Peace and Conflict across Place and Context

Sponsor: Peace and Conflict Communication Division
11:00 AM - 12:15 PM
Hilton
Room: Ruth (First Floor)

This panel collects papers which examine the intersection of peace and conflict within specific contexts such as organizational communication, health communication, and journalism. These papers also focus on specific place including Cameroon, Ireland, and Kenya.

Conversations and Communities: Conflict Dynamics in Person and Online

Sponsor: Peace and Conflict Communication Division
Co-Sponsor: Human Communication and Technology Division
12:30 PM - 1:45 PM
Hilton
Room: Ruth (First Floor)

These papers focus on managing conflict in conversations online or face-to-face.

Eco-fascist Survivalism and the Rise of Alt-right

Sponsor: Environmental Communication Division
Co-Sponsor: Peace and Conflict Communication Division
Thu, 11/14: 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM
Baltimore Convention Center
Room: 325 (300 Level)

Eco-fascism is a distressing, timely, and poignant concern for environmental communication studies. This panel analyzes the nuanced, complex, and often contradictory environmental sustainability discourses emerging from alt-right populism in European and U.S. political discourses.

Emerging from the political rebranding of right-wing populism, ecological issues have been coopted, appropriated and reframed to represent themes of purity, freedom, and identity. This reframing represents a transnational trend in discourse that attempts to redefine the complex issues surrounding ecological ideology in terms that support a fascist and exclusionary turn.

Centering on the convention theme of survival, we analyze the alt-right's fatal form of environmentalism that aims to save a pure ethno-state that honors nation and nature over individuals, particularly those the alt-right considers The Other, illustrated most recently by the horrific mass murder of 50 worshippers at Masjid Al Noor Mosque and the Islamic Center of Linwood in Christchurch New Zealand, during Friday prayer on March 15, 2019.

The panel addresses the response to such self-identified eco-fascists as the Christchurch murderer, and other ethno-nationalists who use the mediated circuits of digital media to seek the belonging of an ethno-nationalist imagined community, to promote their ideologies of nature and nation, and to fight for the survival of their imagined ethno-nationalist world.
9/11 and the Academy: Responses in Communications and the Liberal Arts

Sponsor: Peace and Conflict Communication Division
2:00 PM - 3:15 PM
Hilton
Room: Ruth (First Floor)

In this panel, we will consider the production and dissemination of knowledge since 9/11. With eighteen years having passed since that fateful morning, it is time to take stock of how the two primary functions of the academy – scholarship and teaching – have evolved and how they have been shaped by this cataclysmic moment. Focusing on communications disciplines and the liberal arts contexts, we will examine political perceptions, media engagement, news consumption, entertainment, national security, individual and group trauma, and representations of diverse religious and cultural groups.

The panel chair will facilitate a discussion about how new forms of inquiry and exploration are being created, much of it centered on examining the meaning and ramifications of the terror attacks. In addition to new theoretical and empirical insights and opportunities to test them, we will discuss the role of place in post-9/11 American culture, teaching courses about 9/11, and working in an imperative-driven, post-9/11 academic environment that is quite different than what existed in the "long nineties." The multi-directional impacts on post-9/11 scholarship and the conscientious responses from the academy explain a lot about the events of 9/11 themselves, along with the position of communications-related disciplines in the twenty-first century world.

Friday, November 15th

Surviving Academic Incivility: Discourses of Conflict and Peace in Higher Education

Sponsor: Peace and Conflict Communication Division
Co-Sponsor: Instructional Development Division
9:30 AM - 10:45 AM
Hilton
Room: Ruth (First Floor)

Incivility occurs across all types of work settings. Kelly (2017) argued incivility occurs particularly often in higher education settings due to occupational values surrounding academic freedom and tenure. Moreover, a variety of external stakeholders (e.g., politicians, community members, commentators) are increasingly leveling uncivil discourses towards individual academics as well as colleges and universities as a whole. This panel examines the material and symbolic attributes and implications of incivility in the classroom, in and across academic units, with administration, and within the general community. We will define incivility, describe its negative consequences, and offer recommendations for intervention and prevention in communication departments.

Fifty Years of Student Speech: Student Activism from Tinker to Parkland

Sponsor: Freedom of Expression Division
Co-Sponsors: Activism and Social Justice Division, Communication and Law Division, Elementary and Secondary Education Section, Freedom of Expression Division, Peace and Conflict Communication Division, Political Communication Division, Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division
2:00 PM - 3:15 PM
Hilton
Room: Tubman (Third Floor)

Tinker v. Des Moines School District, decided in 1969, established a landmark precedent protecting student speech rights in school settings. The ruling, which has become shorthand for the expressive rights of students, has a powerful legacy in both first amendment jurisprudence and school law. This panel celebrates and interrogates the legacy of the Tinker decision. Mary Beth Tinker, one of the three students who was suspended for wearing black armbands to school, joins the panel to talk about her involvement in the case 50 years ago. She will also join in on the discussion of subsequent rulings that have either scaled back or protected the free speech rights of students and teachers.
Top Papers in Peace and Conflict Communication

Sponsor: Peace and Conflict Communication Division
2:00 PM - 3:15 PM
Hilton
Room: Ruth (First Floor)

These are the top papers in the Peace and Conflict Communication Division including the top student paper. Awards for top paper and top student paper will be presented during the Peace and Conflict Communication Division Business Meeting.

Peace and Conflict Communication Division Business Meeting

Sponsor: Peace and Conflict Communication Division
3:30 PM - 4:45 PM
Hilton
Room: Ruth (First Floor)

All are welcome to the Peace and Conflict Communication Division Business meeting. The Peace and Conflict Communication Division promotes the teaching, scholarship, and practice of conflict management and peace communication at all levels, including interpersonal, organizational and international contexts. We embrace all methodological approaches, and members operate from a wide variety of perspectives, including social science, cultural interpretive, media criticism, rhetorical criticism, and more. We welcome new members interested in the examination and discussion of conflict communication.

We will be awarding top paper and top student paper awards as well as making decisions for the upcoming year for the division.

Saturday, November 16th

Pain, Mediocrity, and Rage: Ethnographic Theories of Right Wing Male Behavior

Sponsor: Peace and Conflict Communication Division
Co-Sponsor: Feminist and Women Studies Division
11:00 AM - 12:15 PM
Hilton
Room: Ruth (First Floor)

Misguided ideologies arise from perceived or legitimate grievances. The research presented in this panel seeks to give forms to those grievances- not to legitimize the resultant violence, but to understand how individuals come to embrace these ideologies. Using Proud Boys as a case study, we describe how violence and violent ideology to self soothe and mask pain. Further, we outline best practices for ethnographic methods in a hostile field environment. How should we study communities with an eye toward accountability and what can we learn from speaking with men who have embraced an ideology that harms women and marginalized communities?

Youth, Protest, and Resistance

Sponsor: Public Address Division
Co-Sponsor: Peace and Conflict Communication Division
2:00 PM - 3:15 PM
Baltimore Convention Center
Room: 344 (300 Level)

Papers engage protests, including youth activism, as a site of politics, constitutive rhetorics, and national identity.
Deconstructing Anti-Muslim Rhetorics in the Contemporary Political Climate: Beyond Survival, Toward Thriving

Sponsor: International and Intercultural Communication Division
Co-Sponsors: Peace and Conflict Communication Division, Political Communication Division, Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division
Sat, 11/16: 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM
Baltimore Convention Center
Room: 335 (300 Level)

This critical discussion panel—the third that we have put on at NCA in as many years—continues exploring the issue of Muslim representation in Western discourse through the intersections of race, gender, religion, and sexuality. We will discuss how the rhetoric and performance of Muslim identities have changed over time and in relationship to the contemporary political climate, in which new iterations of racist, anti-Muslim rhetoric emerge each day. Exploring Muslim representations and anti-Muslim racism is imperative both for communication studies (Yousuf and Calafell, 312-316) and in order to address the larger political circumstances in which violence against Muslims is deeply normalized. While such rhetorics pose a direct material threat to the survival of Muslims both in the United States and transnationally, this panel will also discuss the various ways that Muslim communities thrive in the face of immense instability and violence.

Using a critical intercultural communication lens, we deconstruct discourses of progress, power, privilege, Orientalism, whiteness, and coloniality as they play into anti-Muslim rhetorics. Such rhetorics play a critical role in the myriad violations that Muslims experience today, from individualized instances like the horrific massacres in Quebec and Christchurch to the broader discourses and structural conditions that tacitly sanction such actions, including policies like Donald Trump's "Muslim ban." One prominent instance of this is the War on Terror, which created a spectacle of fear (Kumar 154) that in turn continues to justify the oppression of Muslims transnationally through surveillance and military intervention. This spectacle of fear rhetorically constructs Muslim subjectivities entirely from powerful Western, non-Muslim perspectives, a phenomenon we describe as Orientalism. As Edward Said describes, through language, scholarship, and imagery, Orientalism creates the Orient as an epistemological construction in order to continue Western control over the Oriental "Other" (Said, 1978 3). Dominant popular, media, and educational discourses' continuous production of Muslim subjects as that Oriental Other often prevents Muslims from transcending such constructions and asserting their/our own subjectivities. In such instances, where discourses speak "for" and not "with" Muslims, representations across the intersections of race, gender, sexuality, and class are erased (Alcoff 9). As a result, nearly two decades after 9/11, anti-Muslim rhetoric continues to dominate social, political, and cultural imaginaries worldwide. This has devastating material impacts on Muslim communities, from surveillance and incarceration through the Obama-era program known as Countering Violent Extremism to outright attacks on Muslim community spaces.

Thus, in this panel we critically unpack anti-Muslim discourses and policies, as well as discuss their transnational impact on Muslims in the U.S. and around the world. By amplifying the voices of Muslim communication scholars, we centralize marginality in order to reflect on the lived realities that Islamophobia and anti-Muslim racism (re)produce in our everyday lives and in the larger discourses shaping the contemporary political moment. In particular, we consider the potential to reconfigure dangerous political discourse toward possibilities for worldmaking and futures beyond mere survival.
Beyond Survivorship: Examining Peacebuilding Structures of Identity, Method and Paradigm

Sponsors: Peace and Conflict Communication Division
8:00 AM - 9:15 AM
Hilton
Room: Ruth (First Floor)

This paper session is a natural extension of the convention theme, "Communication for Survival," as defined by NCA's First Vice President Kent Ono "to help inspire us to think about the ways communication improves lives, helps people build relationships, sustain communities, change society for the better, and provide peace of mind." Together, this group of engaged scholars present research on what survival really means, especially in the peace and conflict communication arena.

How do we understand our practitioner-scholarly work in relation to survivorship? What is the locus of survival within the taxonomy of conflict and peacebuilding? What is our role in moving individuals, communities and society past survivorship? How do we incorporate survivorship into our methods of research? How do we frame survivorship when engaging people in divided communities (families, neighborhoods, campuses, organizations, etc)? How do we make sense of the structures of identity in divided or post-violent societies? How do we re-orient our fundamental understanding of communication around survival and beyond?

This collective exploration of peace and conflict considers: 1) how to understand structures relevant to peacebuilding; 2) the fundamental understanding of communication within this new era of division; and 3) practical lessons for engaging others. The papers and presentations address a range of diverse contexts including: African practices of peacebuilding; a post-Good Friday Northern Ireland; the increasingly popular appeal of Restorative Justice; and the emergence of Western Tribalism.