

SIGDOC 2021

Building Coalitions. Worldwide.

CALL FOR PAPERS

SIGDOC 2021 Conference: Advocacy, Accountability, and Coalitions Across Contexts

October 12 - 14, 2021

Hybrid Conference: Virtual Presentations with In-Person Meetup Hubs across 8 locations worldwide¹

Conference Chair:

Andrew Mara, Arizona State University

Program Co-Chairs:

Halcyon Lawrence, Towson University, and Liz Lane, University of Memphis

The ACM Special Interest Group on Design of Communication (ACM SIGDOC) invites proposals for its 2021 hybrid conference.

The global pandemic has reinforced the urgency for a different model of engagement of communication practices at the local, national, and global levels, across a range of industries including the media, health services, and technology, to name a few. This past year, we have seen individuals and collectives work in challenging contexts, both advocating for others and building networks of shared knowledge, or coalitions. Additionally, professional and technical communication's (PTC) social justice turn has galvanized our field to continue and sustain such work (Haas and Eble 2020; Jones, Moore, Walton 2019).

As communicators and designers, the SIGDOC community carries great responsibility in ensuring information is dispatched and conveyed with care, mindfulness, and ethical obligations to communities impacted and shaped by that information. Communication and design drive action, yet how can we ensure that action is mindful of the people that engage with the work we pursue?

This CFP asks participants to explore the themes of advocacy, accountability, and coalitions in communication design, PTC, user experience (UX) practice, and teaching and learning. While your work may not explicitly address these themes, we invite you to consider the following questions within the context of your own work:

Applied:

- How can coalitions stem from industry and academic partnerships to engage with processes of advocacy and accountability?

¹ Conference presentations, including the Student Research Competition (SRC), will be virtual from October 12-14. Optional In-person Meetup Hubs are based at 8 partner locations worldwide on October 14 in that location's local time zone.

- How are organizations adjusting to current communication contexts (virtual and socially distant) while maintaining mission focus or pivoting to better serve their partners and users?
- How can industry improve collaboration and create more durable partnerships with communities to create relationships and products that better serve them?

Technological:

- In what ways have technologies contributed to or addressed issues of accountability across communication contexts?
- What are the ways in which technologies have facilitated or inhibited our ability to form coalitions, and do advocacy work?

Practical:

- How do we create systems of accountability? Are there approaches that seem to work better at preventing/mitigating harm and/or maximizing benefit?
- How do professional and/or academic contexts foster or inhibit accountability?
- What value do coalitions bring to novel communication contexts?

Social Impact:

- Are there better approaches to communication design that center communities instead of the technologies and institutions that implement them?
- What are the implications when decentralised forms of expertise are recognized, acknowledged, and fostered?

Methodological:

- What are the extant methods for studying the intersections of technology and communication design, and how might they be challenged?
- Do our existing methodological practices allow us to adequately interrogate issues around advocacy, accountability, and coalitional work?

Theoretical:

- Is there a shared language around advocacy, accountability, and coalitions—and how can academics and practitioners come together to build this language?
- How might we engage with lived experience in our theories?
- Does the field need to redefine expertise and how inclusion works alongside expertise?

Pedagogical:

- How might we rethink expertise and advocacy in our classrooms, professional cultures, internships, and mentorships?
- How do we create coalitions in the aforementioned contexts?

Submission Types & Conference Proceedings

Conference submissions may take the following forms:

- **Research Paper** (integrative reviews or original reports of substantive new work)
- **Industry Insight Paper** (key insights from practitioners from industry experience)
- **Experience Report** (experiential reflections on a case, methodology, or design idea)
- **Poster** (work effectively communicated visually and in conversation)

- **Panel Session** (multiple presenters organized around a specific topic)
- **Workshop** (participatory discussion of current practices and new ideas in the field)

Authors of accepted proposals for all types (except workshops) will be given the opportunity to submit their work for the peer-reviewed proceedings, archived in the ACM Digital Library. We offer four different types of submissions for the conference proceedings:

- Research Papers (7-10 pgs.)
- Industry Insights Papers (2-3 pgs.)
- Experience Reports (4-6 pgs.)
- Extended Abstracts and Poster Abstracts (for poster and panel submissions; 1-2 pgs.)

A full description of each submission type is on the SIGDOC CFP page

(<https://sigdoc.acm.org/conference/2021/call-for-papers>).

Submission to the conference proceedings is encouraged, but not required, for conference participation.

Submission Details

Submit all proposals in PDF format to <https://easychair.org/my/conference?conf=sigdoc2021#>.

Proposals should be a maximum of 500 words and include the title; focus/topic; connection to theme; approach/method; and connection to prior work. Workshop proposals should include explanation and schedule of activities. **Be sure the submission document excludes any identifying information.**

Proposals are due at 11:59 PM in your local time zone on March 12.

Questions? Contact co-chairs:

Liz Lane and Halcyon Lawrence at sigdocconference@gmail.com