




75th Annual ICA Conference

Theme: ICA@75: Disrupting and Consolidating Communication Research

Approved ICA Regional Hub in Nairobi

 **Thursday 12th –
Sat 14th June 2025**

 **Daystar University,
Nairobi, DAC Auditorium**

75
YEARS

 **ICA
2025**

Extended Deadline for Abstract Submission

Why Approved ICA Regional Hub in Nairobi?

To mitigate varied challenges locking out those who desire to participate in the Annual Conference, every year ICA approves regional hubs that are time-delimited mini-conference outlets that run concurrently with the ICA Annual Conference, bringing together smaller groups of scholars in areas where travel to the conference is impossible due to financial or geopolitical reasons (e.g., travel expenses or visa issues). ICA gives small grants, which can be used to pay for hubs' provision of dedicated Wi-Fi or wired Internet, space rental, audiovisual needs, and catering. **Daystar University is privileged to host the ICA Nairobi hub for the fifth time.**

Situating the Conference Theme in Context

The 75th Annual ICA Conference will be held in **Denver, Colorado, USA.**

Addressing ICA's 75th anniversary, the 2025 conference theme is an invitation to critically reflect on communication studies as a discipline and ICA as an agent and site of disciplinary development. These sessions will take stock of ICA's past, critically review present developments, and chart out future avenues for communication research. The Colorado conference particularly welcomes contributions that speak to three essential aspects of the theme: communication scholarship as a transformative and stabilizing force in society, as a research practice that can be both revolutionary and consolidating and communication studies as a disrupted and resilient discipline. In all these contexts, elements of disruption and consolidation are not necessarily antithetical but may productively be framed as a dialectical relationship. ICA has made significant strides in amplifying the visibility of communication scholarship beyond academia. From democratic backsliding to climate change and conflict transformation, our discipline is poised to provide relevant answers to many burning questions of our time. Through public scholarship, communication scholars can make themselves useful by addressing the problems of the world's current polycrisis. They may act as a transformative voice in society (by advocating social change) and stabilizing forces (by maintaining democracy or social justice). A key issue in

this context is the sometimes troubled relationship between scholarship and advocacy.

The public impact of scholarship is typically connected to a discipline's ability to generate original knowledge. Communication research has grown exponentially in quantity over the past 75 years. However, across various disciplines and academic fields, such expansion is mainly attributed to the growth in studies that consolidate existing knowledge, pushing aside disruptive and revolutionary scholarship that forges new directions and breaks existing paradigms. The progressive fragmentation of the discipline may have contributed to this trend, along with persisting social and global inequalities in academia as well as a publication and review culture that intends to disadvantage certain types of research and scholarly communities, including those from the Global South.

Communication research faces these issues while being disrupted on multiple fronts and, perhaps, with unprecedented consequences. AI-based technologies have revolutionized scholarly practice with vast implications for conducting and evaluating scholarship. In addition to high levels of insecurity and precarity, researchers face growing demands to publish in prestigious venues, obtain large grants, and participate in reviewing and evaluations, all putting heavy mental strain on scholars. Through this call, we encourage the discipline to think about ways to consolidate our research environment by growing resilience and developing effective coping strategies.

Call for Abstracts for the Approved ICA Regional Hub in Nairobi

Although we will target some presentations in Denver, Colorado, USA, the ICA Kenya Chapter, in conjunction with the #ICA75 Regional hub in Nairobi, #Daystar University Directorate of Postgraduate Studies and Daystar School of Communication is also receiving submissions. In this spirit, we invite scholars, emerging scholars, practitioners, and {graduate} students to submit Abstracts or panel proposals aligned to the #ICA75 Conference theme: **"Disrupting and Consolidating Communication Research."**

Submissions may address, but are not limited to, the following issues and topics:

- Strategies to increase the visibility and impact of communication scholarship addressing the problems of our time
- The relationship between scholarship and advocacy, as well as obstacles to public scholarship and ways to overcome them
- Research-based disruptions of dominant theories guiding communication inquiry
- Historical trajectories of communication scholarship that have disrupted other fields of research and where other disciplines have disrupted communication studies
- The cross-fertilization of communication research through disruptions originating from within
- Research-based disruptions of dominant modes of communication inquiry from the Global South
- The impact of AI on the conduct and evaluation of communication scholarship
- The political economy of scholarship for the discipline's ability to generate original knowledge
- Assessments of growing academic demands and the resulting mental toll
- Strategies to grow resilience and cultivate solidarity networks among various academic communities
- Analysis of ICA's presence in Africa since 2016
- Communication Studies: the key shifts and continuities in the discipline over the decades
- Communication scholarship as a catalyst for social transformation
- The duality of communication research: revolutionary and stabilizing forces
- Resilience in disruption: communication studies in a changing world
- Dialectics of disruption and consolidation in communication studies
- Interdisciplinary synergies in communication scholarship
- Technological advancements and their impacts on communication research
- Ethics, equity, and the future of communication research
- Any other topic areas related to the Conference theme

Special Session for Postgraduate Students

There will be a special session for postgraduate students from various Universities on Saturday 14th June 2025 to reflect on scholarship. Therefore, the Conference organizers are also accepting Abstracts from students focusing on Postgraduate students':-

- Experience of Masters or PhD studies (in any context)
- Analysis of research – myths and realities
- Exploration of trends in Masters and PhD studies (in any context)
- Experiences of coursework, Thesis/ Dissertation writing and supervision
- Any other topic areas related to the Conference theme or Postgraduate studies

Emerging Scholars

The academic community expect that postgraduate degree holders will advance scholarship by, majorly, research, publications and community service. But where does one begin this journey after postgraduate studies? It is on this basis that organizers are also receiving submissions touching on Emerging scholars, from various disciplines.

Submission Types & Guidelines

- **Abstracts**
 - * Abstracts aligned to the #ICA75 Conference theme, special session for Postgraduate students or Emerging scholars should be 250-300 words
- **Panel proposals** (including roundtable proposals) require a short 75-word description of the panel, a 250-300-word rationale of the entire panel, and a 75-word abstract from each panel participant.
- Submitters are limited to two (2) individual and/or co-authored submissions.
- **For the accepted Abstracts, Authors are expected to submit fully completed papers** that are 5,000 – 7, 500 words, not including title, abstract, tables, figures, and references, by the given deadline.

How to submit

Please click on this link <https://graduatestudies.daystar.ac.ke/index.php?module=ext/public/form&id=6>

Vital Information

- Acceptance of the Abstract means that the Author will:
- i. Register for the #ICA75 Regional Hub in Nairobi
 - ii. Physically attend the conference (at Daystar University), and
 - iii. Present the conference paper.

How Much do I need to pay to participate in the ICA Regional Hub at Daystar University?

- You do not have to pay anything because ICA has provided complimentary (free) remote conference registration. But,;-
- 1. Every organizer or attendee MUST register to attend but not pay.
 - 2. You must intend to PHYSICALLY attend the Hub in Nairobi @Daystar University on 12th June, 13th June, and 14th June 2025

Important Dates & Deadlines	
Call for Abstracts released	24 th January 2025
Extended deadline for submitting abstracts	20 th May 2025
Verdict given	on a rolling basis
Deadline for submitting full papers	2 nd May 2025
Registration begins	7 th April - 16 th May 2025
Conference dates	Thursday 12 th June – Saturday 14 th June 2025

For inquiries please contact: icahub@daystar.ac.ke