Call For Proposals
Words into Action: Rhetorics to Build a Sustainable Future.

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Climate change is upon us and is bringing extreme weather events, natural disasters, droughts, worsened fires, melting glaciers, rising sea levels, floods, and threats to shorelands and islands. Even more, it is impacting migration, ethnocentrism, nationalism, food supplies, agriculture, economies, geopolitics, and much else. Life on this planet will be changing in ways that are difficult to imagine.

Most people globally now know this, and that human actions are creating the climate change. Our rhetorical challenge is now changing from sharing scientific projections to fostering human cooperation and action to limit the extent of climate change, to mitigate its consequences, to adapt to the changes that cannot be stopped, and to remake physical conditions, governance, social organizations, and economies for sustainable futures. We know the science, and we know the technology. The challenge is getting people to work together to face our problems. In this volume we seek to showcase the multitude of ways of bringing people together for climate action—some already successful and some projected.

We propose a volume that draws on the knowledge, ideas, experience (personal and professional), and creativity of scholars of rhetoric, communications, and related fields. We seek contributions of between 2000 and 5000 words that report on current initiatives, teaching practices, or research projects throughout the world that address climate issues and climate justice; that discuss the impact of current or proposed courses that draw on the concerns of students and that influence their commitments; that consider how values and conditions in different countries influence the problem of social action; that envision how coalitions of actions can be built for sustainable life; that examine the relation of communicative technologies to climate change; that show how climate justice is a necessary part of climate change; that examine the role communications will take in coming society; that show how lives in communities of many kinds are affected by a changing climate; or that consider any other aspect of rhetoric and communication in addressing climate change.

Initially we seek proposals of 300-500 words for such essays in either English or Spanish by November 15, 2025, to be submitted by email in .doc or .docx attachments to all four editors bazerman@education.ucsb.edu , montserratcb@blanquerna.url.edu, cjthaiss@ucdavis.edu , and diana.waigandt@uner.edu.ar . From the proposals the editors will invite full essays in either English or Spanish within 6 weeks to be completed by June 30, 2026, in anticipation of an open access volume to be published in 2027. Essays will be required to have abstracts in both English and Spanish plus, optionally, a third language of the author(s) choosing.