Communication is a very powerful tool. Words have the power to engage, to move ideas from the fuzzy margins to the focused center of our attention, and to inspire us to think in new ways. This topic area focuses on communication, language, and learning, as they move us to the center of life’s stage. It proposes to examine the use of language in communication and learning, the diversity of languages in our world, and the desire to preserve and learn languages. Through language we create our present and future realities, record our histories, create opportunities, include and exclude, celebrate and mourn, praise and condemn, achieve power, and seek justice.

Children come to our classrooms to find teachers unfamiliar with their backgrounds and unprepared to help them cross the bridge. Teachers try to cope but sometimes do not know how. Linguists capture oral languages as written words to prevent the extinction of both languages and cultures. Language preservation and renaissance movements serve to re-establish and maintain cultural and political identities. Minorities fight for the right to education and learning, and make their voices heard. Technology is dramatically impacting communication and learning all over the world. How can we use the power of words for positive change?

We will accept proposals in the following areas:

- Education and second language learners in our schools;
- Strategies for teaching dual language learners;
- Technology, communication, and learning;
- The diversity of languages;
- Language as a reflection of our culture and identity;
- Indigenous languages, language preservation and renaissance;
- Cultural learning styles, formal versus informal learning;
- Language and learning as a means to opportunity.

We welcome proposals in any presentation format. Please see presentation formats on our webpage at: http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/submissions/presenters/formats/. Please check the criteria for each format and ensure that you have the appropriate number of presenters for your chosen format. You may submit proposals online at: http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/submissions or send your proposals via email
to prcall@hawaii.edu.

For more information please contact the topic area chair, Caryl Hitchcock, chh@hawaii.edu, and topic co-chairs, Jennifer Holdway, jholdway@hawaii.edu and Loryn Gum, loryn@hawaii.edu.

For general information on the conference, please contact Charmaine Crockett at cccrocke@hawaii.edu, (808) 956-7539.

For registration questions please contact the Registration Desk at prreg@hawaii.edu,
Phone: (808) 956-8816, Fax: (808) 956-4437.