

Call for Papers, Panels, and Proposals  
Annual Pre-Conference of the Pennsylvania Communication Association

“Extensions of Stein: Empathy and Advocacy in Philosophy of Communication”

Friday October 5, 2018

Seton Hill University

1 Seton Hill Drive

Greensburg, PA 15601

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE FRIDAY AUGUST 31, 2018**

Seton Hill University will be hosting the Pennsylvania Communication Association’s annual conference and pre-conference in October 2018. The theme for the pre-conference is “Extensions of Stein: Empathy and Advocacy in Philosophy of Communication,” which asks scholars to respond to questions of empathy and advocacy in this historical moment. Edith Stein, a saint and existential phenomenologist, examined philosophical and spiritual understandings of empathy in human relations. The pre-conference welcomes papers that continue the conversation of her work, while also inviting other voices that speak about empathy and advocacy to extend this salient conversation for our time.

2018 celebrates the 20th anniversary of Edith Stein’s canonization and the Centennial of Seton Hill University. Both Edith Stein and Elizabeth Ann Seton had perspectives informed by multiple identities. Stein was born and raised Jewish, became atheist, converted to Catholicism, and then entered Carmelite monastic life. Seton was raised and married Protestant, had five children, experienced great wealth and great poverty, converted to Catholicism, and founded the Sisters of Charity. The conference theme values their commitment to being-in-the-world-with-others in advocacy and empathy. Furthermore, it honors their plurality of experience and the deep respect they had for the sacred subjectivity of the Other. Conference participants will experience this Setonian spirit at the University, and they will learn more about Stein through keynote speaker, Dr. Melissa Miller Chastain, Associate Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Humanities, and Chair of the School of Communication at Spalding University.



Dr. Melissa Miller Chastain is Associate Dean of the College of Social Sciences & Humanities and the Director of the Edith Stein Center at Spalding University in Louisville, Kentucky. Her education includes a PhD in Communication, Duquesne University; MA in English Literature & Theory, Duquesne University; and BA in English Literature from Westminster College. Dr. Chastain has been at Spalding since 2004, teaching undergraduate courses and graduate courses including Communication Theory; Decision-Making; and Change

Acceleration in Organizations. Accomplishments include past president of National Association for Communication Administration; Lumina Foundation's National Communication Association Learning Outcomes Project and Teaching Interfaith Understanding Project funded by the Henry Luce Foundation. She holds a gubernatorial appointment to the state's PBS affiliated, Kentucky Education Television (KET) Authority Board. Dr. Chastain's research interests include the philosophy of communication, communication ethics, interreligious dialogue and the work of 20th century German, existential phenomenologist, Edith Stein. Publications include "The Religious Philosophy of Edith Stein: Knowledge and Faith" in *Memphis Theological Seminary Journal. Rhetoric and Religion*; "Learning Outcomes and the Importance of Stakeholder Feedback," *Communication Education*; and "Communication Ethics: Edith Stein," *An Encyclopedia of Communication Ethics*.

Submissions may be in the form of a panel of multiple presenters or individual submitters who will be grouped into a panel if accepted.

To submit a panel please provide:

- Title of the panel
- Rationale for the panel (150-250 words)
- Chair and/or Respondent
- Each panelist should provide
  - Panelist name, degree, institution, email address
  - Paper Title
  - 250-500 word abstract with accompanying sources
  - Statement of Professional Responsibility

To submit individually, please provide:

- Name, degree, institution, email address
- Paper Title
- 250-500 word abstract with accompanying sources
- Statement of Professional Responsibility

Please send submissions to: <https://goo.gl/forms/xM7YH5fmqZPOqUGo1>, by FRIDAY AUGUST 31, 2018.

**STATEMENT OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY** Please include the following Statement of Professional Responsibility under the paper or panel abstract:

“In submitting the attached paper or proposal, I/we recognize that this submission is considered a professional responsibility. I/We agree to present this panel or paper if it is accepted and programmed. I/We further recognize that all who attend and present at PCA’s annual meeting must register and pay required fees.”

**ABOUT SETON HILL:** Chartered in 1918, Seton Hill University is a leading Catholic coeducational liberal arts university founded by the Sisters of Charity and embracing students of all faiths. Located in southwestern Pennsylvania’s Laurel Highlands (yet only 35 miles from Pittsburgh), Seton Hill educates its more than 2000 students to “think and act critically, creatively and ethically as productive members of society committed to transforming the world.” Seton Hill is accredited nationally by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

In 2018 Seton Hill Celebrates 100 Years! Founded by the Sisters of Charity, Seton Hill received its charter in 1918. What started as a small Catholic women's college has transformed into a thriving coeducational university with more than 2,000 students from across the U.S. and around the world, offering over 80 undergraduate and twelve graduate degree programs in a variety of disciplines. A Catholic university, Seton Hill embraces students of all faiths, and pursues its mission in the tradition of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, who pledged her own students: "I would wish to fit you for that world in which you are destined to live."