

**Annual meeting of the International Communication Association Pre-conference
Call for Proposals**

**Environmental Communication Beyond Boundaries: Transnational, international,
and comparative approaches to understanding environmental issues**

9 am – 5 pm

May 24, 2019

The George Washington University School of Public Health (room TBA)
Washington, D.C.

Goals and participants

The aim of this pre-conference is to bring together scholars from around the world to share research related to transnational and international aspects of environmental communication. While environmental issues are often fundamentally global in that causes and effects of environmental risk can be separated by thousands of miles and connected by the forces of globalization, most research related to environmental communication has focused on individual nations as the site of inquiry. In addition, environmental communication research has primarily featured nations in the Global North. Therefore, this pre-conference especially welcomes research related to and/or produced in the Global South.

Rationale

Many environmental issues, from climate change and biodiversity loss to pollution affecting air, water, and food supply quality, are fundamentally transnational in that they are either caused by cross-national actors or their effects are felt across the globe. These problems often require cooperation by multiple nations to solve. Yet most research on environmental communication has focused on single nation-states as the site of inquiry and overlooked the nations most-affected by environmental degradation. This pre-conference examines environmental communication in transnational, international, and comparative contexts with a particular emphasis on amplifying voices from the Global South where environmental threat is most keenly felt.

We invite submissions that examine environmental communication in transnational, international, and comparative contexts. We welcome a diversity of topics, including but not limited to the following:

- Trends in transnational/global environmental communication and issues
- Considerations of what constitutes “the global” in environmental communication
- Communicative aspects of inter-governmental negotiations on environmental issues, such as United Nations meetings or treaties related to international environmental policy
- Examinations of how activists, scientists, policymakers, and/or journalists grapple with the global nature of environmental change, including the constraints on their ability to adopt a global outlook

- The role of digital technologies and networks for global environmental communication
- How environmentalism interacts with culture in the Global South and the subsequent effects on environmental communications practice
- Comparative effects of environmental communication on the public in different countries
- The role of marginalized voices (e.g., indigenous populations) in transnational environmental discourses
- Recommended practices in collaborative transnational, global, or comparative environmental communication research
- Theoretical directions in international, global, or comparative environmental communication research
- Methodological innovations in international, global, or comparative environmental communication research

All methodologies and theoretical frameworks are welcomed, including those that go beyond traditions of communication scholarship and consider the influence of political science, sociology, psychology, the humanities, and others in this arena. Both empirical and theoretical contributions are invited. Proposals that involve collaboration from researchers from around the world are especially welcomed.

Submission guidelines

Submit 1) an extended abstract of no more than 1,000 words here:

<https://ica2019envcommbeyondboundaries.wordpress.com/submission-guidelines/> by **January 31st, 2019**. Acceptance decisions will be announced in early March.

Publication opportunity

The pre-conference is associated with the forthcoming ICA-Routledge “Handbook of International Trends in Environmental Communication” that the organizers will edit. The pre-conference will serve as a starting point for conversations and networking related to possible chapters for the handbook.

Registration fee

A small registration fee (between \$10 and \$20 approximately) might be charged to participants. The organizing committee is actively looking for additional sponsorship to make the event accessible to all interested scholars.

Travel stipends

Selected participants will be invited to submit applications for travel stipends made possible by our sponsors. It is estimated that about 8-10 participants will be partially supported with grants that will range approximately from \$500 to \$1500.

These travel grants will not cover the total cost of travel for participants, therefore we encourage you to also explore additional sources of funding through ICA, ICA divisions, your institution, and other organizations.

Following ICA guidelines, the organizers will favor participants from tiers B and C ([click here to determine eligibility](#)) for travel stipends, but may make stipends available to other participants if funds are available.

Sponsorship

This pre-conference is made possible by the Indiana University Center for the Study of Global Change, the Indiana University Media School, and the Michigan State University School of Journalism.

Affiliated Divisions

Environmental Communication Division
Global Communication and Social Change Division

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