

**Request for Proposals for Guest Editorship**  
**Special Issue on Enacting Social Justice in Professional Communication**  
***IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication***  
**March 2022 Issue**

The March and June issues of the *IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication* published reviews of *Engineering Justice* (Leydens & Lucena, 2018) and *Technical Communication After the Social Justice Turn* (Walton, Moore, & Jones, 2019). The past few weeks have brought the issue of social justice into even greater prominence. People in the US and throughout the world are beginning to realize the urgency of enacting social justice in our communities and workplaces. So what are the ways that professional communicators are doing (and can do) this critical work?

To address this question, the *Transactions* requests proposals for guest editorship of a special issue on Enacting Social Justice in Professional Communication for the March 2022 issue. Potential guest editors are encouraged to define the specific scope of the special issue however they choose, so long as the proposed topics center on *enacting* social justice in professional communication and not solely presenting theoretical discussions about social justice or its significance.

- Anyone may apply for guest editor status. Guest editors need not be members of the IEEE Professional Communication Society.
- The proposed guest editor may be a single person or a group of 2 or 3 people.
- The proposed guest editor(s) should have demonstrated expertise on the topic being proposed. That expertise may be demonstrated through publications, courses taught, or workplace or community experience.
- The proposal should consist of the following elements:
  - A cover letter identifying the guest editor(s), summarizing the approach that the proposed issue will take, and (if a group of co-editors is proposed) describing their experience working together and indicating how the work will be divided
  - A resume/CV for each proposed guest editor
  - A draft call for submissions for the special issue (see the example on pages 3-4 of this document)

**Responsibilities of Guest Editor**

The guest editor's responsibilities include the following:

- Coordinate regularly with the editor-in-chief to ensure that all tasks and activities are on schedule.
- Revise the proposed call for submissions with the input of the editor-in-chief.
- Publicize the call for submissions through appropriate listservs and personal networks.

- Recruit subject matter experts (both academics and industry practitioners) to serve as peer reviewers.
- Coordinate double-anonymized peer review of abstracts and drafts of proposed articles.
- Correspond regularly with authors to notify them that their abstracts and drafts have been accepted, and to ensure that they are on track to submit their complete drafts and revisions on schedule.
- Correspond with peer reviewers to ensure that reviews are submitted on schedule.
- Edit final drafts and submit the edited final drafts to the editor-in-chief.

### **Timeline for Guest Editorship Proposals**

Interested parties are encouraged to correspond with George Hayhoe, editor-in-chief ([Hayhoe\\_G@Mercer.edu](mailto:Hayhoe_G@Mercer.edu)), prior to submitting a proposal.

Proposals should be submitted by email to the editor-in-chief ([Hayhoe\\_G@Mercer.edu](mailto:Hayhoe_G@Mercer.edu)) no later than August 1, 2020.

Proposals will be reviewed by the editor-in-chief and associate editors, and proposers will be notified of their decision no later than August 15, 2020.

### **Schedule for March 2022 Special Issue**

<b>Publication of call for proposals</b>	September 1, 2020
<b>Abstract submission deadline</b>	October 15, 2020
<b>Notification of authors</b>	November 15, 2020
<b>Submission of complete drafts</b>	March 15, 2021
<b>Reviews returned to authors</b>	June 1, 2021
<b>Revised drafts submitted for second review</b>	August 1, 2021
<b>Reviews returned to authors</b>	September 15, 2021
<b>Final and complete articles submitted</b>	November 1, 2021
<b>Editing of articles completed by guest editor(s)</b>	December 1, 2021
<b>Correction of proofs by article authors</b>	January/February 2022
<b>Special issue published</b>	March 1, 2022

**IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication Call for Submissions:**

**Special Issue on User-Generated Content and Its Effects on the Profession (December 2019)**

*Guest editors:* Josephine Walwema (Oakland University), Hilary Sarat-St. Peter (Columbia College Chicago), and Felicia Chong (Oakland University)

A smartphone user types “extend smartphone battery life” into a browser search box; the results include a variety of proprietary and user-authored instructions. Medical patients posting in an online health forum question their doctors’ medical expertise and authority. A technical writer tasked with updating the assembly instructions for a product discovers that DIY instructions for the product are already available online. Technical communication students are given “best practices” for producing good instructional videos, but they find that popular YouTube tutorials often lack these attributes. These scenarios illustrate the many ways in which user-generated technical communication, catalyzed by user-generated practices and platforms, intersects with the work of technical communication practitioners, researchers, and teachers [1]-[3]. Information and communication technologies of the 1980s and 1990s nourished a shift in social organization characterized by decentralized, flexible network nodes based on shared interests rather than shared geographic space. This pervasive shift in social order has been described as the rise of a new network society [4]. As a result, we might ask whether we are seeing the rise of a new technical communication society.

Whereas previous scholarship has examined tactics that users deploy to navigate, elude, and subvert organizational strategies [5]-[7], our proposed special issue shifts to professional technical communicators in established organizations. How do these practitioners navigate, leverage, or counteract user-generated content? Hackos has observed that “As the community matures, more and more customers will first access the collective knowledge recommendations of their peers rather than traditional company-provided support” [8, pp. 19-20].

Thus, our proposed special issue extends technical communication scholarship on user-generated content and new web and media technologies by asking how these developments affect the work of professional technical communication practitioners, researchers, and teachers. We are interested in submissions from researchers across the discipline that address the following questions:

- How has the widespread adoption of user-generated practices and platforms within and outside organizations influenced the professional practice of technical communication?
- How does user-generated content and the popularity of the practices associated with user platforms influence the professional practice of engineers and designers in product development and service design?
- How has the proliferation of user-generated content affected the professional technical communicator’s role within organizations?
- What kind of user communities are formed based on emerging genres of new web and media technologies?
- What rhetorically effective strategies might professional technical communicators employ to facilitate and moderate the production of user-generated content?
- How can technical communication instructors prepare students to leverage existing repositories of user-generated content as they write and design technical documentation for a variety of professional, personal, and public rhetorical situations?

**Types of Projects**

The types of research projects accepted for this special issue include but are not limited to

- research articles
- integrative literature reviews
- case studies

- tutorials
- teaching cases

For further details, please consult project formats supported by the *IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication* at <https://procomm.ieee.org/transactions-of-professional-communication/for-prospective-authors/guidelines-to-follow/>.

### Submission Process

This special issue has a two-step review process (See below for timeline):

1. If you have a project that you believe is a good fit, send a 500-word abstract in the body of an email summarizing your proposed article to the guest editors ([walwema@oakland.edu](mailto:walwema@oakland.edu), [hsaratstpeter@colum.edu](mailto:hsaratstpeter@colum.edu), and [fchong@oakland.edu](mailto:fchong@oakland.edu)). The guest editors will use the abstracts to select authors, who will be invited to submit a complete draft in Microsoft Word format.
2. Once you submit a full article draft, it will be peer reviewed. Based on the peer reviews, the guest editors will select articles for the special issue.

**IMPORTANT:** If you plan to present the results of a study involving human research subjects or will use examples from corporate or government communications, please obtain all approvals and permissions for publishing your results from your institution, company, and/or agency **before** you submit your abstract for review.

### Timeline for Submissions

<b>Abstract submission deadline</b>	June 1, 2018
<b>Notification of authors</b>	July 1, 2018
<b>Submission of complete drafts</b>	December 15, 2018
<b>Reviews returned to authors</b>	March 1, 2019
<b>Revised drafts submitted for second review</b>	May 1, 2019
<b>Final and complete articles submitted</b>	August 1, 2019
<b>Editing of articles completed by guest editors</b>	September 1, 2019
<b>Special issue published</b>	December 2019

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