



Official Newsletter of the

INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION DIVISION

SPRING 2021



Greetings From the Chair

MARIA VENETIS

Greetings IPC Division Members!

We hope this newsletter finds you happy and in good health as we continue into the new year. We are excited to share our spring newsletter with you where we highlight changes to the 2021 call for division submissions, provide submission reviewer criteria, outline calls for the Top Thesis, Top Dissertation, Knower Article, Miller Book, and Early Career Awards, update you on the DEI Task Force, and introduce this year's executive team.

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2021 Call for Submissions

Please review the call carefully this year, because there are several noteworthy changes.

- **New!** We are accepting extended abstracts of no more than 1000 words, due to the ways in which COVID-19 may have affect people's timeline for research. Please follow the instructions on the call and make sure to include the words "EXTENDED ABSTRACT" before the title of your paper for ease of identification.
- **New!** Based on recommendations from the IPC Division's DEI Task Force, we are encouraging each person to include a positionality statement in their paper or abstract. See pages 03-05 of this newsletter for more details on this.

Please remember to remove ALL identifying information from the submission, including the title page. If you are a student, make sure to note this on your submission.

Link to the call:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Link to the reviewer criteria:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Contact the 2021 Program Planner and Vice Chair,
Rachel McLaren,
with any questions,
rachel-mclaren@uiowa.edu.



RENEWAL & TRANSFORMATION

NCA 107th Annual Convention • November 18-21, 2021 • Seattle, Washington

Positionality Statement

What is a positionality statement?

Creating a positionality statement is difficult work. It invites reflection about who the researcher is in relation to the research. Positionality statements offer a reflection and acknowledgement that authors' experiences and biases influence their research, including research questions, theoretical framing, design and methodology, analyses, and interpretation. Rather than presenting identities, a positionality statement offers an introspective opportunity for scholars to interrogate and report how their vantage point (personal and/or social identity, sum of experiences, interests, biases) imbues the research process. It's important to note that scholars are not mandated to disclose every aspect of their vantage point; you do not have to disclose embodied identities. Rather, you can address issues of training and paradigmatic bias, for example. Statements should be a 3-5 sentence paragraph and included in the manuscript's method section. Although more common in interpretive and critical scholarship, author reflexivity is important in post-positive, quantitative research. Positionality statements are encouraged but not required for division members to include in the 2021 submissions.

Questions you may consider or ask when creating a positionality statement:

- Who am I in relation to this project? More specifically, how does who I am (or who comprises my research team) affect how I (or my team) approach the topic/context of the study, interact with participants (if applicable), and conduct this research?
- What steps, if any, were taken to account for (or perhaps acknowledge and mitigate - in some quantitative work) the influence that I (or my research team) may have on this study/project?

Positionality Statement

Examples within communication scholarship:

Example #1

Davis, S. M. (2018) The aftermath of #BlackGirlsRock vs. #WhiteGirlsRock: considering the disrespectability of a Black women's counterpublic. *Women's Studies in Communication*, 41(3), 269–290.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/07491409.2018.1505678>

“Before I present the findings, and in the spirit of self-reflexivity, I acknowledge my standpoint as an educated Black American woman. I am not an avid participant in Black online spaces such as comments sections, but I have observed the interactions of other users, advocated for Black online spaces, and am intrigued by the use of language to mark and protect cultural identities. I acknowledge that my positionality influenced this project to some extent; my member resources proved to be important tools that helped me make meaning of the text.” (p. 274)

What was documented in this positionality statement: race/ethnicity, education, gender

Example #2

Moore, J. (2017). Performative face theory: A critical perspective on interpersonal identity work. *Communication Monographs*, 84(2), 258-276.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/03637751.2017.1315891>

“I further reflected upon my positionality as a voluntarily childless woman throughout the research process, and how my own “mind and body of a qualitative researcher literally serve as research instruments – absorbing, sifting through, and interpreting the world through observation, participation, and interviewing” (Tracy, 2013, p. 3). I became particularly sensitive to how my own (lack of) childbearing desire might inform what I found most compelling to represent in research findings, most notably the how participants largely did not disavow their previous childless by choice identities. A researcher from a different subject position would likely hone in on a different facet of power in the negotiations of childbearing face. Through these iterative processes of analysis and validation emerged the transformation of pronatalist face threats into subversive facework.” (p. 266)

What was documented in this positionality statement: identity as a voluntarily childless woman, education, qualitative researcher

Positionality Statement

Examples within communication scholarship (Cont.):

Example #3:

Suter, E. A. (2018). The promise of contrapuntal and intersectional methods for advancing critical interpersonal and family communication research.

Communication Monographs, 85(1), 123-139. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03637751.20171375131>

“Notably, my research background, commitments, and identity as a scholar riddle the CIFC framework. I draw upon my empirical focus on culture and non-normative relational and familial forms. The CIFC framework also reflects my feminist orientation toward research. Traces of these commitments are evident in my stance toward the neutrality/subjectivity of research and the role(s) of researcher, researched, and research. I tend to distance myself from objective views of the research project, favoring more subjective views and ideas of researcher and researched as mutually influential. I tend to take a praxis orientation toward research. At the end of the day, I see the role of research as a means to critically examine the status quo and ideally enact social-justice-oriented change to improve the lives and contextual surroundings of individuals, relationships, and families” (p. 126)

What was documented in this positionality statement: education, critical interpersonal and family scholar, feminist orientation

Special Thanks:

A special thanks to **Melissa Curran**, Associate Professor at the University of Arizona and editor of the *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, and **Ashley Randall**, Associate Professor at Arizona State University and editor of *Personal Relationships*, for sharing resources with the DEI Task Force and Division. Thank you to **Elizabeth Hintz** (doctoral candidate at the University of South Florida) for providing questions to guide development of positionality statements.

Further Reading:

Allen, K. R., (2000). A conscious and inclusive family studies. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 62(1), 4-17. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/i270570>

Roberts, S. O., Bareket-Shavit, C., Dollins, F. A., Goldie, P. D., & Mortenson, E. (2020). Racial inequality in psychological research: Trends of the past and recommendations for the future. *Perspectives in Psychological Science*, 15(6), <https://doi.org/10.1177/1745691620927709>

DEI Task Force

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force 2020 Accomplishments:

- Created shared-power leadership model & process
- Created Google docs/drive and Gmail account (deitaskforce@gmail.com).
- Issued a statement following identity-based attacks of minoritized scholars at NCA 2019
- Recommended language for division call and reviewer rubrics
- Offered input on division call for awards, rubrics, as well as Knapp Award rubric; also input on diversifying nomination pools
- Proposed bylaw change making rubrics transparent
- Organized 2 panels for the 2020 convention

The Task Force continues to pursue their priorities of addressing division procedures and processes in support of greater representation and transparency and creating pathways for division membership involvement.



IPC Division Call for Award Nominations

Please consider submitting nominations for our division awards, which will be celebrated at our 2021 business meeting in Seattle. We welcome nominations from scholars across the interpersonal communication division and encourage nominations for research that serves marginalized identities and underrepresented populations, draws from scholarship authored by researchers in these groups as well as that which makes connections beyond our division and offers applied implications for the work. The deadline for nominations for all awards is **April 15, 2021**. You may view the rubrics used by the award committees [here](#).

Send questions and/or nomination materials via email to:

Dr. Erin Sahlstein Parcell

Chair, Interpersonal Communication Division

eparcell@uwm.edu

Outstanding Thesis

This award honors the most outstanding MA thesis in interpersonal communication completed in the prior two year period. To be eligible for the award given in 2021, the nominee must have successfully defended and deposited their thesis between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2020. At the time of the award, the author of the thesis must be a member of the Interpersonal Communication Division of NCA. The selection committee will judge the thesis based upon the quality of the scholarship, including its conceptual or theoretical foundation, methodological rigor, originality and creativity, substantive contribution, and potential impact in the field. The award will be presented at the Interpersonal Communication Division's annual business meeting at the NCA convention. The award winner will receive a plaque and a cash award.

The following materials are required for nomination: (a) a nomination letter, which may come from the advisor of the thesis, a member of the student's committee, or a professional colleague, and must contain full contact information for the nominator including name, phone number, mailing address, and email address; (b) full contact information for the nominee and proof of completion of the thesis along with the defense date; (c) a one-page abstract of the thesis; and (d) a representative chapter, selected sections of the thesis, OR a paper distilling it, up to 30 (double-spaced) pages maximum, excluding references, tables, and figures. A nomination for this division award does not preclude the project from being nominated for awards in other divisions.

IPC Division Call for Award Nominations

Outstanding Dissertation

This award honors the most outstanding doctoral dissertation in interpersonal communication completed in the prior two year period. To be eligible for the award given in 2021, the nominee must have successfully defended and deposited their dissertation between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2020. At the time of the award, the author of the dissertation must be a member of the Interpersonal Communication Division of NCA. The selection committee will judge the dissertation based upon the quality of the scholarship, including its conceptual or theoretical foundation, methodological rigor, originality and creativity, substantive contribution, and potential impact in the field. The award will be presented at the Interpersonal Communication Division's annual business meeting at the NCA convention. The award winner will receive a plaque and a cash award.

The following materials are required for nomination: (a) a nomination letter, which may come from the advisor of the dissertation, a member of the student's committee, or a professional colleague, and must contain full contact information for the nominator, including name, phone number, mailing address, and email address; (b) full contact information for the nominee and proof of completion of the dissertation along with the defense date; (c) a one-page abstract of the dissertation; and (d) a representative chapter, selected sections of the dissertation, OR a paper distilling it, up to 30 (double-spaced) pages maximum, excluding references, tables, and figures. A nomination for this division award does not preclude the project from being nominated for awards in other divisions or for the NCA dissertation award.

Early Career Award

This award honors a scholar who is still in the early part of their career yet who has already played an important role in shaping interpersonal communication research. To be eligible for this award, the scholar must be no more than eight years past receipt of the Ph.D. (that is, to be eligible for the award given in 2021, the scholar must have received the Ph.D. after January 1, 2013). The scholar's body of work must contribute significantly to knowledge of interpersonal communication and show promise for continued contributions. This person must be a member of the Interpersonal Communication Division of NCA at the time of the award.

IPC Division Call for Award Nominations

Early Career Award, Cont.

The selection committee will judge a scholar's contribution and promise based on productivity and the strength of the published work, including its theoretical or conceptual foundation, originality, methodological rigor, and impact. The award will be presented at the Interpersonal Communication Division's annual business meeting at the NCA convention. The award winner will receive a plaque and a cash award.

The following materials are required for the nomination: (a) only one nomination letter is required (self-nominations are strongly encouraged). Nominating letters must indicate how the scholar has contributed to interpersonal communication, including the qualities that are identified in the previous paragraph. The nomination letter must be no longer than two pages; (b) nominations must include the nominee's vita; (c) nominations must include pdf copies of three representative examples from the nominee's body of work.

Franklin H. Knowler Award

This award honors an outstanding article or book chapter, authored or co-authored by a member of the Interpersonal Communication Division, that has made a significant contribution to the field of interpersonal communication. It need not be published in an NCA journal (e.g., publications in other communication, psychology, or close relationships journals are eligible) and must have been published no earlier than 2016.

We accept only **self-nominations** from the author(s). Articles or chapters may be nominated by sending a pdf copy of the article/chapter and a nomination letter that includes the complete citation information as well as a rationale for the nomination. The award will be presented at the Interpersonal Communication Division's annual business meeting at the NCA convention where the award winner(s) will receive a plaque. In addition, the article will be highlighted on the bi-annual Miller/Knowler Award Panel at the NCA convention either in the year it wins the award or in the following year.

IPC Division Call for Award Nominations

Gerald R. Miller Award

This award honors an outstanding book that has made a significant contribution to the field of interpersonal communication. The work nominated must have been written by a member of the Interpersonal Communication Division and published no earlier than 2016. Authored and edited volumes are eligible for consideration, but preference will be given to authored volumes (all else being equal).

We accept only **self-nominations** from the author(s). The award will be presented at the Interpersonal Communication Division's annual business meeting at the NCA convention where the award winner(s) will receive a plaque. In addition, the book will be highlighted on the bi-annual Miller/Knowler Award Panel at the NCA convention either in the year it wins the award or in the following year.

Books may be nominated by sending a letter that includes complete bibliographic citation information and the ISBN number as well as a rationale for the nomination. Authors are also encouraged to send copies of any book reviews and/or other evidence of appraisal. If you are mailing hard copies of book for review, please contact **Erin Sahlstein Parcell** (eparcell@uwm.edu) to obtain the shipping addresses. Emailing pdf versions when available is strongly encouraged.

Program
Vice Chair
Rachel McLaren



New Officers

The Interpersonal Division Leadership team is pleased to welcome **Jimmie Manning** and **Shenita Denson**. Together we will continue to advance the division's priorities of improving procedural transparency as well as member representation, diversity, equity, and inclusion.

**Jimmie Manning | Chair and Professor, Communication Studies
University of Nevada - Reno**

It is awards season in our division again, fellow interpersonal communication scholars! This year I am honored to work with our talented colleagues who will be serving as the committee members for the Miller (article) and Knower (book) awards as well as the Early Career Award. You never know, it could be you that we are honoring – but only if you send us your best work. See the calls in this newsletter for more details.

I also want to express my gratitude for you electing me to office. Our commitment to increasing diversity, inclusion, equity, access, representation, and justice is certainly an important one, and so if you have any ideas about how we can continue to move things forward do not hesitate to be in touch. I look forward to working with you to make our division better and more welcoming for everyone.

**Shenita Denson | Doctoral Student, Language, Literacy and Culture
University of Maryland - Baltimore County**

Peace, love, light, and life, IPC Division Members!

I am honored to serve as your Secretary, where I assist the Division in sharing important announcements and updates. One of my goals for this position is to creatively communicate a variety of information (like this newsletter!) throughout the year that can be beneficial to each of you. To that end, if you ever have any communication requests or needs, good news, or opportunities that would be beneficial to the Division, please email me directly so I can send it out over our listserv or share with our social media content manager, Kai Kuang, to post on Facebook or Twitter. To avoid email overload, depending on the nature of your request, I may wait to send it out with similar requests, if it isn't time sensitive. I look forward to being in communication with you!

IPC Executive Team



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Chair

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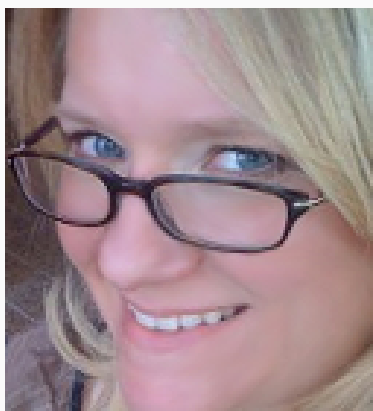
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