about their program.



Sat 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM | Del Mar

**Organization for Feminist Research on Gender and Communication
Reception**

Please join to network and learn more about OFRGC.



COMMUNICATION STUDIES
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

You Belong Here

Our Community

Faculty win awards for scholarship, teaching, mentorship, & service including Fulbrights, endowed professorships, & grants

Students win awards, publish, & produce public scholarship

The **Center for Public Deliberation** enhances local democracy through improved public communication & community problem-solving

ACT Human Rights Film Festival brings the best & most recent human rights cinema & conversations to northern Colorado

Questions?

Director of Graduate Studies

Dr. Meara Faw
meara.faw@colostate.edu

Academic Support Coordinator

Lyndsey Fowks
lyndsey.fowks@colostate.edu

What We Offer

Ph.D. in Communication

M.A. in Communication Studies

M.A. in Communication Studies with Deliberative Practices Specialization

Areas of Specialization

- Film & Media Studies
- Relational & Organizational Communication
- Rhetoric & Civic Engagement

Graduate Student Support

- Robust instructor training & teaching opportunities
- Teaching assistantships cover tuition & stipend
- Conference & research funding
- Individual mentoring with a flexible program of study
- Strong career support with excellent job placement rates

Application Deadline

December 15

[COMMUNICATIONSTUDIES.COLOSTATE.EDU](https://communicationstudies.colostate.edu)



Sunday, March 01

Sun 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM | California Foyer

Registration & Information Desk Open

Stop by the registration desk to pick up your attendee badge and ask any questions you may have.

Sun 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM | Cardiff A (Quiet Room)

Quiet Room

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

This designated quiet space offers a peaceful environment for attendees seeking respite from the conference's bustling activity. Stop by to reflect, meditate, or simply for a moment to step away from the conference. Tables and chairs are setup. We do ask that we preserve the space as a quiet zone. There is also a separate private room for prayer and another separate private space for lactation.

Sun 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM | Solana

2027 Program Planners Meeting II

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Join Donna Gotch, 1st Vice President and 2027 Primary Program Planner to discuss the plans for the Los Angeles convention. This session should be attended by the program planner for each interest group. There is one session Saturday Morning and one session Sunday Morning.

Chair: Donna Gotch (California State University, San Bernardino)

Committee Member: Eric Wilson (Western States Communication Association)

Panelist: Anthony Cuomo (West Los Angeles College)

Sun 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM | Plaza C

Organizational Communication Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Organizational Communication

Join us for the business meeting of the Organizational Communication division. We'll discuss division goals and planning for next year, report on current business, and award our top papers!

Chair: Laura Martinez (University of Montreal)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Chandler Marr (University of Kentucky)

Committee Member: Brittney Grotz (Arizona State University), Rebecca Rice (University of Nevada Las Vegas) and Alexa Romero (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)

Sun 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Coronado

Citizenship, Race, and Belonging: School as Site of Resistance

Primary Sponsor: Community College

This panel frames the community college – alongside other institutions of learning – as a site of resistance, where discourses of citizenship and belonging are negotiated by administration, faculty, and students themselves. We locate the community college in the nexus of changing economic, political, and cultural contexts: as a site for opportunity and preparedness, a pathway for international students to access four-year institutions, a way to understand the relationship between language, race, and pedagogy. We draw on the historical development of community and junior colleges in the United States to answer how communication enables transnational communities to shape identities, and how different communication strategies can be used to empower marginalized and minoritized communities.

Chair: Alden Requena-Robison (UC San Diego)

Panelist: Teresa Naval (UCSD) and Trista Payte (Mt San Antonio College)

"Citizenship, Race, and Belonging: School as Site of Resistance"

Alden Requena-Robison (UC San Diego), Teresa Naval (UCSD), Trista Payte (Mt San Antonio College)

Sun 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Balboa

Contemporary Resistance in Space and Place

Primary Sponsor: Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy

Chair: John Armenta (UC San Diego)

"Freedom as Rhetorics of Resistance: Literacies for Pedagogies, Publics, and Coalitions"

Lorise Diamond (Claremont Graduate University)

"The nine-to-five home: constructing a "good citizen" identity through office parks"

Liliana Carredo (Colorado State University)

"The Insufficiency of the 'Digital' Qualifier in Communicating Material Harms of Broadband Discrimination"

Ava Mamary (University of Colorado, Boulder)

"Generational Precarity: Toward A Critical Rural Account of Economic Uncertainty"

Max Breiling (Penn State University)

"Curated Freedom: Branding, Desire, and Ideological Intimacy in ALO Yoga's Wellness Culture"

Camille LI (CSUF)

Sun 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Sierra B

Identity Ecologies

Primary Sponsor: Communication, Identities & Difference

This paper panel spotlights scholarship that explores identity through an ecological lens. More specifically, this panel explores how individuals of various marginalized social identities (queer individuals, individuals of color, and individuals in platonic soulmate relationships) resist erasure and engage in worldmaking as a resistive tactic.

Chair: Caitlin Walrath (University of Utah)

Panelist: Spirit Elder (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill), Stephanie Gomez (Western Washington University), Leandra Hernandez (The University of Utah), Marissa Medina (University of Utah) and Amelia Parker (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill)

Sun 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Plaza A

Performative Manifestations through Alternative Methods

Primary Sponsor: Performance Studies

Each of the panelists and performers have crafted a piece which displays and highlights the elements of non-traditional performance methods, which manifest performative embodiments of activist pursuits. The panel will feature a variety of performance pieces, including interactive improvised performances, performative writing, and poetry performance. Furthermore, each panelist will present a short discussion and artist's statement, contextualizing their process and goals. Following in both WSCA's broader call for academic work which theorizes through "resistance" and the everpresent need to dream, imagine, and project joy into a queer utopia on the horizon, this panel manifests traces of queer and trans memory and relationality through the methodologies of performance themselves. Here, several different practices of performance project the remnants of memory, haunted in both grief and joy in the performance practice and mentorship left behind by our dear colleague and friend, Dr. Pablo Ramirez.

Chair: Eleanor "Ellie" Estrada (University of Utah)

Panelist: Mehek Dhillon (Arizona State University), Mary Joseph (Arizona State University), Sam Nguyen (Arizona State University - Tempe) and Stephany Rojas Hidalgo (Arizona State University/ Hugh Downs School of Human Communication)

Sun 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Sierra A

Resistance Strategies for Teaching

Primary Sponsor: Communication and Instruction

Chair: Kendra Rivera (Lane Community College)

"Resisting the Eristic: Reviving Socratic, Dialectical Attitudes in Communication Classrooms"

Gavin Hurley (Ave Maria University)

"Assessing Student Perceptions of GTA (Graduate Teaching Associate) Credibility in the U.S. Communication Discipline"

Gianna Panzardi (San Diego State University), Isabel Villegas-Glang (San Diego State University), Naza Jaff (San Diego State University)

"Academic Stand-Up: Does a Female Instructor's Humor Land with Gen Z?"

Sydney Stafford (San Diego State University), Carlie Beers (San Diego State University)

"Adoption and Resistance to AI: A Case Study of ChatGPT's Rollout in the CSU System"

Marshall Piros (California Polytechnic State U, San Luis Obispo), Aubrie Adams (California Polytechnic State U, San Luis Obispo)

"Striving for Joy in the Classroom: Embodying a Safe Space as a First-Time Communication Instructor of Color"

Reychel Robles (San Diego State University)

Sun 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Harbor A

Resistance is Futile? Attempting to Assimilate AI into Forensics Pedagogy

Primary Sponsor: Argumentation, Persuasion, & Forensics

Over the last two years, students and coaches have attempted to adapt to large language models (LLMs) and their role in competitive speech and debate. This roundtable discussion is an opportunity for coaches to share their pedagogies and team policies regarding artificial intelligence in competitive speech, debate, and oral interpretation with the goal of developing an ethical framework for their use. Topics will include coaching philosophies on resisting or integrating AI use; exercises or assignments that engage AI tools; approaches to regulating or limiting AI use; and collaborative discussion of what an ethical framework for AI in speech and debate should look like.

Chair: Taure Shimp (Modesto Junior College)

Panelist: Ryan Guy (Modesto Junior College), Nathan Lawless Steele (City College of San Francisco), Douglas Mungin (Solano Community College - Fairfield) and Nathan Wensko (Clovis Community College)

Sun 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Plaza B

Resisting Alienation and Abandonment

Primary Sponsor: Communication, Identities & Difference

"'Flipping the Script': Epistemic Resistance among Asexual People of Color"

ben Brandley (Eastern Arizona College), **Angela Labrador** (De La Salle University Manila)

"The Higher Education Institutional Abandonment of Students of Color"

Andrea Naranjo (The University of New Mexico)

"Resisting Black Memory and Celebrating an Unbothered Antebellum Era at The Myrtles"

Shelby Crow (Washburn University)

"Banda Sinaloense's Resistance Over Sonic Gentrification in Mazatlán"

Jaime Guzman (California State University Northridge)

Sun 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | La Jolla

Resisting and Reimagining Connection: Communicating Love, Loss, and Commitment

Primary Sponsor: Interpersonal & Family Communication

The papers in this session explore how individuals navigate complex relational experiences, from family estrangement and romantic dissolution to evolving expectations in modern relationships. Each study applies interpersonal or family communication theorizing to understand how individuals define, maintain, or resist relational boundaries through communication.

Chair: Toni Maisano (Oregon State University)

"We Accept The Love and Commitment We Deserve: A Qualitative Exploration of Gay Men, Their Memorable Messages, and Committed Relationships"

Jarrold Ventura (Chapman University)

"That Was Our Song: The Impact of Couple-Defining Songs After Relational Dissolution"

Nicholas Brody (University of Puget Sound), Leah LeFebvre (University of Alabama), Kate Blackburn (The University of Texas at Austin)

"'She Was My Egg Donor, Not My Mom': Using Attribution Theory to Understand How Adult Daughters Manage Their Low Quality Daughter-Mother Relationship"

Crystal Nguyen (Chapman University), **Denise Alonso-Pecora** (Chapman University), Jennifer Bevan (Chapman University), michelle miller-day (Chapman University), Allison Alford (Baylor University)

"'Put your big girl pants on and ask, 'what are we?': A qualitative exploration of cognitive dissonance, expectations, and barriers to communicating in situationships"

Avery Tobiassen (California State University, Sacramento)

Sun 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Harbor B

Scyborg Pedagogies and Relational Otherworlds: Organizing Session

Primary Sponsor: Organization for Feminist Research on Gender Communication

OFRGC President's Panel: Scyborg Pedagogies and Relational Otherworlds

This panel invites critical educators across the discipline of communication to imagine *scyborg pedagogies*—teaching practices that hack and rewire the colonial machinery of the university and beyond. Drawing from la paperson's theorization of the scyborg as a figure of sabotage and repurposing, panelists consider how pedagogues cultivate relational otherworlds: networks of solidarity, insurgent uses of institutional resources, and countercurricular practices that resist fascist logics of exclusion, surveillance, and control. Across classrooms, community sites, and activist spaces, we highlight how scyborg tactics generate openings for collective survival and radical imagination. In refusing to accept the university or schooling as closed systems, these pedagogies redirect institutional fragments toward decolonial, feminist, and queer futures. The panel emphasizes scyborg pedagogy as both a theoretical framework and a living practice, foregrounding networks of educators who, through minor gestures and insurgent collaborations, build infrastructures of resistance and world-making in the face of rising fascist oppression. Come join us in organizing rich pedagogical networks in pressing times.

Chair: Loretta LeMaster (University of Toronto)

Moderator: Mary Katreeb (Arizona State University - Hugh Downs School of Human Communication)

Panelist: Yea-Wen Chen (San Diego State University), Robert Gutierrez-Perez (California State University, San Marcos), Jenna Hanchey (Arizona State University), Sergio Juárez (Cal Poly San Luis Obispo), Brandi Lawless (University of San Francisco), Robert Mejia (CSU Long Beach), Santhosh Rangamma-Chandrashekar (Univ. of Denver), Tyler Rife (St. Lawrence University), Kristina Ruiz-Mesa (California State University, Los Angeles), Lionnell "Badu" Smith (San Francisco State University), Liahna Stanley (University of Utah), Ana Terminel Iberri (San Francisco State University) and Michael Tristano (Towson University)

Sun 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Del Mar

Top Paper Session in Intercultural

Primary Sponsor: Intercultural Communication

Chair: Tomide Oloruntobi (Arizona State University)

Respondent: Shinsuke Eguchi (Wake Forest University)

""I'm your future, past and present": Unsettling White Appropriation of Black Queer Artists"

Monica silveira (NA)

"The Personal Work of Religious Decolonization: Internal Acts of Resistance"

Elizabeth Root (Oregon State University)

"Negotiating Presence: Theorizing the Dynamics of Racial Perception in Cross-Group Communication"

Chandler (Mo) Bahk (California State University-San Bernardino)

Sun 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Santa Fe

Top Papers Submitted to the Communication Theory and Research Interest Group

Primary Sponsor: Communication Theory and Research

This session features the highest-rated papers submitted to the Communication Theory and Research Interest Group. Join this exciting session to learn about some of the best contemporary work that extends communication theory and methods in innovative new ways!

Chair: Arielle Leonard Hodges (George Fox University)

"Communication and Ambiguity: A Framework for Understanding Power and Identity"

Rawan Hegazy (Missouri State University)

"Developing Constitutive AI Identity Theory: Examining Cybernetic-, Cyborg-, and Cylon-Constitutive Selves"

Jimmie Manning (University of Nevada)

"Border and Immigration as Etiological Myth in U.S. Right-Wing Politics"

Arthur Soto-Vásquez (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)

"Funeral Planning Communication: A New Conceptual Framework in Communication Studies"

Colleen Campbell Pendleton (University of Colorado Boulder), Laura Bruns (Florida Atlantic University), **Christian Seiter** (California State University, Fullerton)

"Defining Between and Among: Critically Examining the Fulfillment of Co-Cultural Theory's Goals"
Julie Hartung (Colorado State University)

Sun 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Imperial

"Resisting Hegemonic Pedagogy: Finding Ways to Disrupt Institutional Status Quo."

Primary Sponsor: Community College

The faculty on this panel engage in practices that attempt to resist the current academic climate - where the business model of education thrives in the minds of students, where fears of federal or institutional repercussions are curtailing our efforts to serve, and where our own challenges of apathy or experience lead us in pedagogical 'paralysis' – unwilling to change.

Our panelists use unique exercises, lesson plans, and pedagogical practices to push back against their own attitudes, departmental policies, and institutional frameworks. They hope to share efforts to move our students, our colleagues, our institutions, and themselves to redirect the rapidly increasing rate of descent - which can be at the very least a fruitful site for investigation and reflection, if not a meaningful action towards relevant change.

Chair: Randi Picarelli (California State University, Northridge)

Panelist: Nick Chivers (De Anza College), Brandon Gainer (De Anza College), Kristo Gobin (CSUN/LMU), Jessica Kwack (CSUN/L.A. Mission College), Rob Leonard (Sinclair College), Colleen McGoff Dean (Whatcom Community College) and Andi Zamora (Bellingham Technical College)

Sun 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM | Sierra A

Time and Place Committee

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Chair: Karen Stout (Western Washington University)

Committee Member: Darrian Carroll (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo), Shinsuke Eguchi (Wake Forest University), Shane Moreman (California State University, Fresno), Averie Vockel (University of Utah) and Eric Wilson (Western States Communication Association)

Sun 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Harbor A

"Resistance" To the Status Quo

Primary Sponsor: Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy

Chair: Matthew Parnell (Baylor University)

"Normies Storm Divergent Norms"

Nikko Kimoto (CSUN)

"DISMANTLING DIVERSITY: CONSERVATIVE IDEOLOGICAL RESISTANCE AND THE LEGISLATIVE PUSH FOR DEI BANS"

Athena Cole (San Diego State University)

"Redeeming America through Allegory: Rhetorically Reading Fundamentalism and Ways to Resist It in Midnight Mass"

Erika Thomas (California State University, Fullerton)

"Pete Hegseth and Right-Wing Populist Resistance"

John Armenta (UC San Diego)

"College Versus the 'Real World': How Public Perception Has Shaped Higher Education"

Kristine Mouradian (CSUN)

Sun 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Plaza B

G.I.F.T.S. in Performance Studies: Applied Pedagogies of/in/for Resistance

Primary Sponsor: Performance Studies

This high-density and diverse panel of Performance Studies faculty, lecturers, and GTAs from four year universities and community colleges share their in-class activities and take-home assignments that align with the conference theme: Resistance. Embracing the idea that "pedagogy is explored as embodied process and as a politics of hope," (Madison & Hamera, 2006, p.22), panelists share their G.I.F.T.S (Great Ideas For Teaching Students) that "challenge the normative classroom 'structures, practices, and curricula' that disempower marginalized student populations" (Faulkner et al., 2021, p.93). These offerings are a timely response to the rollbacks of social, economic, environmental, educational and political reforms. Panelists demonstrate ways to embrace pedagogies of resistance that empower students to critically engage with systems of oppression in order to foster educational spaces of resistance, decolonization, joy, and liberation.

Chair: Harrison Hazen (San Francisco State University)

Moderator: Suzanne Pullen (San Francisco State University)

Respondent: Amy Kilgard (San Francisco State University)

Panelist: Blake Harms (Arizona State University), Loretta LeMaster (University of Toronto), Angelina Moles (Merrit College) and Douglas Mungin (Solano Community College - Fairfield)

Sun 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Solana

Health Communication Interest Group Top Paper Session

Primary Sponsor: Health Communication

"Resistance as a Pathway to Reframing: Broadening the Theoretical Foundations of Relationship-Centered Care"

Marie Haverfield (San Jose State University), **David Amancio** (San Jose State University), Jeffrey Khaing (San Jose State University), Tran Annie (San Jose State University), Maria Alekhina (San Jose State University), Emily Santana Anzures (San Jose State University), Stella Tran (San Jose State University)

"A QuantCrit Analysis of Trust in Health Information Sources and Cancer Screening Among Black Adults: A Secondary Analysis of HINTS 6 Data"

Henneh Kwaku Kyereh (Chapman University), Hannah Ball (Chapman University)

"'You are a foreigner. That is why your child cannot speak': Using the Health Belief Model to understand migrant parents' decisions to engage in doctor shopping in Gwangju, South Korea"

Madeline Miller (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities)

"The Effectiveness of Weight-Inclusive Food Messages in '#whatieatinaday' Videos in Mitigating Orthorexic Tendencies among Young Women"

Songyi Ahn (University of Oregon)

Sun 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Harbor B

Identity in Interaction: Finding Empathy, Community, and Family History in the Search for Self

Primary Sponsor: Communication, Self, and Social Construction

Chair: Kyle Gutzmer (San Diego State University)

Co-Chair: Charlotte Jones (Carroll College)

"Crafting community and belonging through engagement with regional breweries"

Noah Belanger (Colorado State University), Logan Breidenbach (Colorado State University), John Argenio (Colorado State University)

"Constructing Family Characters in Storytelling: An Oral History Excerpt"

Sophie Downing (University of San Diego)

"Constructing Identities in Real Time: Categorization in TV Commentary of Professional Soccer"

Alan Hansen (Carroll College), Trudy Milburn (Southern Connecticut State University)

"The Interactional Work of Empathic Self-Disclosure in Dignity Therapy"

Christopher Koenig (San Francisco State University), Emily Mroz (Emory University), Susan Bluck (University of Florida, Gainesville), Diana Wilkie (University of Florida, Gainesville), Carma Bylund (University of Florida, Gainesville)

"Resisting the Lack of Recorded Data in Theorizing Communication Practices"

Heidi Muller (University of Northern Colorado)

"Looking Inward & Between: An (Auto)Ethnographic Exploration of Bisexuality"

Aly Holmberg (University of Nebraska Omaha)

"A.I. Is Never Your Friend: Troubles Telling, Mock Sympathy, & Simulating Comfort To Those In The Midst Of Grief"

Kylie Duncan (San Francisco State University)

Sun 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Coronado

Memorial Panel in honor of Patricia ("Pat")

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Please join with us in collectively remembering and honoring past WSCA President Patricia "Pat" Ganer (Cypress College) and the many contributions that she made to our discipline and WSCA. We will reflect on the legacies of her work and her presence, and invite participants to bring their own reflections to this space as well.

Chair: Donna Gotch (California State University, San Bernardino)

Panelist: Michael Brydges (Cypress College), Jeanine Congalton (California State University Fullerton), Liana Koeppel (Cypress College), Rob Leonard (Sinclair College), Clark Olson (Arizona State University), and Craig Smith (California State University, Long Beach)

Sun 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Plaza C

Performing Identities

Primary Sponsor: Communication, Identities & Difference

"From the Monster to the Victim? Blackfishing and White Woman Tears"

Tracey Owens Patton (The University of Wyoming), Julie Snyder-Yuly (Marshall University)

"Emerging Relationalities as Differential Adaptation: Performing Brownness and Anti-Colonial Ruptures"

Dacheng Zhang (Utah Tech University), Angela Labador (De La Salle University Manila)

"Sexual Conversion Therapy: Summary Analysis of Case Study Research:"

Kristina Logunova (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Mike Allen (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

"Coming Out of the (Inter)Cultural Closet: A Queer Chinese-American Autoethnography"

Melissa Cheng (San Francisco State University)

Sun 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Sierra B

Performing Resistance: Joy, Humor, and Storytelling as Critical Pedagogy

Primary Sponsor: Performance Studies

This panel explores performance as a critical pedagogical practice that resists dominant norms in higher education by examining how language, embodiment, and interaction shape learning across diverse contexts. Panelists draw on performance ethnography, discourse analysis, narrative inquiry, and reflexive methods to analyze how humor, storytelling, choreographic interpretation, and joyful worldmaking function as strategies of resistance. By focusing on classroom discourse, embodied practice, and narrative reflexivity, the panel highlights how performance challenges institutional violence, racialized power, and exclusionary norms in higher education. Each presentation emphasizes how performance fosters relational trust, lowers defensiveness, and cultivates opportunities for critical engagement. Collectively, panelists show that performance is not simply content but method: a way of making meaning, building connection, and generating critique. In doing so, they position performance as a transformative site of collective resistance, survival, and imagination within education.

Chair: Oona Hatton (San Jose State University)

Panelist: Shanti Charan (Ohlone College), Ralina Joseph (University of California, Los Angeles) and Michael Tristano (Towson University)

"Performing Resistance: Joy, Humor, and Storytelling as Critical Pedagogy"

Shanti Charan (Ohlone College), Michael Tristano (Towson University), Ralina Joseph (University of California, Los Angeles)

Sun 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | La Jolla

Representing Difference: Feminist Perspectives on Power and Politics

Primary Sponsor: Organization for Feminist Research on Gender Communication

Chair: Damon Darling (University of Utah)

"The Mind of a Mad Woman: A Foucauldian Perspective of the 2024 Film, Nosferatu"

Shannon Parker (Cal State Long Beach)

"Shining with Barbie: Latina Representation and Intergenerational Feminism in Barbie"

Raisa Alvarado (California State University, San Bernardino), Arthur Soto-Vásquez (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)

"The Princess of Pop and the Prophet of Postmodernity: Critiquing Baudrillard's Simulation and Hyperreality through Britney Spears' Celebrity Personas"

Crystal Orellano (California State University, Long Beach)

"The Bestial Spectacle of Black Women's Bodies in Zeus Network's Baddies"

Aubree Davie (California State University Long Beach)

"'Unique, Strong, and Sexy': Analyzing Black and Queer Identity and Resistance in Beyoncé's Renaissance"

Tira Murray (Georgia State University)

Sun 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Del Mar

Theorizing "Pain" as/through "Resistance"

Primary Sponsor: Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy

Our panel, "Theorizing Pain as/through Resistance," seeks to reconceptualize pain as a critical theoretical paradigm in rhetoric and critical cultural studies. While discourses of pain have long oscillated between metaphor and pathology, our panel reframes pain as a deeply embodied, affective, and political phenomenon, one that is constitutively entangled with structures of power, identity, and collective resistance. Rather than relegating pain to a metaphorical code or a purely medical condition, we position it as a central axis of lived experience, cultural materiality, and rhetorical significance. We argue that pain must be understood not as an externalized "other" but as a site where meaning, vulnerability, and agency converge.

Panelist: Sneha Goswami (University of Memphis), Michael Lechuga (The University of New Mexico), Marina Levina (University of Memphis), Oscar Mejía (California State University, LA), Santhosh Rangamma-Chandrashekar (Univ. of Denver), Soham Sen (The University of New Mexico), Liahna Stanley (University of Utah) and Ryan Tabrizi (Syracuse University)

Sun 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Plaza A

Top Papers in Communication & Instruction

Primary Sponsor: Communication and Instruction

Chair: Kendra Rivera (Lane Community College)

Respondent: Randi Picarelli (California State University, Northridge)

"Outside Time Commitments and Time to Graduation"

Freddi-Jo Bruschke (CSU Fullerton), **Lesley Zavala** (California State University), Jon Bruschke (California State University Fullerton)

"“Fake it ‘till we make it”: Battling public speaking anxiety in undergraduate students through practical skills training"

Jasmine Cottam (San Diego State University)

"ChatGPT in Education: Understanding Motivational Dynamics through Self-Determination Theory"

Victor Mojica (Cal State LA), Megan Murphy (Cal State LA), Jonathan Tapia (Cal State LA), Sierra Bray (California State U, LA), Mu Wu (Cal State LA)

"The Impact of AI Use on Student and Professor Perceptions in Academic Communication"

Bridget LaPorte (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo), Kaley Scheppler (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo), Olivia Thomas (Cal Poly San Luis Obispo), **Aubrie Adams** (California Polytechnic State U, San Luis Obispo)

Sun 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Santa Fe

Top Papers in Media Studies

Primary Sponsor: Media Studies

Respondent: Carlos Flores (California State University Sacramento)

"Check Again, I Swear I’m on the List: An Analysis of How Viable the Hollywood Black List’s Diversity Programs Are at Elevating Screenwriters From Marginalized Communities"

Matt Jardin (University of Alaska Fairbanks)

"The Resisting Spectacle: An analysis of the NAACP’s 1964 Freedom Spectacular"

Margaret Solice (Northwestern University)

"Indigenous Rhythm"

Tēvita Ka’ili (Brigham Young University-Hawaii), **Benjamin Burroughs** (University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV))

"The Shaping of Gun Rights: Media Theories and Technological Transformations in Second Amendment Discourse"

Chandler (Mo) Bahk (California State University-San Bernardino)

Sun 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Imperial

Top Student Papers in Intercultural

Primary Sponsor: Intercultural Communication

Respondent: Gloria Nziba (California State University San Marcos)

"Framing the future: the rhetoric of Los Alamos National Laboratory and its proposed Electrical Power Capacity Upgrade project"

Sarah Seroy (University of New Mexico), Natalie Hamren (University of New Mexico)

"Hidden in the Acronym: The Marginalization of a Samoan Student Within 'AAPI' in Higher Education"

Mariah Naea (San Diego State University)

"Bodies Under Scrutiny: An Autoethnography on Queer and Trans Body Neutrality"

Grace Pizzini (The University of New Mexico)

Sun 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Balboa

"Professors are the Enemy,": Resisting (Re)Emerging Hostilities towards Higher Education

Primary Sponsor: Communication, Identities & Difference

This discussion panel addresses resurgent hostilities toward higher education, focusing on how DEI-restrictive legislations impacts students, teaching, research, and administration. Panelists include emerging, mid-career, and distinguished academics. All of whom will draw on personal experience and research to examine the nature of our resistance, possible futures, the role of the institutions, and the challenges faced by our students. Together, they offer critical perspectives and strategies for resisting the dismantling of the system of higher education.

Chair: Nicole Allen (Utah State University)

Panelist: Jordan Allen (Utah Valley University), Michael Ault (Weber State), Qingwen Dong (University of the Pacific - Stockton, CA), Jeremy Murphy (Ohio University), Sydney O'Shay (Utah State University), Kent Ono (University of Utah) and Tia Zebe (Colorado State University)

Sun 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM | California Ballroom ABC

Luncheon and Awards Celebration

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Join the Western States Communication Association's leadership for our annual luncheon and awards ceremony.

Sun 2:45 PM - 4:00 PM | Plaza A

Futures Committee Town Hall

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

The WSCA Futures Committee, which works to enhance the convention, broaden participation in WSCA, and assess emergent needs and new directions for the association, invites you to join a **Futures Town Hall** at the Annual Convention in San Diego. This interactive session will bring together K-12 educators, community colleges, and universities to engage in open dialogue on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in education. Unlike formal training, the Town Hall fosters collaboration by sharing experiences and challenges, networking across institutions, and shaping shared educational priorities. At a time when inequitable access and the erosion of resources threaten student success, breaking down silos between institutions is essential. Together, we will examine the cumulative effects on students across their educational journeys and explore strategies to strengthen learning pathways, advance DEI efforts, and build partnerships that improve outcomes for all learners.

Chair: Amy Edwards (Oxnard College)

Co-Chair: Shinsuke Eguchi (Wake Forest University)

Committee Member: Gloria Nziba (California State University San Marcos) and Pavithra Prasad (California State University, Northridge)

Sun 2:45 PM - 4:00 PM | Plaza C

Health Interventions & Clinical Communication

Primary Sponsor: Health Communication

Chair: Colin Storm (Whitworth University)

"RIP: Rest in Peace or Research in Progress? Exploring Cultural Dimensions in Death Planning Disclosure"

Cailin Kuchenbecker (Chapman University), Jennifer Bevan (Chapman University)

"Two Health Communication Researchers watch The Pitt: A Duoethnographic Exploration of Paradigmatic Difference through Health Entertainment Education"

Kristen Cole (San Jose State University), Marie Haverfield (San Jose State University)

"Ongoing Evaluation and Outcomes from a Short-Term Communication Intervention for Dementia Care Partners: The SPECAL Program"

Meara Faw (Colorado State University), Joan Schueller (Colorado State University)

"Content Analysis of NCI-Designated Cancer Center Websites for Availability of Cancer Site Information and Readability"

Chan Thai (Santa Clara University), Jocelyn Madrigal (Santa Clara University), Karina Martinez (Santa Clara University), Wudase Yousef (Santa Clara University)

"Developing a Theory-Driven Video-Based Educational Intervention to Promote Germline Genetic Testing in Prostate Cancer Care"

Matthew Savage (San Diego State University), Mikay Parsons (San Diego State University), Lisa Madlensky (UC San Diego), Juan Javier-DesLoges (UC San Diego), Rana McKay (UC San Diego)

Sun 2:45 PM - 4:00 PM | Imperial

Identity, Migration, & Cross-Cultural Experiences

Primary Sponsor: Intercultural Communication

Respondent: Cleophas Muneri (University of New Mexico)

"Bicultural Baby Yoda: Integrative Cross-Cultural Adaptation in The Mandalorian"

Ashley Johnson (Sacramento State University)

"Attitudes towards Russia and President Vladimir Putin and the willingness to help Ukrainian refugees among Americans"

Elvis Nshom (CSU San Marcos), Elvis Williams (CSUSM)

"Access, Ability, and Attitude: Comparing Generative AI Domestication Among College Students in the United States and China"

Yuqi Xiao (Arizona State University), Liming Liu (Arizona State University)

Sun 2:45 PM - 4:00 PM | Coronado

Jotería Mentorship: Articulating Queer and Latine/x Resistance in Approaches to Feminist Mentorship

Primary Sponsor: Organization for Feminist Research on Gender Communication

This panel proposes Jotería mentorship as a feminist praxis of resistance, survival, and knowledge creation. Jotería, the reclaimed pejorative term for queer Latine/x communities, has become an epistemological project and communication subdiscipline for issues of identity, consciousness-raising, and pedagogy. We utilize Orozco and colegas' (2024) *queertorship* and Revilla's (2022) *Jotería mentorship* as dual considerations for imagining collectives of care, joy, and healing within existing critical approaches to feminist mentorship. The promise of Jotería mentorship enables kinship building from intergenerational and familial bonds that provide guidance in surviving and thriving in the academy. Where organizations like AJAAS and AAHHE benefit from being organically housed in Latino Studies and Education disciplines, our hope is that communication studies interrogate the feminist scripts of mentorship that position Latine/x and queerness as proximal, but never touching. Even when we remain hidden to the curriculum, our resistance is relationally significant to the work of feminist mentorship.

Chair: Eleanor "Ellie" Estrada (University of Utah)

Panelist: Ínaru Nadia De La Fuente Díaz (University of New Mexico), Dustin Martinez (University of Colorado, Boulder), Miriam Navarro (The University of New Mexico), Kristina Rietveld (Cal State Fullerton), Stephany Rojas Hidalgo (Arizona State University/ Hugh Downs School of Human Communication), Charissa Stone (Arizona State University), Ana Terminel Iberri (San Francisco State University) and Jessica Tero (CSU Fullerton)

Sun 2:45 PM - 4:00 PM | Harbor B

Model Communication Award

Join this panel to learn more about the 2025 and 2026 Model Communication Award programs and celebrate their distinctions.

Sun 2:45 PM - 4:00 PM | Solana

OFRGC - Works in Progress

Primary Sponsor: Organization for Feminist Research on Gender Communication

Chair: Loretta LeMaster (University of Toronto)

Co-Chair: Raisa Alvarado (California State University, San Bernardino), Jenna Hanchey (Arizona State University) and Angela Labador (De La Salle University Manila)

Moderator: Pauline Alvarez (Arizona State University), Blake Harms (Arizona State University) and Sam Nguyen (Arizona State University - Tempe)

"An Investigation into Femicide and Gender-Based Violence in Puerto Rico and the United States"

Natalie Altayeb (Albion College)

"Loneliness and Social Support Accessibility Among International LGB Students in the USA: A Comparative Analysis"

WENRONG CUI (University of Kansas)

"AI, Bots, and Hate: Resistance Strategies in the Technosphere"

Carolyn Cunningham (Gonzaga University), Heather Crandall (Gonzaga University)

"Gendered Sacrifice in Families: An Oral History Excerpt"

Sophie Downing (University of San Diego)

"I am not a feminist": A Critical Discourse Analysis on Feminism Practice in Contemporary Nigeria"

Nnenna Udebunu (The University of New Mexico)

"Beyond Fairness: Alternative Sports Values as Feminist Practice"

Dakota Park-Ozee (University of Denver), Jason Jordan (Metropolitan State University of Denver)

"Unpaid Labor, Paid Content: The Economics of Modern Tradwife Culture"

Michelle Aaron (California State University, Long Beach)

"Digital DARVO: Controlling Images and the Platforming of Violence Against Black Women"

Melissa Brown (Santa Clara University)

"I Wanna Go Bigger": Trans Production of Gender Death in Hyperpop"

Mary Katreeb (Arizona State University - Hugh Downs School of Human Communication)

"Digital Resistance and Queer Visibility: A Secondary Data Analysis of How the Queer Community in Ghana Is Communicating Resistance Against the Anti-LGBTQ+ Bill Through Social Media"

Richard Mawuli Gaikpa (New Mexico State University)

Sun 2:45 PM - 4:00 PM | La Jolla

President's Panel

Commitments that Bind, Binding Commitments: Conversation About the Communicative and Community Practices at Friendship Park

This panel session invites all in attendance to *convivir en conversación*—to be together in dialogue—with activists, community organizers, and community scholars about Friendship Park. This site, which spans both sides of the San Diego–Tijuana border, carries deep historical, cultural, and social significance. Together, panelists share perspectives on the vital role and forms of resistance, remembrance, and relationship building that emerge at and beyond the US/MX border.

This session complements the off-site excursion “Turning Border Walls into Tables” that occur on Friday, February 27, and Saturday, February 28.

Discussants:

Pedro Rios, Director, US-Mexico Border Program, American Friends Service Committee



**American
Friends
Service
Committee**

Daniel Watman, Program Director/Director de Programas, Friends of International Friendship Park/Amigos del Parque Internacional de la Amistad

Nanzi Medrano, Outreach Community Organizer and Artivista, Friends of International Friendship Park/Amigos del Parque Internacional de la Amistad



**Friends of
International
Friendship Park**

Oscar Alfonso Mejía, Community Scholar, California State University Los Angeles

Moderator: Michelle A. Holling, California State University San Marcos

Sun 2:45 PM - 4:00 PM | Plaza B

Real Fears, Fake Blood: Repression and Resistance in the Rhetoric of Horror

Primary Sponsor: Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy

Frequently dismissed by cultural critics, and often snubbed by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, horror movies are undeniably influential. We know their soundtracks, their catchphrases, and, of course, their terrifying monsters. And, as Kendal Phillips (2005) argues, these movies make so much money because they resonate with longstanding and widely felt cultural anxieties. In times that feel especially fraught, horror film offers opportunities for both escape and invention. At their most resonant moments, horror films provide audiences with vocabularies for addressing and resisting their lived horrors. Scholars of rhetoric and film have attended to horror's relationship to gender (Creed, 1993), blackness and white supremacy (Da Silva, 2023), and queer sexuality (Westengard, 2022; Fox, 2023). Contributors to this panel seeking opportunities for intervention and resistance join those conversations—investigating connections between horror films and durable social concerns regarding disability, capitalist exploitation, hegemonic masculinity, reproductive rights, and the family.

Panelist: Christopher Duerringer (California State University, Long Beach), Chloe Hogan (California State University Long Beach), Rhiannon Lewis (CSULB), Hannah Elizabeth Rose Mattingly (California State University, Long Beach), Kayla Mercure (California State University, Long Beach) and Crystal Orellano (California State University, Long Beach)

Sun 2:45 PM - 4:00 PM | Sierra A

Rectifying and reclaiming the narrative: Latina/o/x resistance in contemporary media

Primary Sponsor: Media Studies

This panel highlights how contemporary media resists long-standing patterns of representation by centering Latina/o/x images, voices and histories. We examine a range of media, from public broadcasting and AI-generated satire to influencer financial content, as tools of intervention against the racist images, stories, and politics circulating about Latina/o/x communities. Together, these case studies showcase the creative strategies Latinas/os/xs use to challenge erasure, reclaim narratives, and declare belonging.

Panelist: Sonya Aleman (University of Texas, San Antonio), Ariana Bribiesca (Pepperdine University), Claudia Evans-Zepeda (California State University, Fullerton), Diana Martínez (Pepperdine University) and Zazil Reyes García (University of the Incarnate Word)

Sun 2:45 PM - 4:00 PM | Harbor A

Resisting (?) Politics in the Classroom: Pedagogical strategies for engagement

Primary Sponsor: Freedom of Expression and Political Communication

Working to engage students in times of political precarity involves negotiating different versions of what resistance looks like within and beyond our classrooms. Drawing on experiences across different institutional and disciplinary environments, this roundtable explores pedagogical strategies used in teaching courses related to social movements, deliberation, public engagement, and professional writing. We ask how we can encourage political engagement while overcoming resistance to learning these skills.

Panelist: Crystal Colombini (Fordham University), Kathryn Lambrecht (Arizona State University) and Amy Pason (University of Nevada)

"Resisting (?) Politics in the Classroom: Pedagogical strategies for engagement"

Kathryn Lambrecht (Arizona State University), Amy Pason (University of Nevada), Crystal Colombini (Fordham University)

Sun 2:45 PM - 4:00 PM | Del Mar

Resisting Isolation: Communication, Connection, and the Pursuit of Well-Being in Interpersonal Relationships

Primary Sponsor: Interpersonal & Family Communication

Focusing on loneliness, affection, and stigma, this session explores how communication may help individuals counter isolation and build meaningful connections. These papers demonstrate how interpersonal communication functions as a vital means of care and resilience, revealing how relationships can challenge social and emotional barriers to belonging and overall well-being.

Chair: Shelby Singh (Arizona State University - Hugh Downs School of Human Communication)

"Loneliness Advice Messages: What is Communicated and What is Perceived as Effective?"

Holly Rushing (The University of Tampa), Colter Ray (University of Tampa)

"Theoretic Principles of Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy (REBT) and Interpersonal Loneliness: A Multinational Replication of Hyland et al. (2019)"

Kory Floyd (Washington State University), **Colter Ray** (University of Tampa), Colin Hesse (Oregon State University)

"Testing the Association Between Affectionate Communication and Related Fundamental Motives, and the Association Between Affection Deprivation and General Health"

Salvatore Petruzzella (University of Delaware), Colin Hesse (Oregon State University)

"Chronic Illness Stigma"

Morgan Morley (California State University, Sacramento)

Sun 2:45 PM - 4:00 PM | Santa Fe

Simply the B.E.S.T. Communication Theory and Research

Primary Sponsor: Communication Theory and Research

Looking for an opportunity to dialogue with scholars about exciting new projects? In this highly-interactive session, each scholar delivers a 3-minute B.E.S.T. presentation (B.E.S.T. = Brief, Entertaining, Scholarly Talk) to spotlight a fresh insight in communication theory and research. After the initial talks, attendees will have the opportunity to interact with authors for small-group Q&A and deeper discussion. Come to be wowed by some exciting new scholarly ideas - and stay to have a meaningful opportunity to talk scholarship with the authors. See you there!

Chair: Jimmie Manning (University of Nevada)

"The Dangers of Political Schadenfreude"

Bradford Netherton (Chapman University)

"Intersectional Implications within Carcerality: A Participatory Qualitative Exploration of Identity and Agency"

Brittney Grotz (Arizona State University)

"Uncertainty Management Across Contexts: A Qualitative Systematic Review of the Theory of Motivated Information Management Applied to Relationships"

Avery Tobiassen (California State University, Sacramento)

"Influence of Heteronormativity on Queer Dating Experiences: A Critical Qualitative Study Proposal"

Harrison Hazen (San Francisco State University)

"Restful Rhetoric: Aja Monet's Eulogy "For Sonia""

Darrian Carroll (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo)

Sun 2:45 PM - 4:00 PM | Sierra B

Teaching Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Era of Federal Restrictions: Strategies for Resistance and Survival

Primary Sponsor: Communication and Instruction

The July 29, 2025 U.S. Department of Justice memorandum redefined the legal landscape for federally funded institutions, placing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives under unprecedented scrutiny. This panel brings together intercultural communication and instructional communication scholars to address a pressing question: How can educators continue fostering culturally responsive, equitable, and inclusive learning environments without violating new federal restrictions? Panelists will critically examine the memorandum's prohibitions and "best practices" guidance, exploring the pedagogical, ethical, and legal implications for classroom practice, curriculum design, and faculty development. Presentations will offer actionable strategies for integrating intercultural competence, critical consciousness, and democratic engagement into teaching while maintaining compliance with federal funding requirements. By bridging intercultural theory and instructional praxis, this session will equip educators with tools to navigate institutional risk, safeguard academic freedom, and uphold the principles of equity and justice central to communication education.

Panelist: Marwa Abdalla (University of California San Diego), Yea-Wen Chen (San Diego State University), Mary Jane Collier (Colorado State University), Brandi Lawless (University of San Francisco), Elizabeth Root (Oregon State University) and Dacheng Zhang (Utah Tech University)

Sun 2:45 PM - 4:00 PM | Balboa

Theorizing Emotion as Organizational Practice

Primary Sponsor: Organizational Communication

Chair: Tiffany Dykstra-DeVette (San Diego State University)

Respondent: Julie Taylor (California State Univ., San Bernardino)

"Do we need to experience compassion face-to-face? Compassion channel use, preferences, and impact in remote and hybrid and remote working contexts"

Cris Tietsort (University of Denver), Camille Endacott (University of North Carolina at Charlotte)

"Inviting, modeling, and validating: How leaders create space to disclose personal suffering at work"

Cris Tietsort (University of Denver), Sarah Tracy (Arizona State University), Elissa Adame (Arizona State University)

"It's for Their Own good": A Positioning Analysis of Compassion and Discipline in Parole Work"

Chandler Marr (University of Kentucky), Alaina Zanin (Arizona State University)

"Rage Fuel: Emotional Expression and Organizational Identity on Incels.is"

Diana Humble (University of Memphis)

Sun 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM | California Ballroom A

Get your Headshot!

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Stop by California Ballroom A from 4 - 4:30pm to get your headshot taken by WSCA's official photographer, Michael Edwards.

Sun 4:15 PM - 5:15 PM | Plaza A

Communication, Identities, and Difference Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Communication, Identities & Difference

Chair: Santhosh Chandrashekar (University of Denver), Stephanie Hartzell (California State University, Long Beach), Carrie Mulderink (University of New Mexico) and Miriam Navarro (The University of New Mexico)

Sun 4:15 PM - 5:15 PM | Plaza C

Health Communication Interest Group Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Health Communication

Chair: Colin Storm (Whitworth University)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Kristen Cole (San Jose State University)

Committee Member: Tara McManus (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)

Sun 4:15 PM - 5:15 PM | Plaza B

OFRGC Business Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Organization for Feminist Research on Gender Communication

Annual business meeting for Organization for Feminist Research on Gender and Communication.

Chair: Loretta LeMaster (University of Toronto)

Chair-elect / Vice-Chair: Raisa Alvarado (California State University, San Bernardino)

Committee Member: Jenna Hanchey (Arizona State University), Mary Katreeb (Arizona State University - Hugh Downs School of Human Communication), Hannah Elizabeth Rose Mattingly (California State University, Long Beach), Brystal Nevins-Grimm (Colorado State University) and Grace Pizzini (The University of New Mexico)

Sun 4:15 PM - 5:15 PM | Harbor A

Resistant Voices from the Marginalized

Primary Sponsor: Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy

Chair: Alison Cheung (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo)

"Queer Camouflage: Reaching for Metaphors Beyond the Closet"

Noah Belanger (Colorado State University)

"Queer World-Breaking: Gender, Ideology, and Apophatic Rhetoric"

Nicholas Russell (Loyola Marymount University)

"Are They Really 'Hot to Go?': A Generic Criticism of Celebrity Political Discourse"

Aubry Louise (Utah State University)

"Visualizing Iranian Freedom: A Visual Close-Textual Analysis on Zan Zendegi Azadi"

Mondana Nassirpour (CSUN)

"Stand for whose land? A critical discourse analysis of Utah's 'Stand for Our Land' Campaign"

McKenna Pace (University of Oregon)

Sun 4:15 PM - 5:30 PM | Del Mar

Environmental Communication Top Paper Session

Primary Sponsor: Environmental Communication

Chair: Megan Cullinan (The University of Montana, Missoula)

"Feeling the Heat: Climate Change and Hyperobjects in the Nevada Desert"

Emma Bloomfield (UNLV), Rachel Wuester (Colorado State University), Alexa Romero (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)

"Teaching Sustainability Advocacy: Cultivating Resistance through Reciprocity"

Lisa Perks (Merrimack College)

"From Self to Society: How Threat Type and Message Mode in the EPPM Affect Environmental Intentions Among Young Audiences"

Lucas Vogt (Abilene Christian University), **Lynette Sharp Penya** (Abilene Christian University)

"Vital Co-Creation as an Aesthetic and Rhetorical Practice"

Oliver Tripp (Pennsylvania State University)

Sun 4:15 PM - 5:30 PM | Solana

Forensics Spotlight Panel

The forensics spotlight panel showcases the work of undergraduate competitors in forensics. Each participant will perform an individual event used throughout the 2025-2026 competitive season. The showcase features various speakers and events in order to demonstrate the complexity and variety of work done and performed by undergraduates. At the conclusion of performances, students will be open to a question and answer period where you can learn more about their pieces, competition, and forensics more broadly.

Sun 4:15 PM - 5:30 PM | Harbor B

Great Ideas for Teaching Students (GIFTS) - Confidence Building and Support

Primary Sponsor: Community College

Chair: Michelle Brownlee (Los Angeles Pierce College)

"G.I.F.T.S. - The Nonverbal Expressions Lab: Reclaiming Voice and Power through an Interactive Impromptu Public Speaking In-Class Activity"

Shanti Charan (Ohlone College)

"From 'To-Do' to 'To-Done': Reducing Speech Anxiety and Building Confidence Through Reflective Accomplishment Lists"

cameron basquiat (College of Southern Nevada)

"What Could Possibly Go Right: Resistance to Negative Self-Talk Using Research Based Reframing Strategies"

Colleen McGoff Dean (Whatcom Community College)

"Resisting Struggles, Embracing Support: The Our Campus Speech"

Chantel Solomon (Arizona State University - Tempe)

"A Great Idea for Teaching Students (GIFTS) from the Middle Out: Learning Assistants as Communicative Bridges in Diverse Classrooms"

Allison Sullivan (Missoula College - University of Montana), Kim Reiser (Missoula College-University of Montana)

"Communication, Study Abroad, and Instagram"

Anthony Ongyod (MiraCosta College)

Sun 4:15 PM - 5:30 PM | Imperial

Playing with Resistance

Primary Sponsor: Media Studies

Chair: Darrian Carroll (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo)

"Back to the Dance Floor: Reproductive and Resistive Power of the Dance Mom's Recap Podcast"

Rhiannon Lewis (CSULB)

"How UI Can Contribute to Toxicity in Online Games"

Jesse Rinderneck (Arizona State University)

"Community and Motivation in Pokémon GO: Gotta Catch 'Em All and Keep Playing"

Miranda Ward (San Jose State University), **Aubrie Adams** (California Polytechnic State U, San Luis Obispo)

"For Whom the Bells Toll: Exploring agency & resistance through Animal Crossing New Horizons"

David Anis (California State University Long Beach)

"Till Death Do Us Part: The Boundary Conditions of Parasocial Relationships in the Face of Multiple Moral Violations"

Sarah Downey (Chapman University), **Rebecca Tukachinsky Forster** (Chapman University)

Sun 4:15 PM - 5:30 PM | Coronado

Resisting stereotypes through language use

Primary Sponsor: Communication, Self, and Social Construction

This roundtable will feature international scholars in Communication, Self, and Social Construction exploring resisting stereotypes through language use. Stereotypes are popularly thought of as generalized beliefs about a group of people based on their social identity. In this roundtable, participants approach stereotypes from a discursive perspective: constructed, contested, resisted, and subverted through communication. Aligning with the conference theme of resistance, this roundtable will examine the ways that stereotypes can be identified in interactional data, how they arise and how they are resisted, specifically through everyday social interaction and language use in interpersonal, institutional, and/or mediated and digital settings. Roundtable participants will discuss a variety of topics and contexts including but not limited to gender, race, ethnicity, politics, health, social media, and global/multicultural contexts. They use a variety of qualitative and quantitative language-oriented perspectives, including but not limited to, discourse analysis, conversation analysis, membership categorization analysis, and acoustic analysis.

Chair: Sylvia Sierra (Syracuse University)

Moderator: Natasha Shrikant (University of Colorado, Boulder)

Respondent: Leah Wingard (San Francisco State University)

Panelist: Doniquah Allies (University of the Western Cape), Shelby N. Carter (University of Arizona), Frédéric Dion (University of Montreal), Tamaya Levy (University of Oregon), Sananda Sahoo

(Western University), Natasha Shrikant (University of Colorado, Boulder), Sylvia Sierra (Syracuse University), Leah Sprain (University of Colorado, Boulder), Leah Wingard (San Francisco State University), Xiaodong Yan (University of Colorado Boulder) and Fan ("Ellie") Yang (Illinois State University)

Sun 4:15 PM - 5:30 PM | Sierra B

Social Interactions in the Contemporary Workplace

Primary Sponsor: Organizational Communication

Chair: Natasha Payne (California State University, Long Beach)

Respondent: Veronica Dawson (California State University Stanislaus)

"Starting a New Job is Supposed to be Exciting: An Exploration of Friendship and Well-Being Following Employment Change"

Autumn Buzzetta (Colorado State University), Natalie Pennington (Colorado State University), Amanda Holmstrom (Michigan State University)

"All Good Things to Those Who Wait: The Effect of Interrupting Customers' Conversations on Perceptions of Food Servers and Restaurants"

John Seiter (Utah State University), Harry Weger (University of Central Florida)

"Taking the Good with the Bad: Examining the Supportive and Unsupportive Career Messages Emerging Adults Receive from the Six Sources of Vocational Anticipatory Socialization"

Melinda Aley (Montana State University Billings), Kenneth Levine (University at Albany)

"Affordances as Micro-Political Resources: Conceptualizing Resistance in Organizations as a Material-Discursive Practice"

Tumininu Awonuga (Arizona State University)

Sun 4:15 PM - 5:30 PM | Sierra A

Take My Hands

Primary Sponsor: Performance Studies

Chair: Blake Harms (Arizona State University)

"Take my Hands"

Damon Darling (University of Utah)

Sun 4:15 PM - 5:30 PM | Balboa

The Neurodivergent Toolbox: A Student-Led Workshop for Resisting Intersectional Ableism in Higher Education

Primary Sponsor: Communication, Identities & Difference

This is an interactive workshop that explores neurodivergent students' experiences within higher education. The Neurodivergent Toolbox was created and is presented by professionally diagnosed and self-identified neurodivergent students who seek to resist and improve communication and systems that discriminate, stigmatize, and work against neurodivergent student success. Students will facilitate a discussion about the diversity of brain function, intersectionality, and ableist

communication and structures. We conclude with a faculty facilitated Q&A between students and participants.

Chair: Kendra Rivera (Lane Community College)

Respondent: Kendra Rivera (Lane Community College)

Panelist: Caylee Butler (Lane Community College), Ellian Davis (Lane Community College), Jeremiah Powers (Lane Community College), Mycah Powers (Lane Community College) and Anthony Terry (Lane Community College)

Sun 4:15 PM - 5:30 PM | La Jolla

The Ongoing Work: Continued Criticality as Pedagogical Resistance

Primary Sponsor: Communication and Instruction

This panel explores the role of communication educators in practicing *continued criticality*—an orientation that treats critical pedagogy not as fixed methods but as an ongoing, adaptive process responsive to shifting sociopolitical contexts. By foregrounding this ethic, the panel positions communication educators as resisters to pedagogic standardization, which privileges efficiency and depoliticized content delivery. Panelists will examine how communication instruction can embody this resistive orientation through critical methods, responsive engagement with public controversies, and approaches that treat difference as a generative starting point for dialogue rather than a problem to manage.

Panelist: Chloe Belgum (San Francisco State University), Gabrielle Garza (University of Utah), Harrison Hazen (San Francisco State University), Angelina Mason (California State University, Los Angeles), Lionnell "Badu" Smith (San Francisco State University) and Nick Steinmetz (Arizona State University)

Sun 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM | Del Mar

WSCA Legislative Assembly Meeting

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Sun 9:15 PM - 11:30 PM | Garden Terrace

President's Reception

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

Join WSCA President, Dr. Justin Boren for a reception celebrating the Western States Communication Association. Treats available with a Cash Bar.

Chair: Justin Boren (Western States Communication Association)

Monday, March 02

Mon 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Harbor A

Alternative Organizations: Global South Businesses as Resistance to Dominant Organizational Structures

Primary Sponsor: Organizational Communication

This roundtable panel offers a timely intervention into contemporary issues in organizational communication, such as invisibility/visibility (Cruz 2017), communicative erasure (Dutta 2015), neoliberalism, body and labor politics across different geographical contexts. Following the WSCA 2026 convention theme, "*Resistance*," we hope to recenter often marginalized local businesses that face the aforementioned issues, by showcasing indigenous efforts and strategies incorporated by such alternative organizations in the Global South, resisting the capitalistic organizational structures rooted in Eurocentric managerial practices. We propose practical communication and policy-oriented solutions essential for amplifying such resistance by local industries. Our standpoints and our diverse perspectives from continents, such as Africa, South Asia, and Latin America, allows us to explore how to often underrepresented local businesses communicate, function and resist capitalistic expectations by focusing on community demands instead of large-scale profits. Our focus on communication situational model elucidates the relationship between alternative organizing and visibility/invisibility and helps us appreciate cultural norms' role in an institution's time, relationships, and structures in different geographical settings (Cruz, 2017; Jensen & Meisenbach, 2015). This panel advocates for communication that moves beyond communicative erasure practices to become a truly inclusive and transformative initiative for local communities and businesses in the Global South.

Chair: Ransford Asante (Missouri State University)

Respondent: Joelle M. Cruz (University of Colorado Boulder)

Panelist: Winifred Sekyibea Abakah (University of Colorado Boulder), Jayita Chakraborty (The University of New Mexico), Millicent Elewosi (University of Colorado Boulder), Nathaniel Lubanga (Marquette University), Subarna Mazumder (The University of New Mexico), Beatrice Nwoko Onyinyechi (Purdue University) and Marissa Zamudio, (University of Colorado Boulder)

Mon 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Del Mar

Digital Health Platforms & Algorithms

Primary Sponsor: Health Communication

Chair: Colin Storm (Whitworth University)

"Surveilling Health: Wearable Technology and Unobtrusive Control of Workers' Bodies"

Alaina Zanin (Arizona State University), Christina Meneses (Arizona State University), Carsyn Endres (Arizona State University)

"The Quality-Reach Paradox: How Digital Platform Algorithms Shape Cardio-Health Information Access for the Elderly People"

Monira Begum (University of South Florida), Shohel Rana (University of Barishal, Bangladesh),

Mahmood Khan (Washington University of Science and Technology, USA), Nadia Rahman (Bangladesh University of Professionals, Bangladesh), Jubayer Hossain (University of Dhaka), Zulykha Akinjobi (UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA), Abdur Razzaque Khan (University of Dhaka)

"Tracking Health, Resisting Harm: Effects of Sharing Tracked Exercise Activity Among College

Students"

Christina Selby (Coastal Carolina University), Kyle Holody (Coastal Carolina University), Elizabeth Carter (Coastal Carolina University)

"Digital Health Communication Through Human Branding: Strategic Positioning Among Bangladeshi Fitness Influencers"

Monira Begum (University of South Florida), **Shohel Rana** (University of Barisal, Bangladesh), Jubayer Hossain (University of Dhaka), Mahmood Khan (Washington University of Science and Technology, USA), Nadia Rahman (Bangladesh University of Professionals, Bangladesh)

"Swiping Away Consent: How Daily Dating App Use Among Young Men Relates to Problematic Sexual Consent Beliefs"

Andrea Smith (California State Polytechnic University, Pomona), Nell Huang-Horowitz (Cal Poly Pomona), Mark Generous (California State Polytechnic University, Pomona), Katelyn La (California State Polytechnic University, Pomona)

Mon 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Santa Fe

Everyday Acts of Resistance: Navigating Technology, Humor, and Identity in Interpersonal Contexts

Primary Sponsor: Interpersonal & Family Communication

This session explores how individuals use communication to express identity, demonstrate competence, and navigate belonging across a range of interpersonal contexts. From AI-mediated texting and humor to body image discourse and professional identity, these papers examine how people negotiate expression within social, cultural, and technological boundaries. Together, they frame interpersonal communication as a site of both adaptation and resistance, revealing how everyday interactions challenge silence, redefine norms, and construct meaning in diverse contexts.

Chair: Betty Clements (Midland College)

"Sweet Texting: Examining Dyadic Rapport in AI-Mediated Texting Dynamics, Humans' AI-Detections, and the Perceived Identity Invisible Effect"

Lin Huang (San Diego State University)

"Organizational Communication Patterns as Predictors of Employee Creativity and Innovation: The Mediating Role of Employee Engagement"

Alan Mikkelsen (Whitworth University), Colin Hesse (Oregon State University), Kory Floyd (Washington State University)

"Dude, That's Not Funny: The Effect of Humorous Communication On Communication Competence and Relational Initiation"

Declan Hilliard (California State University, Sacramento), Nathan Woo (California State University, Sacramento)

"Assessing college students' engagement in fat talk and conversations about food, and the impacts on body image and satisfaction"

Isabel Villegas-Glang (San Diego State University)

"More Than a Job: The Impact of Being a Firefighter's Daughter"

Aidan Craig Sundine (University of Utah)

Mon 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Plaza C

ZTC Pathway to Resistance: Using Zero Textbook Cost degree pathways and Open Educational Resources to create productive institutional resistance.

Primary Sponsor: Community College

Our current social and cultural climate creates some troubling trends for higher education; two in particular are the commodification of education in the minds of students (questioning the value of investment) and uncertainty around enrollment and funding. In response to these trends, the faculty at De Anza College have spent the last several years using and developing Open Educational Resources (OER) and will launch a Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) degree pathway for Certificates of Achievement and associate's degrees in Fall of 2026. This roundtable discussion will feature several members of the Communication Studies Department at De Anza College in conversation about how robust usage of OER materials and the creation of a ZTC pathway create a strong and stable sites of resistance through equity, accessibility, affordability, academic freedom, and departmental cohesion. ZTC can be a space of defiance for our departments within our institutions and for our students within our cultural system of inequality. We invite everyone to this conversation to share successes and challenges in these endeavors and to collaborate on future OER and ZTC projects across campuses.

Panelist: Royce Cano (DeAnza College), Nick Chivers (De Anza College), Shagun Kaur (De Anza College), Nancy Park (San Jose State University), Nicole Stibbard (De Anza College).

Mon 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Coronado

Race, Indigeneity, and Resistance

Primary Sponsor: Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy

Chair: Eleanor "Ellie" Estrada (University of Utah)

"#SearchTheLandfill: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls discourse in the 2023 Manitoba provincial election"

Sarah Seroy (University of New Mexico)

"A Narrative Criticism: Killers of the Flower Moon"

Fabiola Smith (California State University Long Beach)

"From Polysemy to Monosemy: The Moynihan Controversy, Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Black Culture of Poverty Thesis"

Chris Earle (UNR)

"Look at What You're Doing: Forcing Self-Reflection in Activism"

Megan Baus (Oregon State University)

"'Press X to Violate Human Rights': An Analysis of Play as Rhetoric in Detroit: Become Human"

Cassie Kallhoff (University of Nebraska Omaha)

Mon 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Sierra B

Resistance to Asynchronous-based Communication Studies Coursework & Forensic Activities

Primary Sponsor: Community College

Post-pandemic asynchronous-based Communication Studies coursework and Forensic activities are still widely used in higher education. DeSantis (2022) and other researchers found asynchronous-based coursework to be beneficial to breaking free from traditional pedagogical methodologies while providing a plethora of computer-mediated learning resources. However, “resistance” to online-learning modalities continues to be an issue for students, faculty, and administration. In this panel, community college educators and others will discuss some of the trials and tribulations with navigating acts of “resistance” to online Communication Studies coursework and Forensic activities. Panelists will share how “resistance” to online-learning modalities has been encountered, and some of the innovative pedagogical approaches utilized to address “resistance” toward technology-based ways of learning and engaging online.

Chair: Michael Brydges (Cypress College)

Panelist: Marie Arcidiacono Kaufman (Los Medanos College), Daniel DeVere (Laney College), Nicole (Nikki) Morrison-Fountain (Independent Scholar) and Zachary Waters (Communication Studies Department, San Francisco State University)

Mon 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | La Jolla

Resisting the Norms: Ableism and Access in Forensics

Primary Sponsor: Argumentation, Persuasion, & Forensics

Ableism thrives in competitive forensics, where entrenched expectations of voice and body create barriers for disabled participants. This panel promotes resistance to exclusionary norms and offers alternatives that expand access and inclusion. Panelists will address how neurotypical expectations place neurodivergent students at a competitive disadvantage for traits and behaviors beyond their control, and how the legacy of the elocution movement continues to shape narrow definitions of “good” speakers. Discussion will also examine the role of judging philosophies and ballots in sustaining and challenging these norms. Finally, the panel will consider how concepts like “reputation” and “paying your dues” have been deployed to silence resistance, particularly from disabled and marginalized voices. Collectively, panelists propose norms that celebrate a broader range of communication styles and model anti-ableist practices that allow for greater participation in forensics by disabled community members.

Chair: Nathan Lawless Steele (City College of San Francisco)

Respondent: Douglas Mungin (Solano Community College - Fairfield)

Panelist: Crowley Crump (Modesto Jr College), Charlie Garcia-Spiegel (City College of San Francisco) and Cec Howze (Modesto Jr College)

Mon 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Plaza B

TALES FROM THE MARGINS: GOING THROUGH IT TO MAKE IT THROUGH

Primary Sponsor: Performance Studies

This performance panel, comprised of undergraduate and graduate students' performance work, utilizes critical autoethnographic frameworks to answer two questions in the Performance Studies call: "What is the role of performance in resisting the oppressive discursive and material conditions we currently face?" and "How can performance offer an emplaced, enfolded, and culturally-reflexive lens through which to imagine living and loving otherwise?" Utilizing critical autoethnography, poetic narrative, digital autoethnography, mixed multi-media and other embodied performance methods, we explore the ways our bodies are our evidence, not only of our lived experience, but of the multiplicity of truths we still seek to name.

Chair: Suzanne Pullen (San Francisco State University)

Respondent: Suzanne Pullen (San Francisco State University)

Panelist: Chloe Belgum (San Francisco State University), Rogelio Campos Garcia (San Francisco State University), Harrison Hazen (San Francisco State University) and De'Jon Joy (San Francisco State University)

Mon 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Sierra A

Transnationalism & Intergroup Experiences

Primary Sponsor: Intercultural Communication

Chair: Dacheng Zhang (Utah Tech University)

Respondent: Reslie Cortés Fradera (James Madison University)

"How Intergroup Contact with Francophones Shapes Anglophone Support for Independence and Federalism in Cameroon"

Elvis Nshom (CSU San Marcos)

"Transnationalism as resistance to marginality: confronting neoliberalism in the digital age."

Cleophas Muneri (University of New Mexico)

"I am African / Black, poet & health communication scholar, and I understand why my people don't want the vaccine." A Critical Autoethnographic Poetic Inquiry"

Henneh Kwaku Kyereh (Chapman University)

Mon 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM | Imperial

Executive Council Session II

Primary Sponsor: Western States Communication Association

The WSCA Executive Council meets twice during the convention. This is the second meeting.

Chair: Justin Boren (Santa Clara University)

Committee Member: Kimberly Aguilar (California State University, Sacramento), Jim Cherney (University of Nevada, Reno), Anthony Cuomo (West Los Angeles College), Greg Dickinson (Colorado State University), Amy Edwards (Oxnard College), Shinsuke Eguchi (Wake Forest University), Stephanie Gomez (Western Washington University), Donna Gotch (California State University, San Bernardino), Keisuke Kimura (Miami University), Tara McManus (University of Nevada, Las Vegas), Shane Moreman (California State University, Fresno), Santhosh Rangamma-Chandrashekar (Univ. of Denver), Casey Schmitt (West Chester University), Lisa Silvestri (Pennsylvania State University), Karen Stout (Western Washington University), Wei Sun (Howard University), Averie Vockel (University of Utah) and Eric Wilson (Western States Communication Association)

Mon 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Plaza C

Exploring the Utility of Narrative Theory and Storytelling in Fostering Community Resilience and Addressing Social Justice: A Roundtable Discussion

Primary Sponsor: Communication Theory and Research

This roundtable discussion explores how theories that center narrative and storytelling can inform and be applied practically to foster critical and often difficult conversations about our shared experiences and duty of social responsibility, in academia and beyond. Bringing together panelists with diverse roles and backgrounds, this roundtable discussion will unpack how storytelling can be leveraged to elicit meaningful dialogue across communities and how such conversations can spark the co-construction of narratives to build community resilience.

"Exploring the Utility of Narrative Theory and Storytelling in Fostering Community Resilience and Addressing Social Justice: A Roundtable Discussion"

Jessica Journeay (Hope International University), Arielle Leonard Hodges (George Fox University), Erin Craw (Fairfield University), Sarah Hanna (George Fox University), Noel McGuire (Smarty Pants LLC), Cailin Kuchenbecker (Chapman University)

Mon 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Santa Fe

Gendered Health Communication

Primary Sponsor: Health Communication

Chair: Kristen Cole (San Jose State University)

"The Intersection of Gaslighting, Feminism, and Misdiagnoses in Communication Studies: An Auto/Ethnography into Resisting the Current Medical Narrative"

Jennifer Marshall (CSU, Northridge)

"Exploring Gender-Based Sexual Health Communication in Pakistani Immigrant Women in the United States: A Critical Interpretive Inquiry of Pre and Post Migration Phase."

Roshni Ashiq (Ohio University)

"Hormones, Perceptions, and Resistance: Implications of College-Aged Adults' Instagram User-Generated Content as Health Communication"

Kendra Ludwig (Northern Arizona University)

"Hack Your Health! Self-Efficacy and Resistance in Communication About Hormones in User-Generated Content on Instagram and Pinterest— A Comparative Content Analysis"

Kendra Ludwig (Northern Arizona University)

"Mothers with Disabilities as Health Navigators: Narratives of Pregnancy, Postpartum, and Parenting"

Agnes Amoakwa (Arizona State University)

Mon 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Sierra A

Resisting Conventional Standards for U.S. Presidential Debate Discourse

Primary Sponsor: Freedom of Expression and Political Communication

After Joe Biden withdrew from the 2024 campaign and was replaced on the ticket by Kamala Harris, Harris and Trump would eventually face off for just one debate on Sept. 9, 2024. This paper's panel presents different perspectives on the nature, content, and implications of 2024 for the future of presidential debates. Following a formal response, the panel chair will facilitate discussion among the panelists and the audience.

Panelist: Corey Davis (University of Wisconsin-Whitewater), Jeffrey Delbert (Ashland University), Mark Glantz (SUNY New Paltz), Todd Hauser (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) and Lars Kristiansen (James Madison University)

Mon 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Del Mar

Resistive Frames: Feminist Critiques of Power

Primary Sponsor: Organization for Feminist Research on Gender Communication

Chair: Hannah Elizabeth Rose Mattingly (California State University, Long Beach)

"Forged Within Boundaries: Girls' Resistance and the Discursive Limits of Agency"

Madalena Robertson (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)

"Discourse on Pronatalism in 2025 America"

Katharina Stroup (California State University, Fullerton)

"'I Was Totally Fine Yesterday and Now I Can't Fucking Walk': An Autoethnographic Critique of Disability as Rigid"

Nick Steinmetz (Arizona State University)

"The Weight of Stigma"

Valerie Renegar (Southwestern University), Kirsti Cole (North Carolina State University)

"Resilience amidst adversity: Media depiction of gendered narratives and vulnerability of Lagos slums in COVID-19 response"

Solomon Tommy (University of Oklahoma)

Mon 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Plaza B

Training the Monster: Instructor Strategies for Critical AI Literacy in the Argumentation Classroom

Primary Sponsor: Argumentation, Persuasion, & Forensics

This roundtable discussion panelists will explore pedagogical strategies for resisting uncritical AI adoption while empowering students to critically evaluate AI-generated content. Through panelist and audience dialogue, we'll address the board questions of, how argumentation educators can resist the uncritical integration of AI? How can educators develop pedagogical approaches that foreground information literacy, ethical reasoning, and the critical evaluation of AI bias? How do we teach implicit bias recognition in AI systems? What are the unique challenges and opportunities in online argumentation courses? Participants will leave with practical tools for fostering argumentative thinking in an AI-saturated information environment.

Chair: Ashley Givens (Salt Lake Community College)

Panelist: Sarah Billington (Salt Lake Community College), Michelle Brownlee (Los Angeles Pierce College), Damon Darling (University of Utah), Daniel DeVere (Laney College) and Kristen Stout (Missouri State University)

Mon 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM | La Jolla

Vaping, Tobacco & Substance Use Messaging

Primary Sponsor: Health Communication

Chair: Colin Storm (Whitworth University)

"Messaging and Framing strategies in Vaping Campaigns"

Dora Nentoola (University of New Mexico)

"The Influence of Descriptive and Injunctive Norms on Young Adults' Intentions to Quit Vaping: The Mediating Role of Self-Efficacy"

Tanzia Khan (The University of Utah), Tae Kyoung Lee (The University of Utah)

"Using a Reasoned Action Approach to Assess Tobacco-Free Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behavioral Intentions Among Current and Former LGBTQ+ Smoking Populations"

Toby Sandoz (San Diego State University), Mary Gonzales (San Diego State University), Gianna Panzardi (San Diego State University), Lydia Greiner (San Diego State University), Georg Matt (San Diego State University), Rachael Record (San Diego State University)

"It's Not Just What Bots Say, but How: Comparing Relational and Skills-Based Chatbots for Young Adult Vaping Intervention"

Jiaying Liu (University of California Santa Barbara), Thomas Li (St. George's School), Brittany Wheeler (University of California Santa Barbara)

"The Social Side of Pandemic Reactance: A Socio-ecological Approach"

Steven Corman (Arizona State University), **Bradley Adame** (Arizona State University)

Author & Presenter Listing

This is a listing of authors & presenters listed in the program. To locate their sessions or see a listing of all conference participants, please use the online version of the program:

<https://wsca.me/2026>

Aaron, Michelle	Basquiat, Cameron
Abakah, Winifred Sekyibea	Baus, Megan
Abdalla, Marwa	Beach, Wayne
Aboba, Matthias	Beers, Carlie
Adame, Bradley	Begum, Monira
Adame, Elissa	Belanger, Noah
Adams, Aubrie	Belgum, Chloe
Adamska, Urszula	Bergstrom, Mark
Aga, Rita	Bevan, Jennifer
Agyapong, Evans	Billington, Sarah
Ahn, Songyi	Blackburn, Kate
Akinjobi, Zulykha	Blevins, Maria
Alekhina, Maria	Bloomfield, Emma
Aleman, Sonya	Bluck, Susan
Aley, Melinda	Boyle, Victoria
Alford, Allison	Brandley, ben
Allen, Jordan	Bray, Sierra
Allen, Mike	Breidenbach, Logan
Allen, Nicole	Breiling, Max
Allies, Doniquah	Bressler, Nancy
Alonso-Pecora, Denise	Briancesco, Kevin
Altayeb, Natalie	Bribiesca, Ariana
Alvarado, Raisa	Brody, Nicholas
Amancio, David	Brown, Melissa
Amoakwa, Agnes	Brownlee, Michelle
Anderson, MyHanh	Bruetsch, Jules
Anis, David	Bruns, Laura
Annie, Tran	Bruschke, Freddi-Jo
Arcidiacono Kaufman, Marie	Bruschke, Jon
Argenio, John	Burroughs, Benjamin
Armenta, John	Butler, Caylee
Artiga-Purcell, James Alejandro	Butterbaugh, Nicole
Asante, Godfried	Buzzetta, Autumn
Asenas, Jennifer	Bylund, Carma
Ashiq, Roshni	Byrd, Tanika
Asifat, Faizat	Campbell Pendleton, Colleen
Ault, Michael	Campos Garcia, Rogelio
Awonuga, Tumininu	Canary, Heather
Ayogu, Ifesinachi	Cancio Vendel, Maya
Bahk, Chandler (Mo)	Carredo, Liliana
Ball, Hannah	Carroll, Darrian

Carter, Elizabeth
Carter, Shelby N.
Ceccarelli, Leah
Cetin, Mervener
Chakraborty, Jayita
Charan, Shanti
Chavez, Abel
Chen, Yea-Wen
Cheng, Melissa
Chhagan, Shreya
Chivers, Nick
Cole, Athena
Cole, Kirsti
Cole, Kristen
Coleman, Elizabeth
Colleary, Rowan
Collier, Mary Jane
Collins, Leslie
Colombini, Crystal
Conley, Donovan
Contreras, Janell
Corman, Steven
Cottam, Jasmine
Craig Sundine, Aidan
Crandall, Heather
Craw, Erin
Crow, Shelby
Crump, Crowley
Cruz, Gabriel
CUI, WENRONG
Cullinan, Megan
Cumello, Ava
Cuneo, Ella
Cunningham, Carolyn
Dabbour, Saeed
Dalal-Whelan, Anjali
Darling, Damon
Davie, Aubree
Davis, Corey
Davis, Ellian
De La Fuente Díaz, Ínaru Nadia
Dejean, Alex
Delbert, Jeffrey
DeVere, Daniel
Dhillon, Mehek
Diamond, Lorise
Diamzon, Cherishann Diamzon
Dickinson, Greg
Dion, Frédéric

Dong, Qingwen
Downey, Sarah
Downing, Sophie
Dropps, Victoria
Duerringer, Christopher
Duncan, Kylie
Dupuy, Monica
Earle, Chris
Ebo, Gavin Vincent
Elabed, Alex
Elder, Spirit
Elewosi, Millicent
Endacott, Camille
Endres, Carsyn
Erincin, Serap
Estrada, Eleanor "Ellie"
Evans-Zepeda, Claudia
Faw, Meara
Fitzpatrick, Eleanor
Floyd, Kory
Fodor, Arielle ("Mrs. Frazzled")
Forno, Eric
Foster, Carrie
Fox, Ragan
Fritz, Alice
Frizzel, Molly
Fukushima, Lauren
Gagnon, Lindsay
Gaikpa, Richard Mawuli
Gainer, Brandon
Garcia, Luis
Garcia-Spiegel, Charlie
Garza, Gabrielle
Generous, Mark
Gibbs, Nathan
Gibson, Katie
Ginossar, Tamar
Givens, Ashley
Glantz, Mark
Gobin, Kristo
Gomez, Stephanie
Gontz, Ayleen
Gonzales, Mary
González, Eduardo
Gordon, Lucia
Goswami, Sneha
Greiner, Lydia
Grotz, Brittney
Gutierrez, Robert

Gutzmer, Kyle
Guy, Ryan
Guzman, Jaime
Haase, Karl
Halualani, Rona
Hamren, Natalie
Hanna, Sarah
Hansen, Alan
Harms, Blake
Harris, Leslie
Harrison, Sydney
Hartung, Julie
Hatton, Oona
Hauser, Todd
Haverfield, Marie
Hazen, Harrison
Hegazy, Rawan
Heisterkamp, Brian
Hernandez, Leandra
Hernandez, Nicolas
Hernandez, Richard
Hernandez, Wesley
Herring, Kristen
Hesse, Colin
Hill, Aly
Hilliard, Declan
Hoelscher, Carrisa
Hogan, Chloe
Holling, Michelle
Holmberg, Aly
Holmstrom, Amanda
Holody, Kyle
Hopson, Mark
Hossain, Jubayer
Howze, Cec
Huang, Lin
Huang-Horowitz, Nell
Humble, Diana
Hurley, Gavin
Iddrisu, Naadiyahtu
Jaff, Naza
Jardin, Matt
Javier-DesLoges, Juan
Jensen, Jared
ji, yadong
Johansen, Clara
Johnson, Alyse
Johnson, Ashley
Jones, Charlotte

Jones, Sarah
Jordan, Jason
Joseph, Mary
Joseph, Ralina
Journeay, Jessica
Jovillar, Julianna
Joy, De'Jon
Juárez, Sergio
Jung, Tyson
Kalin, Jason
Kallhoff, Cassie
Kamrath, Jessica
Katreeb, Mary
Kaznetsis, Michael
Ka'ili, Tēvita
Keeling, Diane
Khaing, Jeffrey
Khan, Mahmood
Khan, Tanzania
Kimoto, Nikko
Kimura, Keisuke
Knizewski, Ruby
Koenig, Christopher
Kristiansen, Lars
Kuchenbecker, Cailin
Kwack, Jessica
Kyereh, Henneh Kwaku
La, Katelyn
Labador, Angela
Labreau, Katie
Lacy, Nicholas
Lalwani, Shelia
Lambrecht, Kathryn
LaPorte, Bridget
Lauricella, Megan
Lawless, Brandi
Lawless Steele, Nathan
Lechuga, Michael
Lee, Tae Kyoung
LeFebvre, Leah
Legohn, Yaminah
Lehleitner, David
LeMaster, Loretta
Lenart, Joshua
Leon-Munoz, Nadalie
Leonard, Rob
Leonard Hodges, Arielle
Lescure, Ryan
Levato, Kai

Levina, Marina
Levine, Kenneth
Levy, Tamaya
Lewis, Rhiannon
Li, Camille
Li, Thomas
Liu, Jiaying
Liu, Liming
Livingston, Dalaki
Loeffler, Oli
Logunova, Kristina
Lopes C Fiuza Borges, Clara
Louise, Aubry
Lubanga, Nathaniel
Ludwig, Kendra
Ma, Yitong
Madlensky, Lisa
Madrigal, Jocelyn
Maisano, Toni
Malvini Redden, Shawna
Mamary, Ava
Manning, Jimmie
Marr, Chandler
Marshall, Dana
Marshall, Jennifer
Martínez, Diana
Martinez, Dustin
Martinez, Karina
Martinez, Laura
Mason, Angelina
Mason, Benjamin
MASUMOTO, Tomoko
Matt, Georg
Mattingly, Hannah Elizabeth Rose
Mazumder, Subarna
McDermott, Victoria
McGinnis, Dorothy
McGoff Dean, Colleen
McGrath, John
McGuire, Noel
McIntosh White, Judith
McKasy, Meaghan
McKay, Rana
Medina, Marissa
Mejía, Oscar
Meneses, Christina
Mercure, Kayla
Mihal, Colleen
Mikkelson, Alan

Milburn, Trudy
Miller, Jackson
Miller, Madeline
miller-day, michelle
Mink, Emma
Mojica, Victor
Moles, Angelina
Morgan, Macie
Morley, Morgan
Morris, Charles
Morrison-Fountain, Nicole (Nikki)
Moscozo, Raquel
Mouradian, Kristine
Mroz, Emily
Muller, Heidi
Muneri, Cleophas
Mungin, Douglas
Munz, Stevie
Murphy, Jeremy
Murphy, Megan
Murray, Tira
Nadler, Nikki
Naea, Mariah
Naranjo, Andrea
Nassirpour, Mondana
Naval, Teresa
Navarro, Miriam
Nelson, Leslie
Nentoola, Dora
Nesheiwat, Abraham
Netherton, Bradford
Nevins-Grimm, Brystal
Nguyen, Crystal
Nguyen, Sam
Nshom, Elvis
Nwoko Onyinyechi, Beatrice
O'Shay, Sydney
Oak, Bedlam
Ockene, Maille McMahon
Ockene, Misha
Oloruntobi, Tomide
Ono, Kent
Opdycke, Kelly
Orellano, Crystal
Ornelas, Ivan
Overholt, Stacey
Owens Patton, Tracey
Pace, McKenna
Padilla, Jakki

Panzardi, Gianna
Park-Ozee, Dakota
Parker, Amelia
Parker, Shannon
Parks, Melissa
Parnell, Matthew
Parsons, Mikay
Pason, Amy
Pavlova, Ekaterina
Payne, Natasha
Payte, Trista
Peebles, Alanna
Pennington, Natalie
Perks, Lisa
Petruzzella, Salvatore
Picarelli, Randi
Pignato, Laura
Piros, Marshall
Pizzini, Grace
Polanco, Camila
Powers, Jeremiah
Powers, Mycah
Prasad, Pavithra
Pullen, Suzanne
Rabby, Mir
Rahman, Nadia
Ramirez, Edwin
Rana, Shohel
Rangamma-Chandrashekar, Santhosh
Rapp, Michael
Rawat, Meghana
Ray, Colter
Razzaque Khan, Abdur
Record, Rachael
Reiser, Kim
Renegar, Valerie
Requena-Robison, Alden
Reyes García, Zazil
Ricco, Sol
Rice, Rebecca
Rietveld, Kristina
Rife, Tyler
Rinderneck, Jesse
Rivera, Kendra
Rix, Sheryl
Robertson, Madalena
Robles, Reychel
Rojas Hidalgo, Stephany
Romero, Alexa

Root, Elizabeth
Rose, Christina
Rudrow, Keven
Rushing, Holly
Russell, Nicholas
Sahoo, Sananda
Salazar, Sylvia ("Tono Latino")
Samek, Alyssa
Sandoz, Toby
Santana Anzures, Emily
Sapiro Vinckier, Nikki
Savage, Matthew
Sayadi, Mina
Schaad, Marissa
Schepler, Kaley
Schueller, Joan
Schultz, Olivia
Scott, Craig
Seiter, Christian
Seiter, John
Selby, Christina
Self, Rico
Sen, Soham
Seroy, Sarah
Sevy, Sarah
Sharp Penya, Lynette
Shimp, Taureanna
Shrikant, Natasha
Shyminsky, Neil
Sierra, Sylvia
Sigala, Benjamin
Silva, Sam
silveira, Monica
Silverman, Rachel
Smith, Andrea
Smith, Damariye
Smith, Fabiola
Smith, Heather
Smith, Katelyn
Smith, Lionnell "Badu"
Smith, Paige
Snyder, Maura
Snyder-Yuly, Julie
Solice, Margaret
Solomon, Chantel
Soto-Vásquez, Arthur
Spieldenner, Andrew
Sprain, Leah
St. Onge, Jeff

Stafford, Sydney
Stanfield, Kelsey
Stanley, Liahna
Statton, Christopher
Steinmetz, Nick
Stone, Charissa
Stormer, Nathan
Stout, Kristen
Stroup, Katharina
Sullivan, Allison
Tabrizi, Ryan
Tanjuakio, Miguel Christopher
Tanquary, Nicole
Tapia, Jonathan
Taylor, Julie
Terminel Iberri, Ana
Tero, Jessica
Terry, Andrea
Terry, Anthony
Thai, Chan
Thomas, Erika
Thomas, Mariko
Thomas, Olivia
Tietsort, Cris
Tindage, Melissa
Tiongson, Edwin
Tobiassen, Avery
Tommy, Solomon
Tracy, Sarah
Tran, Alexander
Tran, Stella
Tripp, Oliver
Tristano, Michael
Truban, Olivia
Tukachinsky Forster, Rebecca
Udebunu, Nnenna
Upshaw, Sean
Usher, Nik

Vangelisti, Anita
Vasquez-Guevara, Denisse
Ventura, Jarrod
Villegas-Glang, Isabel
Vogt, Lucas
Walrath, Caitlin
Ward, Miranda
Waters, Zachary
Weger, Harry
Wensko, Nathan
Wheeler, Brittany
White, Vontrez
Wicks, James
Wilkie, Diana
Williams, Elvis
Williams, Taylor
Wingard, Leah
WomenInAmerica, Pari
Woo, Nathan
Wu, Mu
Wuester, Rachel
Xiao, Yuqi
Yan, Xiaodong
Yang, Fan ("Ellie")
Yoshimura, Christina
Yousef, Wudase
Zamora, Andi
Zamudio,, Marissa
Zanin, Alaina
Zavala, Lesley
Zebe, Tia
Zhang, Dacheng
Zhang, Hongfei
Zidzik, Zoe

2027 Call for Submissions



WSCA 2027 LOS ANGELES

Call for Submissions

Western States Communication Association 97th Annual Convention

February 19 – 22, 2027 ~ Los Angeles, CA

Theme: Connections

WSCA President-Elect and 2027 Primary Program Planner: Donna Gotch,
California State University San Bernardino, dgotch@westcomm.org

One of the most significant benefits of human connection and networking is the opportunities they create. Whether it's finding a mentor, using a service or discovering a potential collaborator, many of life's most meaningful opportunities emerge through the connections we make with others.

Authentic connection fosters environments in which individuals are acknowledged not solely for their achievements or material stability, but for their inherent identity and lived experience. In periods of societal disruption or instability, such collective bonds and shared actions can offer a vital sense of direction, solidarity, and purpose.

The Western States Communication Association has long affirmed the importance of connection as both a scholarly pursuit and a fundamental human experience. Continuing in this tradition, the 2027 WSCA Convention invites scholars, educators,

and practitioners to critically explore the idea of connection – its forms, complexities, and consequences across varied contexts and disciplinary lenses.

Possible avenues of inquiry include, but are not limited to, the following:

- In what ways can connection serve as an effective pedagogical strategy?
- How do we foster meaningful connections with our students?
- What is the nature of the relationship between classroom environments and the communities they serve?
- How do we engage and connect with the communities in which we live?
- How might we strengthen the connection between our scholarship and our teaching?
- How do we build and sustain connections in online learning environments?
- How do we navigate our connections with technology in educational contexts?
- How does our engagement with social media shape us and how might we choose to disconnect?
- How are we preparing our students to participate and thrive in an increasingly interconnected world?
- What constitutes connection within mentoring relationships, and how do mentors support broader networks of connection?
- In what ways have our modes of connecting with others shifted over time?
- How have the nature and the quality of our interpersonal connections changed?
- How do connections operate at the core of social justice efforts (e.g., racial, gender, economic, environmental justice)?
- How is a culture grounded in connection cultivated and sustained?
- How do we connect with those who share similar experiences or identities?
- How are connections fostered across lines of difference?
- What does connection look like in moments of profound instability?
- How can we nurture connection when experiencing disillusionment?
- How might connection be sustained in contexts where academic freedom or free speech is under threat?
- How are connection or disconnection discursively and relationally constituted within interpersonal relationships?
- What communicative factors contribute to experiences of disconnection?
- What ethical concerns arise from disparities in access to connection and

resources that facilitate it?

Call for Competitive Papers, Program Proposals, Pre-Conference Workshop Proposals, and Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference (USRC) Submissions

Competitive Papers	Deadline: 9/1/26
Panel Session Proposals	Deadline: 9/1/26
Pre-Conference Workshop Proposals	Deadline: 9/1/26
Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference	Deadline: 12/15/26

All papers and proposals, including pre-conference workshop proposals, should be submitted online. Simply go to westcomm.org and then click on Convention, Call for Papers.

Competitive Papers – Deadline 9/1/26

Authors are encouraged to submit papers to Interest Groups for competitive selection. Papers may employ any humanistic, scientific, and/or other methodologies and may address theoretical developments and contributions, critical cultural analyses, disciplinary issues, pedagogical issues, and/or research advancements.

You submit your paper to one Interest Group. Not all Interest Groups sponsor competitive papers, so be sure to review the Interest Group’s online call for papers prior to submission. These calls will be posted to www.westcomm.org after they have been tailored by each Interest Group. Submitted papers should not include information that identifies the author(s).

Research in Progress: Some Interest Groups sponsor “Research in Progress” programs. Papers submitted to these programs should not exceed ten pages in length. Be sure that the Interest Group to which you want to send your paper accepts “Research in Progress” programs before submission.

Debut Award: The WSCA Executives Club Debut Award is made to the author (or co-authors) of a paper presented at the convention “who have not presented a paper at a state, regional, national or international convention, or published in any academic journal.” Papers presented at student-only conferences are exempt from this requirement. All authors of a co-authored paper must meet these

eligibility requirements for a paper to be considered a Debut Paper. Papers eligible for the Debut Award should mark “debut” in the online submission system. Some interest groups also sponsor debut programs; papers need not be presented in a debut panel session to be eligible for the Executives Club Debut Award.

Competitive papers must be submitted online using the online system no later than 11:59pm PST on Tuesday, September 1, 2026. Please address any competitive paper questions, comments, or concerns to the Interest Group planner or the Primary Program Planner, Donna Gotch.

Panel Session Proposals – Deadline 9/1/26

Panel session proposals should focus on a unifying theme relevant to research, theory, or instruction in the area of the sponsoring Interest Group. Panel sessions may consist of a chair, individual presenters, and a critic/respondent in a traditional conference format. However, we encourage proposals for a debate, a round table discussion, a performance activity, or an innovative program that provides opportunities for interaction among participants and attendees. We welcome programs co-sponsored with other interest groups. We particularly solicit programs that relate to the 2027 convention theme, “Connections.”

Panel session proposals must contain the following:

1. Thematic title of the panel session;
2. Names and affiliations of all participants;
3. Title and brief description of each presentation;
4. An abstract of 50-75 words that identifies the content and purpose of the panel, which will be printed in the convention program. If accepted, additional explanations or details may be included in a separate panel session leaflet or handout made available at the panel session presentation;
5. Equipment needed for the panel session. Equipment availability is extremely limited. Note that an AV request is not a guarantee that AV will be available. If your submission is accepted, your Interest Group planner should inform you whether or not you will have AV.

Panel session proposals must be submitted online using the online system no later than 11:59pm PST on Tuesday, September 1, 2026. Please address any session proposal questions, comments, or concerns to the Interest Group Planner or Primary Program Planner, Donna Gotch.

Pre-Conference Workshop Proposals – Deadline 9/1/26

A workshop is intended as a training or informational short course that can be presented in a three-hour or six-hour time block. A workshop topic may concern the presentation of teaching innovations, an area of research, a new theoretical perspective, the application of a body of knowledge, skill development, or another clearly focused topic. Workshop leaders are encouraged to advertise their workshops and solicit participation.

Workshops are scheduled the day of the kick-off, as a pre-conference activity, Friday, February 19, 2027. Participants pay a modest registration fee. The fee is intended to cover only the direct costs (photocopying, materials, etc.) incurred in conducting the workshop.

Pre-conference workshop proposals should include the following:

1. Title of the workshop;
2. Names and affiliations of all presenters;
3. A detailed rationale that outlines the workshop's goals;
4. A brief (50-75 words only) outline and description of workshop activities for potential inclusion in the conference program;
5. Room size and configuration requested (e.g., theater seating, tables of eight, etc.);
6. Equipment needed for the pre-conference. Equipment availability is extremely limited. (Note that AV costs are the workshop submitter's responsibility. You will either have to pay for it directly, bring it with you (if the hotel contract allows), or put it in the cost of the workshop and pass the fees on to the participants);
7. Maximum enrollment number;
8. Fee amount, set in accordance with WSCA policy (see below);

9. Time-block requested (i.e., three hours or six hours)

Guide to setting fees for workshop leaders: WSCA has set \$5.00 as the base fee for any workshop. The first \$5.00 of each registrant's fee is designed to cover the association's administrative costs. Any fees above \$5.00 should be set at such a level as to provide reimbursement to the workshop leader(s) only for the cost of materials, equipment, and any out-of-the-ordinary expenses. Costs for audio-visual and other equipment rental and costs of producing materials for participants must be covered within the overall fee that is specified. WSCA cannot reimburse more money to a workshop leader than it receives from participant fees. If a part or all of a fee is proposed as covering an individual's expenses or as an honorarium, Donna Gotch, President-Elect, must approve it prior to any commitment to the individual.

Workshop proposals must be submitted online using the online system no later than 11:59pm PST on Tuesday, September 1, 2026. Please address any workshop proposal questions, comments, or concerns to the President-Elect, Donna Gotch.

Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference (USRC) – Deadline 12/15/26

USRC submissions must be submitted online using the online system no later than 11:59pm PST on Tuesday, December 15, 2026. Go to westcomm.org and click on Conventions, and then when you are directed to the system select USRC as the interest group. All submissions should be in Microsoft Word or PDF format. For the USRC, all authors of the submitted papers must be undergraduate students at the time of submission. Please address any questions, comments, or concerns to WSCA Second Vice-President, Leandra H. Hernandez at leandra.hernandez@utah.edu

Institutional Review Board (IRB) Approval

Authors must disclose whether they have obtained Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval, organizational approval, or other necessary permissions for any convention submission involving the collection of data on human participants. If no approval was obtained, the reason should be stated.

For example, if authors have not obtained IRB approval because their institutions do not have IRBs, that fact should be stated. The IRB disclosure statement should be included in a footnote, author note, or submission text.