

Political Communication Interest Group Newsletter

Fall 2014

Volume 9, Issue 1

Message from the Chair

Hello CSCA Political Communication Interest Group members, I hope everyone enjoyed their summer and is having a good start to the fall semester. As I'm sure you know, the submission deadline for the 2015 CSCA conference in Madison, WI is fast approaching. With the midterm election occurring in a couple months and talks of the 2016 presidential candidates increasing, I am confident there will be plenty of interesting research presented at this year's convention.

Last year was a great success, thanks in large part to the hard work of Dr. Ryan Neville-Shepard. Ryan served as our Vice-Chair and program planner and did a wonderful job with our 2014 program. We had twelve program slots, and good attendance at our panels. I'd also like to give a special thanks to the 40 members that volunteered to review. I will soon be posting a link on our Facebook page where members can again volunteer to serve as a reviewer, chair, or respondent, and I'd like to thank everyone in advance for their service to the interest group.

This year's conference theme is *Convergence*, and this theme is a great opportunity to highlight our group's strengths. A few ideas discussed at

our last meeting include convergence of methods, research with undergraduates, and connection to Wisconsin politics. I encourage everyone to think about what "convergence" means to them, their research, and their teaching, and to submit papers or panels to this year's convention. Be creative, reach out to scholars in our interest group, and consider converging with scholars from other interest groups and divisions. If you have an idea for a panel, but would like assistance in putting it together, please feel free to contact me and I will do my best to help. Also, remember that our Facebook page is a great place to start a conversation, brainstorm ideas, and connect with other members.

I hope you are all excited for our 2015 conference; I know I am. Madison is a wonderful place, and I've been told there will be some interesting and fun surprises. Thank you all for your service to our interest group and for your wonderful submissions!

Sincerely,
Kelly L. Winfrey
Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women & Politics
Iowa State University

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Call for Papers

Call for Submissions

2015 Central States Communication Association Conference

Madison, Wisconsin

Convergence

April 15-19, 2015

The Political Communication Interest Group invites the submission of competitive papers and thematic panel proposals to be considered for presentation at the 2015 CSCA convention to be held in Madison, Wisconsin.

Submissions to the Political Communication Interest Group should explore theoretical and/or critical issues related to the study of politics and communication. The scope of this Interest Group is broad, as the study of politics and communication may encompass the communicative activity of citizens, individual political figures, governmental institutions, the media, political campaigns, advocacy groups, and social movements. This Interest Group recognizes and encourages research that addresses political communication topics in all contexts and levels of analysis, employing a variety of methodologies.

Proposals that explore connections with other interest groups are especially encouraged. We seek interactive and innovative formats to further develop and increase participation in the discussions.

Examples of formats include:

Competitive Papers Panel: Three to four scholars and a respondent with Q & A from the audience.

Roundtable Discussion: Four to six people with a moderator featuring brief presentations followed by audience interaction and discussion.

Dialogue Sessions: Select a key issue, debate, or article that will serve to open the session and then become the focus of conversation.

Spotlight Sessions: Focus on a noted scholar and a particular aspect of teaching or research.

Debates: This format encourages a town hall atmosphere with a prearranged resolution. Teams argue for and against the resolution.

Senior-Junior Scholar Master Classes: An opportunity for junior scholars to receive input on their research interests and programs from senior scholars in the field.

Paper submission: Only completed papers will be accepted. Papers must include a title page that is separate from the paper, allowing the author's identity to be concealed. Remove all author references in the text of the paper. Students (including graduate students) should mark their papers as "STUDENT" papers in the upper right hand corner of the title page. Debut papers, meaning papers from scholars who have never presented before, should mark their papers as "DEBUT" papers in the upper right hand corner of the title page. All papers should contain a 50-75-word abstract. The Interest Group will present an award for the top overall paper, and the J. Jeffrey Auer Award for the top competitive graduate student paper (which also includes a monetary award). A Competitive Paper Submission Form must be submitted along with the paper. This form is located on the CSCA website: www.csc-net.org.

Panel proposals: Panel proposals must be submitted using either the Discussion Panel Proposal Form or the Paper Panel Discussion Form. These forms can be found on the CSCA website: www.csc-net.org.

All papers and panels must be submitted electronically using Microsoft Word. Documents sent in any other format will be returned to the sender. All media requests must be made at the time of submission. Projectors and screens are available; computers are not. Please only request the media if it is absolutely essential. **Papers and Panel Proposals must be received by October 3, 2014.**

All paper/panel submissions should be emailed to:

Dr. Kelly Winfrey
Iowa State University
winfrey.kelly@gmail.com

CSCA Political Communication Interest Group

Business Meeting Minutes – Friday, April 4, 2014

Minneapolis, Minnesota

The meeting was called to order by Ryan Shepard, Vice Chair.

David McMahon, Incoming VP responsible for conference planning provided an update on next year's conference to be held in Madison, Wisconsin from April 8-12, 2015. The theme of the conference will be "Convergence."

Old Business

1. 2013 meeting minutes were approved.
2. Top papers were announced and awards were presented to:
 - a. Top Student Paper – Meredith Neville-Shepard (University of Kansas), "Inarticulateness and Authenticity: Sarah Palin's Unexpected Recipe for Populist Success"
 - b. Top Paper – Benjamin R. Warner, Hayley Cole, Josh Hawthorn (University of Missouri), "Americans for a Better Tomorrow, Tomorrow: The Normative Effects of Political Comedy"
3. Report from 2014 Convention Planner, Ryan Neville-Shepard
 - a. 12 program spots
 - b. 32 papers submitted, one panel submitted, several created by division
 - c. 40 reviewers volunteered

New Business

1. Amendments to interest group by-laws were passed.
 - a. Changes to program planner: In previous years, the vice chair was responsible for program planning. The chair of the interest group will now be responsible for program planning.
 - b. Changes to electing officers: In previous years, the divisions nominated five officers (chair, vice chair, vice chair-elect, secretary, and secretary-elect). In accordance with Central States rules and guidelines, there will now be only three officers (chair, vice chair, and secretary). The chair will be responsible for program planning, the vice chair for the newsletter, and the secretary for the minutes.
2. Election of Officers
 - a. Kelly Winfrey (Kansas State) was elected as Chair.
 - b. Terri Easley (University of Kansas) was elected as Vice Chair.
 - c. Josh Hawthorne (University of Missouri) was elected as Secretary.
3. 2015 Conference Planning
 - a. A call will appear in the fall newsletter. Ideas for panels were discussed including:
 - i. Midterm elections
 - ii. Working with undergraduates on research
 - iii. Locally based themes (Wisconsin) or connection to people in WI to be subject of panel. Need to reach out to colleagues at Wisconsin/Madison who don't normally attend.
 - iv. Method convergence – talking about same topic from multiple method perspectives
 - v. Silo work – women talk to women about women – break down
 - vi. Significant politicians today and in history from Wisconsin across generations
 - b. Those with additional ideas should email Kelly Winfrey.

The meeting was adjourned by Ryan Shepard, Vice Chair.

Reviewers, Chairs, and Respondents Needed

We hope to have another wonderful set of submissions for the 2015 convention, but your help is needed. Please volunteer to help as a reviewer, chair, or respondent. To volunteer please complete the short survey linked from our Facebook page.

Follow the CSCA Political Communication Interest Group on Facebook!