

NCA RESEARCH COUNCIL

Report (January – May 2024)

Report submitted by Shaunak Sastry, Chair (2023-25)

Current Members: Jason Edward Black (2024-26), Jiyoung Lee (2023-2025), Annette Madlock (2023-2025), Wendy Atkins-Sayre (2024-26), Paul Schrodt (2022-2024), Benjamin Warner (2022-2024)

I. NCA Convention 2024 Programming

- a. Woolbert Panel for 2023: Patrice M. Buzzanell, "Gaining a Voice: Feminist Organizational Communication Theorizing," published in *Management Communication Quarterly* in 1994.
- b. RCG Panel
- c. Big Questions in Communication (BQIC Panel): Deferred to 2025 to ascertain bandwidth and workload

II. RC worked with National Office on the following items:

- a. Identifying mentors for Doctoral Honors Seminar with host institution (Utah)
- b. Identifying mentors for MCSWR (RC member Sayre to mentor)
- c. Streamlining calendar and process for Woolbert award
- d. Streamlining rubric for RCG

III. **IDEA survey for NCA journals:** Sastry worked with immediate Past President Afifi to edit, improve and calibrate content and delivery of IDEA survey for NCA journals.

IV. Upcoming items

- a. Woolbert deliberations and process begins in June
- b. RC to submit proposal for August EC meeting to restore RCG funding to 60k

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National Office Liaison: Dane Claussen

The last meeting of the Research Council (RC) took place at the NCA convention. Here is a summary of RC business since that meeting.

- 1. Research Cultivation Grant (RCG) Winners:** Applications for the 2024-25 RCG award exceeded our expectations. This year, we had 38 applications, up from 6 last year. RC thanks the EC for maintaining our budget to \$60,000 for this year, and strongly recommends establishing this number for the upcoming budget given the number and strength of the applications. As a reminder, all the winners here are first-time extramural grant winners, and this represents their first external award. Here are the details of the five awarded proposals this year.

Principal Investigator	Institutional Affiliation	Project Title	Funded Amount
Elkhalid, Amnee	University of Arkansas	Narrative Sensemaking in Palestinian Refugees Camps in Lebanon: Transmission of Trauma and Resilience through Intergenerational Family Storytelling	12,300
Chen, Y. Anthony	University of California, Irvine	Empowering Voices: LGBTQ Teens' Social Media Self-Presentation and Identity Development	10,000
Lee, Joomi	University of Arkansas	Access, Asymmetry, and Digital Inequality: Investigating Disparities in Information Processing during Collaborative Interactions in Social Virtual Reality	14,050
Romanova, Ekaterina	University of Kansas	Can Propaganda Reach Beyond Continents? Exploring Media Choice, Conspiracy Beliefs, and Support for Political Violence among the Russian-Speaking Diaspora in the U.S.	9,600
McClaran, Nikki	Arizona State University	Communicating a biopsychosocial depression perspective to diverse communities	14,050

- 2. Open Science Panel and Potential Report/White Paper:** A stellar panel on the prospects and challenges of open science/open data practices within research and publishing practices in Communication was convened for the 2023 convention. Chris Carpenter, RC member, chaired and facilitated the panel, which comprised of established scholars from across the discipline and was well attended. The panel discussion led to a detailed and insightful conversation. Dr. Carpenter has compiled the insights from the panel into a detailed report. Working in collaboration with Dane Claussen, the RC will brainstorm on making the insights/recommendations from the panel publicly available in terms of a white

paper/report authored by the RC. We recognize that there are similar efforts to outline NCA's position and opportunities into open science/open data practices, and RC will collaborate therein.

- 3. Previous RCG winner and reflections:** In a panel featuring previous year's RCG winners (Fawad Shah and Comfort Adebayo), RC members Sastry, Carpenter, and Warner were very encouraged to hear the real-world impact of these awards on the careers of the winners. Both scholars demonstrated other potential federal grants in progress, publications, and career development that **directly emerged from the RCG award**. This is a validation of the NCA's investment into these awards and RC will brainstorm on ways to publicize and disseminate these experiences.
- 4. Thanks to outgoing members:** RC wishes to thank Dr. Chris Carpenter and Dr. Iccha Basnyat for their service to NCA.