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NCA Annual Convention and COVID-19

Our 107th Annual Convention is just five weeks away and, along with the more than 2,000 members who have registered, I am looking forward to returning to our meeting's face-to-face format in the beautiful city of Seattle. We have nearly 1,000 sessions planned, many inspired by our theme of "Renewal and Transformation," that will engage, inform, and challenge us.

For those of you who are traveling to the convention, please be assured that we will follow all of the relevant health and safety mandates in place. Currently, the King County health orders governing Seattle require vaccine verification and masks for indoor facilities, including our two convention venues, and for entry to restaurants, taverns, and indoor entertainment venues. Please consult NCA's [COVID-19 information](#) webpage for more details about these requirements and the other health and safety measures that we will be implementing on site.

We recognize that some of you are choosing not to travel this year, and we understand your concerns. We are providing NCA interest groups with the option to host virtual business meetings prior to the convention (note that members must be registered to attend these meetings), in addition to the in-person, on-site meetings. While we will not be providing any virtual options for panels this year, we are [live streaming](#) nine key sessions, including the four "Renewal and Transformation" panels, the NCA Opening Session, the Carroll C. Arnold Distinguished Lecture, and the NCA Presidential Address and Awards Presentation. Registration is not required for these nine live streamed sessions, so if you are not able to travel to Seattle, please be sure to join us for them.

--[Roseann M. Mandziuk](#), NCA First Vice President, Texas State University

Hotel Reservation Deadline

The deadline to book a room in Seattle at the group rate is Sunday, October 24, 2021. Group room blocks are available at two hotels in Seattle: the Sheraton Grand Seattle and the Westin Seattle. For information on how to reserve a room, please visit the [Hotel and Travel Information](#) page.

Carroll C. Arnold Distinguished Lecture

Tina M. Harris will deliver the 2021 [Carroll C. Arnold Distinguished Lecture](#), "Intentional Transformation in the Midst of Change," which will challenge us to engage an embodied existence of intentional transformation and commit to

creating a new normal in response to the many inequities that have impacted every facet of life.

Dr. Harris holds the Douglas L. Manship Sr.-Dori Maynard Race, Media, and Cultural Literacy Endowed Chair at Louisiana State University. She is an outstanding scholar of interracial communication, focusing on crucial areas such as critical communication pedagogy, race and identity, diversity and media representations, racial social justice, mentoring, and racial reconciliation. In addition to numerous published articles and book chapters, she is co-author of the leading textbook, *Interracial Communication: Theory Into Practice* (2015, 3rd ed.).

Dr. Harris's scholarship consistently and insistently challenges us to consider both dimensions of our theme of "Renewal and Transformation" across the intersections of our academic and personal lives. What are the intellectual, social, and personal obligations to our communities of value that call for our renewed devotion? What are the paths that we must forge to create significant transformation in those same arenas? In our current cultural moment, when multiple political, social, and health crises have reshaped our every pursuit, her lecture will invite all of us to reinvigorate our commitments as Communication scholars and practitioners.

Please join us for the Carroll C. Arnold Distinguished Lecture, at 5:00 p.m. Pacific on Friday, November 19, in Ballroom 6B of the Washington State Convention Center. The session will be [live streamed](#) for those who cannot attend in person. Thank you to [Pearson](#) for its sponsorship and continued support of the Carroll C. Arnold Distinguished Lecture.

--[Roseann M. Mandziuk](#), NCA First Vice President, Texas State University

Renewal and Transformation Series: Dissent

In the wake of George Floyd's murder in May of 2020, protests broke out in Minneapolis and quickly spread across the country. These protests added to the calls for justice in Louisville, Kentucky, where police officers had killed Breonna Taylor only months earlier. Spreading first across the country, from Los Angeles to Atlanta to Tulsa, and later into the streets of Vancouver, Paris, Berlin, and London, calls to make Black lives actually matter quickly spanned the globe.

One of those places that saw major protest activity was Seattle, Washington. Activists took to the streets throughout the city for sustained demonstrations in the form of marches, sit-ins, and other direct confrontational actions. In the [Dissent](#) session, we focus on the protests and dissent that happened in the city during the summer of 2020. We engage with activists who were on the ground and get their perspectives on the direct actions that took place as they stood in opposition to the systemic racism, police brutality and violence directed at people of color in their city and beyond.

This session will take place on Saturday, November 20, 2:00 - 3:15 p.m. Pacific, and will be [live streamed](#) for those who cannot attend in person. For more information, visit [NCA Convention Central](#).

--[Andre E. Johnson](#), *Renewal and Transformation Series Co-planner*, University of Memphis, and [Amanda Nell Edgar](#), *Renewal and Transformation Series Co-planner*, University of Memphis

Scholars' Office Hours

We welcome and encourage NCA attendees to join us at the [Scholars' Office Hours](#) session on Friday, November 19, from 2:00 to 3:15 p.m. in the Washington Convention Center Ballroom 6A! Located in a spacious room with two-three Communication scholars/hosts at each large round table, attendees from all experience levels, backgrounds, and stages of career are welcome to take a seat and join these scholars for informal conversation.

The scholars represent a diverse range of Communication expertise and they come ready to discuss many topics, including developing a research agenda, publishing, navigating the academic job market, managing institutional politics, understanding different types of institutions, balancing service expectations, developing pedagogical techniques, and networking for mentorship opportunities.

This year's slate includes scholars who are versed in diversity, equity, and inclusion along the intersectional lines of race, class, gender, sexuality, disability, and international status. Other topics of interest include dissertation and grant writing, faculty governance and deliberative engagement, community-based and international scholarship, and academic and non-academic career trajectories. Look for our flyers to be distributed via social media and the NCA caucuses for more details on each scholar host. Bring your peers and join us for as long as your schedule permits!

--[Victoria J. Gallagher](#), *Scholars' Office Hours Co-planner, North Carolina State University*, and [Amanda Martinez](#), *Scholars' Office Hours Co-planner, Davidson College*

NCA Career Center

The [NCA Career Center](#) will feature the Job Fair, three dynamic PrepTalks, and the CV Consulting Corner. Complimentary professional headshots will also be offered this year. The Career Center is open to all registered convention attendees and will be held Friday, November 19, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., within the NCA Exhibit Hall in Hall 4B in the Washington State Convention Center Ballrooms.

The PrepTalks this year include:

9:30 - 10:00 a.m. - "So, what now...? Synthesizing Practical Advice on #AltAC and 'Pracademic' Career Opportunities for Graduate Students," presented by Sarah Jane Tracy, Arizona State University, and Marco Dehner, Arizona State University. This talk will synthesize key pieces of advice for seeking jobs in industry and administration. Attendees will learn how to translate one's skills to professional language, create a plan for visibility, and focus on new goals.

10:30 - 11:00 a.m. - "You Don't Have to do What Everyone Else is Doing: How to Carve Your Own Path when the Traditional Route Isn't for You," presented by Jessica Knapp, Consultant. Attendees will learn how to sell their degree as a unique asset so employers will value them as a one-of-a-kind resource when job searching outside of academia.

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - "How Communication PhD Students Can Prepare for a Nonacademic/Alt Ac Career, and What Faculty Can do to Help," presented by Rahul Mitra, Wayne State University. This talk will discuss key tips, strategies, and resources that PhD students can use to embark on their altac careers, while offering some suggestions on how faculty members can help.

At the Job Fair, college and university departments with open positions will be present to meet and speak with job seekers. The list of participating organizations and positions will be available online in mid-October. Please contact [Will Eichhorn](#) if your department has a position opening and you would like to join the Job Fair.

AV Information

If audio-visual equipment was requested at the time of submission, it will be provided. Please contact the [Convention Team](#) if you would like to check the equipment available in your room. Please note that LCD projectors utilize a VGA cable. NCA will be providing VGA to HDMI adapters. If you use an Apple product or other device that does not utilize a VGA or HDMI connection, you are responsible for bringing your own cable adapter.

Internet access will be available throughout the meeting space. Please note that the bandwidth is shared; as a courtesy to others, please refrain from uploading, downloading, or streaming large files. While wi-fi will be available, it is not designed to facilitate virtual presentation via a streamed video call. Information on how to present research papers if you are unable to attend in-person is available on [the NCA Annual Convention and COVID-19](#) webpage.

For session chairs who will be playing pre-recorded presentations within a session, or others who will be using video/audio files as part of their presentation, we suggest bringing large video/audio files on a USB or downloading them locally to your laptop ahead of time to ensure uninterrupted access.

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