



2019 Conference

Call for Papers, Panels, and Programs

March 29-30, 2019
Radford University
Radford, Virginia

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VACAS 2019: Redrawing Boundaries

The Virginia Association for Communication Arts and Sciences (VACAS) welcomes submissions to its 2019 conference, “Redrawing Boundaries,” to be held March 29-30 at Radford University in Radford, Virginia. Faculty, graduate students, undergraduate students, and professionals from across the Commonwealth—and our neighbors beyond—are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Theme

As a discipline keen to explore the unfolding edge of social phenomena, Communication is always poised to map new borders when it comes to social, rhetorical, media, and cultural practices. In an era of uncertainty, the discipline’s voice is one that helps to address where new territories are being laid out in every communicative practice from leadership to social media. In fact, Communication specialists should not only be charting where society is redefining its borders, but we must also be at the forefront of drawing where new boundaries need to be established, ones that encourage greater inclusivity, participation, and engagement.

The 2019 conference, “Redrawing Boundaries,” invites individual and group papers, panels and poster presentations that challenge existing social boundaries and explore new borders by connecting research and theory to Communication practice. How can we create new boundaries that include greater inclusivity, participation, and engagement? In what ways can we collaborate to broaden the mindset of existing boundaries? In this time of political and

social upheaval, how can we, as practitioners, encourage and motivate others to engage in positive social change? We look forward to the conversations, hearing the research presented, and engaging with each other as we redefine our own boundaries.

VACAS itself is embracing this thrill of exploration, first by experimenting with a return to annual conferencing and second by partnering with Radford University to situate the convention towards the western edge of the Commonwealth. In redefining its own previous boundaries, VACAS hopes to inspire a conference program that similarly points towards new frontiers.

Events

We are in the process of planning an exciting and fruitful conference that will benefit all communication focused students and faculty. In addition to the traditional paper/panel presentations, we plan to have a video/film panel to showcase production technology students. Furthermore, we will be having a friendly competition amongst our universities with a Campaign-A-Thon. This fast-paced workshop, to be held on Saturday March 30th, will allow teams to put their PR/Advertising/Media Skills to the test by preparing a campaign for a business in the Commonwealth in only a few hours! There will also be a poster presentation as well as a graduate fair, allowing universities to promote their graduate programs.

Beyond these activities, we will be having a keynote speaker and present our prestigious Communicator of the Year award to a fellow colleague in Virginia.

This will be a wonderful, affordable opportunity for all undergraduate and graduate students in communication to experience, either as a presenter or attendee.

Submissions

We encourage submissions across the whole range of the communication field, including, but not limited to: media studies, journalism, political communication and campaigns, public relations, communication theory and rhetorical criticism, critical/cultural studies, science and environmental communication, intercultural communication, interpersonal/small group communication, health and risk communication, and communication education/pedagogy.

We welcome submissions from undergraduate students, graduate students and faculty, and papers/posters can present completed work or work-in-progress. *Undergraduates in particular are encouraged to submit their work.* In short, we envision this conference as a particularly supportive venue for undergraduate students to present their exemplary work in communication research and critical analysis.

Submission opens on January 15, 2019.

Be sure to check regularly for updates at

www.radford.edu/vacas

www.facebook.com/OfficialVACASconference

For Questions, Concerns, or Inquiries please email vacas@radford.edu