

Intercultural Communication Interest Group 2025 Business Meeting

Central States Communication Association

Friday, April 4, 2025

From 9:30 to 10:45 am (location – Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza, Salon I)

Officers

- Chair: Ahmet Aksoy, Columbia College (SC)
- Vice Chair: Jennifer Willis-Rivera, University of Wisconsin-River Falls
- Secretary: Kim Omachinski, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

I. Call to Order

- Ahmet Aksoy made a call to order at 9:32 AM
- Introduced himself to the group and the agenda today

II. Approval of 2024 minutes

- Diana Trebing motioned to approve.
- Carolyn seconded the motion.
- The minutes were approved.

III. Report on 2025 submissions (see Appendix A)

- Doubled number of slots
- Also the second largest group this year
- Executive officers helped make this happen
- 14 submitted, 11 accepted
- Cosponsored 6 panels
- Increased the amount of reviewers this year – tried to have 1-2 reviews this year per person
- Canvassing in previous terms, recognizing programs in the region, sending personal emails to recruit more people to present, also posted on social media networks, plus the constant nudge played an important role
- Special thanks to all the reviewers, chairs, respondents, additional divisions helped as well
- Had a paper panel submission this year (widening the scope)
- Recognized scholars and students for top papers

IV. Top Paper Awards

- *Top Paper*: Emi Kanemoto, Faculty, Bryant University and Tra Vo, Ellen Gorsevski, Bowling Green State University

Title: “What's Wrong with a Little 'Barbenheimer' Movie Fun?: Rhetoric and Peacebuilding Perspectives on the Oppenheimer Film Blockbuster”

b. Top Student Paper: Bryce Thomas, Graduate Student, Grand Valley State University

Title: “Communication & Identity: A Study of Midwestern LGBTQIA+ College Student Experiences Navigating Spaces and Performing Identity”

c. *Top Debut Paper*: Ruth Yeboah, Graduate Student, Grand Valley State University

Title: "Africanism: Experiences of African Students In a U.S Midwestern University"

d. *Top Inclusive Paper*: Kehinde Oladeji , Graduate Student, Western Michigan University

Title: "Transnational Triumphs: Expanding the Scope of Cultural Identity in Nigerian Diaspora Entrepreneurship"

e. *Top Panel*: Al Gonzalez, Bowling Green State University; Nurhayat Bilge, SUNY- FIT; Emi Kanemoto, Bryant University; EunYoung Lee, Central Washington University; Michael Ofori, University of Minnesota; Sofia Carballo, Independent Scholar

Title: "Widening the Scope of Protest Songs: The Intercultural Influence of Bob Dylan"

V. New Business

● Revisiting Top Panel award and revisions of bylaws

- i. Last year we revisited this in terms of how we elect new officers
- ii. Only recognize awards for top paper and top student paper (typically only these are done)
- iii. This year we also gave awards this year for top inclusive paper and top debut paper (4 top papers total)
- iv. Are we interested in offering this more often?
- v. Money goes to that person (first author) and then has to share with the other authors, if there are multiple
- vi. Only given \$100 for our division to provide awards
- vii. Should we raise money on our own to give more awards?
 1. Andrew: do we need to run this through the organization?
 2. Jennifer: this is done in \$25 increments; there are some prohibitions about this but she will look into it further
 3. Carolyn: Is this permitted? With NCA this is not possible
 4. Ahmet: When you join there is a check box to donate - can we add this to our group? Perhaps not now but maybe in the future?
 5. Carolyn: In NCA to keep the competitive spirit of it, we should keep it at top paper and top student paper
- viii. Cash to top paper award to make it more competitive instead of top panel
- ix. NCA can earn more money because it is more competitive
 1. Ahmet: They all get a certificate. All of the top papers were very close in award. Maybe add to the bylaws that they are recognized with a certificate, but only 2 top papers get the awards.
 2. Jennifer: will make a motion to share this to implement in 2027.

● Nominations/elections of new officers

- i. Vice-chair Nominations
 1. Nomination for Diana Trebing by Emi Kanemoto
 2. Second by Andrew Donofrio
- ii. Secretary Nominations
 1. Nomination for Irene Lutterodt by Emi Kanemoto

- 2. Second by Anjana Mudambi
- iii. Vice-chair: Diana Trebing, Saginaw Valley State University
- iv. Secretary: Irene Lutterodt, Southern Illinois University
- Ahmet thanked Kim for her job as secretary
- Ahmet congratulates Jennifer Willis-Rivera on her canvassing for proposals and can't wait to see what happens with the new team
- Discussion on 2026 convention
 - i. Minneapolis, MN (hopefully no blizzard in April 😊)
 - ii. Many schools and universities to connect with in the Mpls area; wants to try to pull in people from those schools who have not usually participated at CSCA
 - iii. Discussion on the 2026 Theme: "Translate"
 - iv. Make connections with members and scholars, practitioners, translate what we know to the public,
 - v. Solicitation of CSCA 2026 potential panels
 - 1. Find people in the community to participate
 - 2. Large Somali and Hmong migrant population in Mpls – peacebuilding? Storytelling of the immigrants
 - 3. Invite students in the community to offer a panel
 - 4. Outing to George Floyd Square
 - 5. Lots of potential for co-sponsorship
 - 6. Look for cultural associations that can help preserve and nurture how their cultures are a part of MPLs
 - 7. Invite Ilhan Omar to speak (involved in controversy)
 - 8. Multicultural dance company performance (waive performers' registration fees; and a small comp for parking for group – need to ask executive committee)
 - 9. Creative scholarship – look at disability advocacy groups that can speak (autoethnography); how do we do scholarship, how do we show their stories that do not follow the atypical neurotypical format
 - 10. Teaching intercultural com as a form of activism – addressing the threats to us as faculty (navigating the safe space that used to be the academy) – the classroom is not a politically neutral space
 - 11. Navigating the complexities of
 - 12. Co-sponsorship with grad student caucus – grad student panel on experiences with international student experiences (unique perspectives); landscape is changing in terms of acceptance rates for international students
 - 13. Panels on activism – member of the Mpls police department to add to a panel – how to communicate in a way that is helpful so we can see things from multiple perspectives; or a university/campus police officer (for a diverse voice); criminal justice major that is a police or security officer (humanizing the face); or the mayor?
 - vi. Sign-up for reviewers for the 2026 convention

VI. Announcements & Closing

- Anjana, Emi, and Sydney are working on a project – looking at the critical intercultural communication research project that they are recruiting for – looking for participants who are conservative
- Ahmet was reinvited back to la Universidad de Guadalajara to teach online this summer. Looking for people who can share voices of their experiences.

- Top paper presentation is after this session.
- Motion to adjourn this meeting at 10:34 AM by Sydney.
- Seconded by Anjana.

Appendix A. 2025 IC Interest Group Planner Report

Number of Panel Slots & Submissions

- 16 slots: 1 business meeting, 11 discussion sessions, and 4 paper sessions.
- 14 papers (3 faculty, 11 student) were submitted, 7 of the 11 student submissions were debut papers, and one paper was rejected, and one paper was transferred to another interest group (w/ us being put as a co-sponsor).
- 11 discussion panels.

From 2021 to 2025 (parentheses indicate accepted)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Slots	9	8	8	8	16
Paper submissions	10 (8)	6 (6)	11 (10)	13 (12)	14 (12)
Discussion panels	4 2 (2)	2 (2)	4 2 (2)	4 2 (2)	11 (11)
Special panel	0	0	1 (1)	1 (1)	0
Paper panel submissions	1 (1)	0	0	0	1 (1)
Co-sponsored panels	2 (2)	0	1 (1)	0	6
Reviewers	12	11	24	18	24

Special Thanks to the Reviewers!

Seokhoon Ahn, Amanda Anka, John R. Baldwin, Nurhayat Bilge, Carolyn Calloway-Thomas, Erin Carlson, Linsay Cramer, Becky DeGreeff, Andrew R Donofrio, Al Gonzalez, Amy N. Heuman, Atinut Inthajak, Emi Kanemoto, Xiaodong Kuang, Scott Mitchell, Anjana Mudambi, Sofia Carballo, Anthony Spencer, Nihar Sreepada, Bryce Thomas, Alexis Thrower, Diana Trebing, Jennifer Willis-Rivera, Ruth Yeboah

Special Thanks to the Chairs! Anjana Mudambi, Nurhayat Bilge, John R. Baldwin, Al Gonzalez, Carolyn Calloway-Thomas, Aimee Miller, Matthew Meier, Salome N Mbah, Sandra L. Pensoneau-Conway, Rick Malleus, Eddah Mutua, Keisuke Kimura, Diana Trebing,

Special Thanks to the Respondents! John R. Baldwin, Carolyn Calloway-Thomas, Anthony Spencer, Lance Rolland Lippert

Special Thanks to our Co-sponsors! Communication Education, ERIC, Health Communication, Political Communication, and Performance Studies and Autoethnography