

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Religious Communication Association

2015 NCA Convention

Las Vegas, Nevada

November 19-22

The Religious Communication Association (RCA) welcomes your submissions for the 2015 National Communication Association Convention, November 19-22, in Las Vegas. Submissions will be considered simultaneously for the NCA panels as well as for inclusion in the RCA Conference to be held November 18, 2015, in Las Vegas. Submission to the NCA review process is an agreement to attend the RCA Conference if your paper is slotted there.

Deadline for Submission: Wednesday, March 25, 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time.
Program Planner: Denise P. Ferguson | denise.ferguson@pepperdine.edu

After celebrating our centennial in Chicago, we turn our attention to the first conference of our next century as an association, with our 101st annual convention to be held in Las Vegas, Nevada. Fresh from reflections about our past(s), in 2015 we (re)imagine possibilities for our future(s) with the conference theme, "Embracing Opportunities." Guided by this theme, we will consider ways in which we can "embrace opportunities" for thinking "out of the box" and for seeking creative and unique avenues for accomplishing our professional goals as members of the communication discipline. Ideally, this theme will spark conversations about innovative ideas for enacting our roles and fulfilling our responsibilities as teachers, scholars, administrators, practitioners, and community members.

We invite submissions that inspire us to step beyond "what we have always done" and instead envision "what can be" as we interact with our students, establish ourselves as scholars, connect with colleagues in religious communication and other disciplines, partner with others beyond the academy, and juggle myriad personal commitments amid demanding professional obligations and expectations.

In addition, specialized calls for proposals have been issued by the RCA Communication Studies Interest Group (CSIG) and by the RCA Media Studies Interest Group (MSIG).

Space constraints in the Las Vegas venue will allow fewer panel slots, so consider proposing panels jointly with other NCA divisions and/or affiliates, and submitting to the following opportunities. Possibilities include:

- GIFTS (Great Ideas for Teaching Students)
- Opportunities Beyond the Academy
- Opportunities for Technology and Community
- Opportunities Regarding Administration
- Opportunities for Pedagogy
- Opportunities Regarding Service
- Opportunities Regarding Research
- Research in Progress Roundtable
- The Book Club

RCA will accept submissions in a variety of formats: competitive individual papers, paper sessions, and panel discussions:

Individual papers should include an uploaded abstract and are limited to 25 double-spaced pages, excluding notes. Only completed papers will be considered. Individual paper uploads should not contain any identifying information (author name, university affiliation, etc.). The same paper may not be submitted to more than one division, but there are no limits on the number of unique papers one individual may submit to NCA.

Student papers should be clearly marked as such in order to be eligible for the RCA Student Paper of the Year Award as well as the Donald P. Cushman Award for top student paper at the NCA conven-

tion. For multi-authored works to be eligible for these awards, all authors must be students. **INDICATE** if the paper is a **STUDENT PAPER** (undergraduate or graduate) by checking the appropriate box on the NCA Submission Central form.

Review the "Scholar-to-Scholar" description below and be certain to indicate your willingness to have your paper presented as part of this Scholar-to-Scholar exchange if you think this an appropriate venue for your scholarship. Choosing this option does not exclude your paper from consideration as a competitive paper. Choosing this option is an **ADDITIONAL** consideration and increases your chances for presentation acceptance at NCA.

Paper sessions proposals are theme-based submissions that should include (1) an overall session title, (2) a list of presenters with their institutional affiliations (to be considered for inclusion in the convention program, multiple institutions must be represented), (3) titles and full abstracts for each individual presentation, (4) a detailed description for the online convention program, and (5) a **thoroughly developed rationale** arguing for the significance and relevance of the session. In your rationale, please indicate if your paper session involves inter-divisional cooperation either within RCA or between RCA and other NCA divisions or affiliate groups.

Panel discussions proposals should include (1) an overall title for the panel, (2) a list of presenters and their institutional affiliations (to be considered for inclusion in the convention program, multiple institutions must be represented), (3) a detailed description for the online convention program, and (4) a **thoroughly developed rationale** describing the format of the discussion and arguing for the significance and relevance of the panel. In your rationale, please indicate if your panel discussion proposal involves inter-divisional cooperation either within RCA or between RCA and other NCA divisions or affiliate groups. Proposals for panels are encouraged to demonstrate creative adaptation of the discussion format.

Scholar-to-Scholar sessions feature a one-on-one interactive format for communication and discussion. Individual papers are submitted for public display in dedicated sessions with engagement by selected "wandering scholars" (experts in the field). This format is appropriate for presentations such as videos, interactive media, slide shows, experiential activities, and posters. If you would like to be considered for Scholar-to-Scholar please be certain to check the appropriate approval box on the electronic submission form. Choosing this option does not exclude your paper from consideration as a competitive paper. Choosing this option is an **ADDITIONAL** consideration and increases your chances for presentation acceptance at NCA.

DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2015, 11:59PM Pacific Time. Submit ALL papers/sessions/panels to RCA online via NCA's Convention Central site at <http://www.natcom.org/convention>. Individual curriculum and instruction papers may also be submitted directly to NCA's G.I.F.T.S. (Great Ideas for Teaching Students). Please note that G.I.F.T.S. only accepts individual paper submissions. Submit proposals for Short Courses, Seminars, NCA Preconferences, or any of NCA's First Vice President's Special Programming directly to the appropriate NCA series. Refer to NCA's Convention site (www.natcom.org/convention) for more details on special programming.

INDICATE if you need any audiovisual equipment. Requests must be made at the time of the paper, session or panel submission and should be kept to essential equipment only please. All submitters are encouraged to review the **Professional Standards for Convention Participants** prior to submission. Helpful resources (including the Professional Standards for Convention Participants), such as live and recorded step-by-step instructions on how to submit, are available in the NCA Convention Library (www.natcom.org/conventionresources).

If you have any questions, please contact the RCA program planner, Dr. Denise Ferguson, at denise.ferguson@pepperdine.edu; by mail at Pepperdine University, Communication Division, 24255 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu, CA 90263; or by phone at 310-506-6868.