

NCA RESEARCH COUNCIL

Report to Legislative Assembly (For activities in May - November 2024)

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

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

I. Woolbert Award Winner (2024)

- a. Between May and October, the RC worked on and met twice to deliberate on the Woolbert award. Of seven total nominations, the council read and rank-ordered each and provided individual qualitative feedback.
- b. After a lengthy deliberation, the council unanimously chose Ascan Koerner and Mary Ann Fitzpatrick for their article, “Toward a Theory of Family Communication, published in Communication Theory in 2002” as the winners of the 2024 Woolbert Award.
- c. The Research Council found Koerner & Fitzpatrick to be a deserving candidate in a pool that had several exceptional nominations that have had a profound impact on the field of Communication. Koerner & Fitzpatrick’s article emerged as the top candidate owing to the endurance of family communication pattern theory, the generative impact of the theory on the field of family communication, and the far-reaching impact of the theory across several subfields of the discipline.

II. Research Cultivation Grantees (2025)

- a. The council completed the process of adjudicating the winners of the 2025 Research Cultivation Grant. RC received a total of 14 applications.
- b. In partnership with the national office, RC streamlined the process to evaluate submissions. RC Chair now assigns applications to a smaller subset of the council, such council members each receive between 4-6 applications each, to enable more engaged evaluation and deeper reading of proposals.
- c. Grantees to be notified by national office (and so not shared here) in order to ensure the communication with them is smooth

III. 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