



STATEMENT ON COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The National Communication Association continues to monitor the ongoing and developing COVID-19 pandemic and remains committed to taking actions commensurate with the maximum health and safety of its members. We are saddened to hear that many of NCA's sibling learned societies and academic associations have been compelled to cancel their events and conferences in response to the pandemic even as we applaud and commend our colleagues for acting to protect the health of their members and attendees. NCA pledges that it will continue to monitor the situation and make decisions in keeping with the best advice coming from health professionals and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Submissions remain open for NCA's 106th Annual Convention, scheduled for November 19-22, 2020, in Indianapolis, Indiana. In order to accommodate those submitters who now face the prospect of adjusting their class protocols and designs, **we are extending the submission deadline for the 106th Annual Convention to Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 11:59 pm, PDT.** We fully anticipate that the Annual Convention will take place as planned; at the same time, we are implementing the emergency plans and procedures recommended by the CDC for communities and organizations planning and staging large events and gatherings. Also, we hope and anticipate that most of NCA's events and gatherings scheduled for the upcoming summer months will also occur as planned and we will work with our local hosts to make timely and prudent decisions regarding these events. NCA's co-sponsored conference as part of the U.S.-China Colloquium, scheduled for June in Beijing, China, has been postponed until further notice. And the NCA Institute for Faculty Development has been cancelled for 2020.

Alongside NCA's monitoring of COVID-19 and the influence of the pandemic on impending conferences and conventions, we also want to amplify the concerns expressed by other scholarly associations (and, notably, the Association of Asian American Studies-AAAS) concerning the dangerous and pernicious racial/ethnic stereotyping evident in some coverage and communication about COVID-19 in the public realm. We agree with the statement made by our colleagues at AAAS: "we want to be very clear that xenophobia has no place in our communities or workplaces, and that harassment of Asians due to fears of the coronavirus are not only unwarranted but sadly part of a longer history of stereotypes associating Asians, especially Chinese, with disease. We stand firm in rejecting anti-Asian bigotry in the guise of people expressing fear of Novel Coronavirus/COVID-19. We also urge people to find resources that will educate them about how to manage their health as well as why their prejudices/biases in assuming all Asians have the virus are rooted in a history of Yellow Peril rhetoric, xenophobia, ableism, and anti-Asian racism."

NCA reminds everyone that, as AAAS notes, "frequent handwashing, not anti-Asian stereotypes/harassment, is your best means of preventing the spread of coronavirus."