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In This Issue: [NCA Virtual Convention Information](#) | [NCA Presidential Address and Awards Presentation](#) | [Scholars' Office Hours](#) | [NCA Career Center](#)

NCA Virtual Convention Information

Paper session, panel discussion, performance session, and film session submitters have been asked to indicate, by October 14, whether 1) their accepted session submission will take place live (synchronously); 2) presenters will meet online prior to the convention to record their session for on-demand viewing (asynchronously); or 3) the session will not take place at all (canceled). If you are a session submitter, and have not already submitted your [session information form](#), please do so today.

More information for all virtual convention participants is available [online](#). As a reminder, while registration is free for NCA members whose membership is current through December 1, registration is still required to access on-demand content and Zoom session links.

NCA Presidential Address and Awards Presentation

Hunkered down at our computers—at home and on Zoom—has changed scholarly life dramatically and perhaps indelibly. At the same time that COVID-19 has changed our lives, sometimes in the most painful ways, activist movements against police brutality; against the ever-present threat of fascism; and against anti-Black, anti-Asian, anti-Queer, anti-Feminist, anti-Latinx, anti-Indigenous, and anti-Immigrant political currents have been growing apace, and with increasing energy.

Like universities, scholarly associations such as NCA, as well as the work many of us do in those associations, are under attack. The Trump administration's statements lambasting Critical Race Theory, combined with calls for "patriotic" education, should concern us all. So, what do we do about it? Yes, many of us already engage with multiple communities, including local, city, state, regional, national, and international ones. Additionally, though, one of our communities is a scholarly one, and it also should respond.

My upcoming Presidential Address, "[Civic Activism and Social Justice: Leading NCA As/Through Change](#)," concerns leadership. It will be part exhortation—encouraging colleagues and students to step up and help change our professional organizations. Another part of it will be reflective—invoking memories from personal experiences that have helped shape what NCA has been, is, and can be. A big part of what I want to emphasize is that those who came before us struggled for what we have now. Honoring their legacies is critical to further humanizing this space we call academia. Simultaneously, struggling ourselves for new change—that is, becoming leaders, and leading—is critical to creating a healthy, vibrant, rich, and lively future. Helping others, and sharing our experiences with them through mentorship, is yet another critical ingredient to finding art and beauty—indeed *arête*—in scholarly life.

I am calling for renewed civic activism in NCA, an activism that is premised on a powerful and deep appreciation for and recognition of material reality and the conditions in which people live, and an activism that is premised on service to others as a social good, one that puts "I" in the service of "we." Past leaders have shown us through their struggles

why it is important to struggle. It is time for us to lead. And, by leading, we must share our experiential knowledge with those who will next step into our shoes.

While more challenging during COVID-19, and with flashier Zoom backgrounds, enlivening social spaces is critical to Leading NCA As and Through Change.

Following the NCA Presidential Address, the annual awards ceremony will celebrate the year's best works across a wide range of scholarly, service-oriented, and pedagogical accomplishments. The [NCA Presidential Address and Awards Presentation](#) will take place on Saturday, November 21, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time and is sponsored by [Routledge, Taylor & Francis](#).

--[Kent A. Ono](#), NCA President, University of Utah

Scholars' Office Hours

[Scholars' Office Hours](#) provides seasoned scholars, junior scholars, and graduate students the opportunity to network and connect with one another. This program gathers top scholars from across the discipline in an informal and highly interactive atmosphere. While COVID-19 prohibits us from holding this session in person, we are attempting to replicate this very unique experience through Zoom breakout rooms.

As during our in-person sessions, attendees will have the unique opportunity to visit with the scholar(s) of their choice for informal conversations (10 minutes), ask questions about research, the discipline, or graduate programs, and/or seek advice on research projects. The Scholars' Office Hours planners will manage the visits to ensure that all attendees have sufficient time to visit with their chosen scholar(s). We also ask that all attendees be very mindful of the time and come to the sessions with specific questions that they would like to ask so that the scholars can offer their invaluable insights and mentorship.

Graduate students, adjunct or non-tenure track faculty members, and new scholars with questions about research and teaching are all encourage to attend this session! Scholars' Office Hours will be held on Friday, November 20, 2:00 – 3:15 p.m. Eastern Time. The Zoom link to join this session will be available to registered attendees on NCA Convention Central. For a full list of participating scholars, please visit [NCA Convention Central](#).

--[Tina M. Harris](#), Scholars' Office Hours Co-planner, Louisiana State University, and [Rona Halualani](#), Scholars' Office Hours Co-planner, San Jose State University

NCA Career Center

The NCA Career Center will feature the Job Fair, three dynamic PrepTalks, and CV Consulting. The Career Center is open to all registered convention attendees and will feature events throughout the month of November. Search "Career Center" in the online program in [NCA Convention Central](#) for a full list of activities.

The PrepTalks this year include:

November 2, 2:00 - 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time "[Navigating the Job Market during a Challenging Time](#)," presented by Joseph Mazer, Clemson University. This talk will provide an overview of best practices and how to market your skills and abilities during a turbulent time.

November 11, 3:00 - 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time "[DEI: The Call to Task BEFORE Your Start the Job](#)," presented by Kami J. Anderson, Kennesaw State University. This presentation will address how to successfully navigate questions and concerns of diversity, equity and inclusion before you start the job.

November 19, 2:00 - 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time "[Beyond the Ivory Tower: An exploration of Alt-Ac careers](#)," presented by Kimberly D. Osborne, Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center. This talk will discuss alternate career possibilities, how to explain relevant experience, and where to search for jobs.

[CV Consulting](#) is where job-seekers can get advice on preparing or polishing their CV. These one-on-one sessions will be done online. To schedule your 15-minute consultation visit our [sign-up site](#).

At the [Job Fair](#), college and university departments with open positions will provide their job description and means to

contact the organization with questions. The list of participating organizations and positions with job descriptions will be available online in November. Please contact [Kristin Yednock](#) if your department has a position opening and you would like to join the Job Fair. Participation for all departments is free this year.

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