

**International Communication Association 2019 Pre-conference:
#CommunicationSoWhite: Discipline, Scholarship, and the Media**

Preliminary Description

*Friday, May 24, 2019
Washington D.C., USA*

Pre-Conference Organizing Groups

Ethnicity and Race in Communication division

LGBTQ Studies interest group

Co-Sponsors

Activism, Communication and Social Justice interest group

Communication and Technology division

Feminist Scholarship division

Global Communication and Social Change division

Mass Communication division

DESCRIPTION

As part of an ongoing movement to decenter white masculinity as the normative core of scholarly inquiry, the recent article, “#CommunicationSoWhite” by Chakravartty *et al.* (2018) in the *Journal of Communication* examined racial disparities within citational practices to make a broader intervention on ways current Communication scholarship reproduces institutional racism and sexism. The underrepresentation of scholars of color within the field in regards to citations, editorial positions, and publications and ongoing exclusion of nonwhite, feminist, queer, post-colonial, and Indigenous voices is a persistent and systemic problem in the production of disciplinary knowledge. ICA President Paula Gardner echoed similar sentiments in her 2018 presidential address, calling for steps for inclusion and diversity within the International Communication Association as well as the larger field. This pre-conference aims to highlight, discuss, and intervene in these issues.

We plan to have the following two dedicated sessions:

- A workshop on mentoring support for students and faculty of color. This session is intended to both identify strategies that individual scholars can implement as well as highlight larger structural issues;
- A session on discourses and practices of decoloniality within communication scholarship, which tend to be particularly marginalized.

We also seek **submissions for sessions** that address one or more of the following areas:

– The marginalization of communication scholarship in which race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and other axes of exclusion are central;

- Communication scholarship in the context of the global rise of white supremacy and right-wing ethno-nationalism movements;
- Critiques of communication scholarship from postcolonial and decolonial perspectives;
- Who tends to be hired and who serves as leaders/gatekeepers in the field;
- The politics of citation and publication;
- How #CommunicationSoWhite can function as an intervention within communication studies organizations, departments, and scholarship.

More specific submission instructions and deadlines will be circulated shortly.

DATE AND LOCATION

The pre-conference will take place on Friday, May 24, 2019, in Washington D.C., USA, at a venue close to the ICA conference hotel. Exact location will be announced when it is finalized. The pre-conference will end in time for participants to attend the opening plenary in the evening at the Washington Hilton.

If you have questions, please contact both of the following pre-conference organizers:

Eve Ng, LGBTQ Studies co-chair: eveng@hotmail.com

Anamik Saha, Ethnicity and Race in Communication chair: a.saha@gold.ac.uk