

Communication Science & Biology

Call for Papers

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Mission: The Communication Science and Biology Interest Group promotes scientific research with relevance for the study of human communication, broadly defined, including biological perspectives such as psychophysiology, cognitive neuroscience, behavioral genetics, animal studies, and evolutionary psychology. Members of the Interest Group value a focus on human communication systems and processes, and strive for rigorous and replicable research. The Interest Group encourages collaboration among scholars of diverse backgrounds to build a richer understanding of shared research questions and methods in the study of human communication. Empirical studies follow primarily a quantitative approach and employ both experimental and observational research designs. In addition to programmatic research leading to novel findings, explorative research, data sharing, and direct replication studies are highly encouraged; null-findings are honored, if the research is based on a rigorous investigation.

Submissions: Accordingly, the Communication Science and Biology Interest Group welcomes the submission of full papers, extended abstracts, posters, and innovative presentation formats on a broad range of topics crossing the traditional boundaries of interpersonal, organizational, technological, mediated and mass communication and their sub-areas. While the interest group provides a home within ICA for submissions with a strong biological background, submissions may or may not include a biological perspective. The most important criteria is that submissions provide a rationale, data, and follow a rigorous scientific approach as outlined in the interest group's mission above. Exclusively theoretical or methodical contributions are also invited, but can only be submitted as full papers. The interest group offers the following submission formats:

Full Papers: Complete research articles within the ICA limit of 25 pages double-spaced (excluding references and tables) will be considered. Solely theoretical or methodical articles must be full papers.

Extended Abstracts: Brief research reports of 5 pages double-spaced (excluding references and tables) will be considered. Extended abstracts must contain at least a preliminary data analysis with a chance of presenting the complete results at the time of

the conference. Extended abstracts that only contain research ideas without data are not appropriate for submissions.

Posters: A complete poster with rationale, methods, data, results, and illustrations can be submitted for review. If accepted, poster submissions will be programmed in the interest group's poster or high-density sessions.

Innovative Presentation Formats: The interest group welcomes suggestions for innovative presentation formats from ICA members which may include panel discussions for controversial research topics, research elevators, data blitz sessions, etc. Proposals should include a rationale for the panel (400-word maximum), as well as abstracts of each participant's contribution (150-word maximum for each presenter). Reviewers will be asked to give weight to proposals that feature an innovative format and a topic that invites diverse perspectives with the potential of exchanging opposing scientific arguments.

Presentations at the Conference: For all accepted submissions, the standard panel format will be reserved for top-rated full papers and abstracts. All other accepted submissions will be programmed in high-density panels or poster sessions. Innovative presentation formats will be provided with a special slot in the program that allows for critical and constructive discussions among a larger number of presenters and audience.

Note: Submissions that do not observe the page limit and are not anonymized will not be sent out for review. All presenters must plan to attend the conference if their work is accepted. We also encourage submitters to become a member of the Communication Science & Biology Interest Group, albeit membership is not required for submissions.

Reviewers: Finally, this is the first year of the Communication Science & Biology interest group and thus, the interest group needs reviewers. Please consider volunteering for this important service to our scholarly community. Within ICA's paper management system (where you submit papers) you will find a link labeled "Volunteer to be a Reviewer". Please click on this link and fill in your information. Under "qualification", please let us know your areas of expertise and check the keywords that best describe your interests. We will use this important information (especially the keywords) for matching submissions with reviewer interests as best as we can. Thank you for your support of our interest group and its mission!

Review Criteria: Reviewers are instructed to evaluate each submission on the following six criteria (using a 5-point rating scale): (1) The submission is interesting; (2) the submission demonstrates methodological rigor; (3) the submission advances our understanding of communication systems and processes; (4) the submission is innovative or provides a rigorous direct replication; (5) the submission will attract a large audience (including myself); (6) the submission advances the mission of the Communication Science & Biology Interest Group.