

Benson-Campbell Dissertation Proposal Research Award

Call for Nominations

Last Updated: March 28, 2024

This document contains the most current information available regarding the Benson-Campbell Dissertation Proposal Research Award sponsored by the Public Address Division (PAD) of the National Communication Association (NCA). Please note that the criteria and submission instructions may change depending on the year as the committee composition updates annually. The Public Address Division of the National Communication Association welcomes nominations for the 2024 Benson-Campbell Dissertation Proposal Research Award, which honors the scholarly contributions of Thomas Benson and Karlyn Kohrs Campbell by recognizing outstanding promise in doctoral research in rhetoric and public address.

EVALUATIVE CRITERIA We recognize that the study of public address has often privileged the study of hegemonic figures, groups, methods, and rhetorics. Therefore, we encourage scholars whose position, scholarship, and/or topic area expands beyond these historical limitations to submit their work for consideration. Using the following criteria, proposals will be evaluated based on how the proposed project challenges disciplinary hegemonies and/or expands the domain of public address to include diverse, historically marginalized scholars and scholarship that have historically fallen outside of rhetoric's traditional scope:

1. The originality of the proposal
2. Significance of the potential findings
3. Contribution to (and beyond) the theory, history, or criticism of public address
4. Appropriateness and/or innovation of the research design and method

The award committee considers dissertation *proposals/prospectuses* rather than completed dissertations. Proposals should have an anticipated dissertation completion date of no later than August 2025. Submission materials should indicate when the dissertation will be completed. Given that many Ph.D. granting programs do not require a proposal/prospectus defense, applicants are not required to attest to a scheduled proposal defense.

A \$500 award (or two \$250 awards) will be presented at the Public Address Division business meeting during the 2024 NCA convention. Competition for the Benson-Campbell Award is open to graduate student members of the Public Address Division who have successfully defended a Ph.D. dissertation prospectus. A completed nomination packet consists of:

1. A 7-10 page summary of the dissertation proposal prospectus.

2. A statement by the nominee about the progress of the dissertation to date, as well as the anticipated dissertation defense date.
3. A letter of support from the nominee's dissertation advisor or a committee member confirming that the nominee has completed their dissertation proposal/prospectus meeting and/or has successfully defended the proposal/prospectus. The dissertation advisor's letter should also provide a rationale for why the nominee should receive the award. These letters may be submitted to bensoncampbellaward@gmail.com under separate cover.

Matthew Houdek (Committee Chair, Rochester Institute of Technology), **Keven James Rudrow** (Mississippi State University), and **Katherine Lind** (Oberline College) comprise the 2024 selection committee for this award. Should committee members have advisees that submit materials for this award, this committee's policy is to recuse themselves from consideration of those materials to avoid conflicts of interest.

Submit questions and nomination packets electronically to bensoncampbellaward@gmail.com by **Sunday, September 8, 2024**

Please direct questions to Matthew Houdek at the above email address.