

# NCA Student Organizations' Guide to NCA's 106th Annual Convention

## Events to virtually attend at NCA's 106<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

- [NCA Graduate School Open House](#) – Colleges and universities are uploading videos introducing their programs to potential graduate students. Keep an eye out for any schools hosting Zoom information sessions during convention!
- [NCA Opening Session](#) – The Opening Session, *Mental Health at the Crossroads: Intersections in Health and Society*, sponsored by the Waterhouse Family Institute, will focus on a discussion of the various sociodemographic factors that impact mental health and mental health treatment. Shana Kopaczewski will moderate the session which includes panelists David Berman (Mental Health America of Indiana), Diane B. Francis (University of Kentucky), Emily Krebs (University of Utah), and Gary L. Krebs (George Mason University).
- [Carrol C. Arnold Distinguished Lecture](#) – Thomas Nakayama (Northeastern University) will present his address, *The Challenge of Global Whiteness*.
- Scholar to Scholar Sessions – Communication scholars and graduate students are uploading videos of their poster talks for comments and conversation. Keep up to date on the research projects of both your peers and discipline scholars!
- [LPH](#) and [SCH](#) virtual sessions – check out the great work done by fellow honor society members!

## Having a successful virtual convention

- Most panel sessions and individual paper presentations will be scheduled as asynchronous virtual sessions. These presenters will be uploading videos explaining their scholarship. You'll get a chance to watch these videos and interact with the presenters by commenting and via our convention chat program, Discord.
- Top Paper panel sessions, round table discussions, and several other traditional sessions will be scheduled as synchronous Zoom calls. You'll be able to listen to scholar presentations and ask questions in real time.
- To find out more on the logistics of this year's virtual convention, check out NCA's more comprehensive [Guide to the 2020 Annual Convention](#).
- Reach out to scholars whose work interests you! All networking will be happening virtually. Do not hesitate to email a scholar on an engaging panel or to reach out to the graduate directors of institutions and programs that interest you during the Graduate School Open House.

## Get registered!

- Did you know students can participate in this year's convention for only \$25? NCA student members can register for the 2020 convention at no cost. NCA student membership costs only \$25 this year, a savings of over \$100!
- LPH and SCH members can participate this year at absolutely no cost! LPH and SCH members are eligible for a year of free NCA student membership!
- Along with participation in virtual convention events, NCA student members will have access to all of NCA's journals, be eligible for leadership opportunities, and be eligible for NCA awards.

## Preparing for a virtual convention

- Look over [NCA's Best Practices for Virtual Engagement](#) page for advice on how to engage effectively with virtually presented scholarship.
- Check on how the panels you're participating in will be presented. Will you be calling in to a Zoom session or preparing a video presentation? If you're not sure, reach out to the chair of the panel. This person can be found listed on the [online program](#).
- Explore the online program and decide on the panels you'd like to observe. Make a list of each panel and add them to your calendar.
- Create goals and action plans! Engaging in networking, improving your resume, and/or exploring graduate school options all require advance planning or some outreach before the week of convention.



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