



Let's Chat about the Chat! Things to Know about Using the Chat Function on the SAA 86th Annual Meeting Online Platform

All sessions and posters at the SAA 86th Annual Meeting Online will have a text chat box available for attendees to use to interact with presenters and each other. The purpose of the chat function for the annual meeting sessions is to foster a collegial and thoughtful exchange of comments, ideas, and connections. Because this is the first year the SAA's annual meeting has been online, here are some things to be aware of when you engage in a meeting chat.

- Like the rest of the SAA 86th Annual Meeting Online, the chat is governed by the [SAA Meeting Safety Policy and Code of Conduct](#).
- Your first and last name will be displayed when you participate in a chat, and your name and comments/questions will be visible to your colleagues in the session.
- The archived chat will remain online until July 17, 2021, and people can continue to post to it through that date.
- Individual chat comments cannot be deleted.
- The chat can move fast—if you ask a question, it may get bumped down the chat box and out of sight quickly, so be prepared to ask more than once to make sure a presenter sees it.
- You can participate in chats whenever you would like. It will not be visible when you enter or leave a session chat.
- SAA staff and the meeting vendor are not able to “mute” or shut off someone's access to the chat or session.
- Chats will not be directly moderated or supervised by SAA staff.

Chat Help

- If you are concerned with the contents of the chat, contact meetings@saa.org with the subject line “**help with my session's chat**” and indicate the session title in your message. You may want to cut and paste from the chat the section/comments of concern. Because situations can spiral rapidly, we would appreciate hearing right away if you'd like SAA staff to join. The SAA staff member can post messages reiterating the Code of Conduct and can help expedite the process of verifying if there has been a violation of the code.
- The SAA also has [two ombuds](#) to serve as informal, independent, neutral, and confidential resources for meeting attendees. The ombuds can assist meeting attendees with determining options to address issues such as harassment, free speech, academic integrity, conflicts of interest, safety, diversity, or any other concerns related to the SAA annual meeting. The ombuds will be available by e-mail (saaombuds@gmail.com) and phone (+1 805-330-1035). The phone number is a call-only number. Contacting the ombuds can be done alongside raising a concern as a formal Code of Conduct violation

(the two are not mutually exclusive).

- If you would like to report a possible code of conduct violation, please e-mail the SAA President (president@saa.org) and/or Executive Director (saaannualmeeting@gmail.com). You should receive confirmation of receipt of your e-mail within an hour. Keep in mind that violations need verification and this can take time.

We're excited to bring an all-virtual meeting experience to you this year. We've been gratified by the support and consideration we've received so far in putting together this first-of-its-kind SAA annual meeting. While it's not the same as an enthusiastic greeting in the hallway or in-person participation in a session, we hope the chat will help you connect with and learn from your colleagues during the SAA 86th Annual Meeting Online.