

Mississippi Communication Association

Call for papers, panels, and reviewers—Annual conference

The Mississippi Communication Association (MCA) is a scholarly not-for-profit organization that seeks to create a sense of unity among all high school, community college, and university communication departments in the state of Mississippi. Like our sister associations, Southern States Communication Association (SSCA) and National Communication Association (NCA), our primary purpose is to promote the study, criticism, research, teaching, and appreciation of the artistic, humanistic, and scientific principles of communication.

As an organization, we promote educational, scientific, and literary excellence within our field at every education level and in all related professional endeavors. We encourage and welcome submissions to the conference from any educator, researcher, student, or professional in any of the many fields of work and research related to communication studies, mass communication, and journalism.

The annual MCA conference is **February 19, 2021 and will be held virtually via Zoom**. This one-day conference is a chance to talk with and learn from fellow communication practitioners, professional educators, and students. More information is available on our website, www.mscommunicationassociation.com.

This year's theme is **Communicating During a Pandemic**, and we are especially interested in panels, workshops, G.I.F.T.S. and academic research related to teaching and learning during a tumultuous 2020-21. Special consideration will be given to programs that focus on ideas and best practices for teaching and learning in a digital space.

You may be involved in several ways:

1. **Suggest a panel or workshop idea.** If you are willing and able to facilitate and/or plan and present a virtual panel or workshop during the conference, please submit your proposal via email to ppoe@comm.msstate.edu by **January 8, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.**
2. **Present an original paper, research proposal, or literature review.** Listed at the end of this call are some (but not all) appropriate areas of research. Submission of a paper indicates you are willing and able to present at the virtual conference. **Full papers** must be submitted by **January 8, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.** to ppoe@comm.msstate.edu. One graduate student paper and one undergraduate student paper will be recognized with top paper awards including a small cash prize.
3. **Submit a Great Idea For Teaching Students (**G.I.F.T.S.**). G.I.F.T.S. submissions are original, unique, and classroom-tested teaching ideas for any/all communication courses or related topics at all levels of education – Interpersonal, Organizational, Small Group, Media, Gender, etc. – not just Public Speaking. We welcome and**

encourage proposals from outside higher education that are adaptable for multiple education levels.

G.I.F.T.S. will be accepted in the form of a document that contains the following:

Title

Course (the applicable course(s) for which the GIFTS was conducted)

Abstract (100 words)

Rationale (a brief explanation of the reason for the activity, research question, hypothesis, etc.)

Directions/Methods (a detailed description of the process, procedures, etc.)

Results/Debrief (a discussion of the results, findings, benefits, etc.)

G.I.F.T.S. submissions are due **January 8, 2021 at 5 p.m.** to

ppoe@comm.msstate.edu.

4. **Serve as a reviewer.** A program is only as good as its reviewers. To have a great program, we need those willing to be great reviewers. If you are **interested in serving as a reviewer**, please contact ppoe@comm.msstate.edu.

Suggested content areas for papers and sessions include but are not limited to:

- The virtual classroom
- The future of the communication classroom
- Managing crisis communication
- Health communication
- Communication and the political process
- Theatre
- Online education and the field of communication
- Communication law and the Internet
- Navigating virtual meetings and groups
- Grass roots activism

Deadlines:

- **January 8, 2021:** Full papers/details for proposed panels, speakers, or workshops/G.I.F.T.S. submissions
- **January 22, 2021:** Notification of acceptance for papers, panels, speakers, and workshops

Please email your submission to ppoe@comm.msstate.edu.

Best,
Philip S. Poe
President, MCA

Panel submission form and media release

Directions

Please provide the following:

- The topic area
- A title for the session
- A brief (1-3 paragraphs) explanation of how the session will address the topic.
- Bios (1-2 paragraphs), headshots, and organization logos (if appropriate) on the presenters.
- Complete the speaker release

Topic Area: _____

Title: _____

Description (1-3 paragraphs):

Please read the following and indicate your acceptance by signing below.

I acknowledge that audio tapes, photographs, videos and other media may be produced from the various lectures, speaker sessions, panel discussions, keynotes and handout materials presented at this conference, including presentations given by me and panel discussions in which I participate. I further acknowledge that compilations of these materials may be sold or provided free of charge by the event producers and owners of this conference, and its successors, to registered attendees of these events and other individuals.

I hereby give my permission to the event producers and owners and their successors, their agents and representatives, to record and distribute audio tapes, photographs, videos and any other media that contain all or a portion of any presentations I give, papers I present, hand out materials I distribute, and panel discussions in which I participate at this event, without any obligation on event owner's part to pay me fees or royalty.

Having given the above permission, I retain the right to terminate said permission but must do so in writing prior to event production.

I hereby agree to the above Speaker Release and to abide by the deadlines as outlined in the Call for Papers Invitation.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print name: _____