

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Half-Day Virtual ICA Pre-Conference 2026 PhD Workshop in Public Relations and Strategic Communication

Date: Friday, May 29, 2026

Time: Four hours. Exact time TBD among mentors to accommodate various time zones.

Venue: Virtual

Sponsored by: The ICA PR Division

Organizer: Pablo Miño, Students and Early Career Scholars Representative of the ICA PR Division (pmينو@uandes.cl, Universidad de los Andes, Chile)

The aim of this invite-only workshop is to provide a platform where selected doctoral students can discuss their proposed dissertation research with peers in a constructive atmosphere and receive one-on-one mentorship and guidance from some of the most prominent scholars in the field of *Strategic Communication* and *Public Relations*. The workshop is relevant for PhD students who are at different stages of their dissertation processes. We will prioritize **mid- or early-stage doctoral students** whose projects are still under development and can benefit the most from senior faculty mentors' advice. Students who are from historically under-represented groups or lack institutional research support are particularly encouraged to apply.

Senior faculty mentors will be contacted and invited to participate in the workshop in accordance with selected student applicants' research areas and methodologies. Student applicants are encouraged to submit three nominations for the optimal senior faculty mentors for their dissertation research.

Students will receive feedback on their projects, including their theoretical frameworks, methodologies, and research designs, from senior scholars and fellow students who will review the proposals. By reviewing other students' papers, students will learn more about the peer review process as well as improve skills on how to revise papers and draft reviewer responses for top journals.

The workshop also serves as a platform for students working in these research areas to establish a valuable network and discuss a variety of issues besides dissertation projects, which are important for academic careers. For example, senior scholars will be invited to share their insights and answer questions on job market and journal publishing.

This is a competitive workshop. Only a selected number of students will be granted the opportunity to attend. After completing the workshop, a certificate of attendance will be presented to all students who have actively participated by submitting a full paper, reviewing a fellow student's paper, and attending the workshop.

Since the PhD workshop will be a virtual live event, coordinating a suitable schedule for all mentors and students across time zones is likely to be difficult. Organizers will contact mentors to select an optimal event time for Friday May 29, 2026, and students are expected to accommodate mentors' schedules if they are in different time zones.

Application Procedure and Deadlines

- **[Deadline: Friday January 30, 2026]** Students apply with a *short proposal* (max. 3 pages excluding figures, tables, references) that describes the (planned) research by outlining the research problem and literature gap, core theories or perspectives, the methodology, and (optional) empirical results. Please attach another page (i.e., 4th page) outlining core challenges and questions the student has at this stage of their project. The questions can be directly related to the study (e.g., publication strategies and grants), but can also be related to academic research in general (e.g., mentoring & networking, international outreach & collaboration, job market). On another page (i.e., 5th page), please nominate three optimal senior faculty mentors for the proposed dissertation research. Please submit the proposal via email to Pablo Miño (pmiño@uandes.cl). By submitting a proposal, the student confirms their intention to participate in the workshop on May 29, 2026. Acceptance notices will be sent by February 27, 2026.
- **[Deadline: Friday March 27, 2026]** Accepted students need to hand in a *short paper* of ca. 6,000 words via email to Pablo Miño. The short paper will be peer reviewed by fellow pre-conference student participants and sent to senior faculty mentors.
- **[Deadline: May 1, 2026]** After submission of the short papers, every student will review a fellow student's paper, write a short *peer review* (ab. 1,000 words), send via email to Pablo Miño. At the seminar, students will present their own studies, as well as *peer reviews* of a fellow student's paper.

The number of student participants at this workshop is **limited to 5** to allow for in-depth discussion. Only those students whose proposals are accepted will be able to attend.

Participation fee: Participation is free to all students whose papers are accepted.

The ICA Public Relations Division will also waive the registration fee to the five selected students to the 2026 conference to be held in Cape Town, South Africa, in June 2026, in case they decide to attend.