

Quarterly Newsletter

Letter from the Head

FALL 2025

November 28, 2025



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Association for Education in
Journalism and Mass
Communication (AEJMC)



*CSW Head Dr. Roxane Coche
University of Florida*

The Commission on the Status of Women brings together scholars, educators, practitioners, and students who share a commitment to advocating for the improvement of the status of women in mass communication—whether in academia or in the industry. At the 2025 AEJMC conference, the breadth of our programming once again highlighted what makes CSW unique: our ability to bridge groundbreaking research, personal and professional advocacy, and tangible action toward equity in our field.

Our programming strived to reflect the complexity of women's experiences across contexts and cultures: from the annual pre-conference Kopenhagen Center workshop to conference sessions examining digital feminism, discussing DEI restrictions' impact on faculty and students, exploring the ethical challenges of conducting research on gender or sexuality, or interrogating structural inequities in academia. The presence of such conversations serves as a powerful reminder that our work is not simply academic. It is lived. It is necessary. And it is collective.

This newsletter highlights our wonderful 2025 award winners, and it looks ahead to the near future with multiple calls, both for our own awards or programming, and for other entities. Among them, you will find a call for a new CSW-sponsored virtual event (p. 6) that will bring together book editors and/or authors to promote their new book related to women and gender in mass communication. This event is another step in our ongoing commitment to building scholarly communities where women and non-binary scholars can thrive.

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CSW Officer List 2025-2026

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Kelsey Mesmer, kelsey.mesmer@slu.edu

Research co-chairs

Andrea Baker, andrea.baker@monash.edu

Mimi Perreault, perreaultm@usf.edu

Mid-winter research co-chairs

Amal Bakry, amal.bakry@louisiana.edu

Dinfin Mulupi, dinfin.mulupi@colorado.edu

Kopenhaver awards chair

Deborah Danuser, deborah.danuser@gmail.com

Communication officers

Newsletter editor: Abby Mayer, abby.mayer.phd@gmail.com

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Social media chair: Paromita Pain, paromita.pain@gmail.com

PF&R Chair

Paromita Pain, paromita.pain@gmail.com

Teaching Chair/ Kopenhaver Liaison

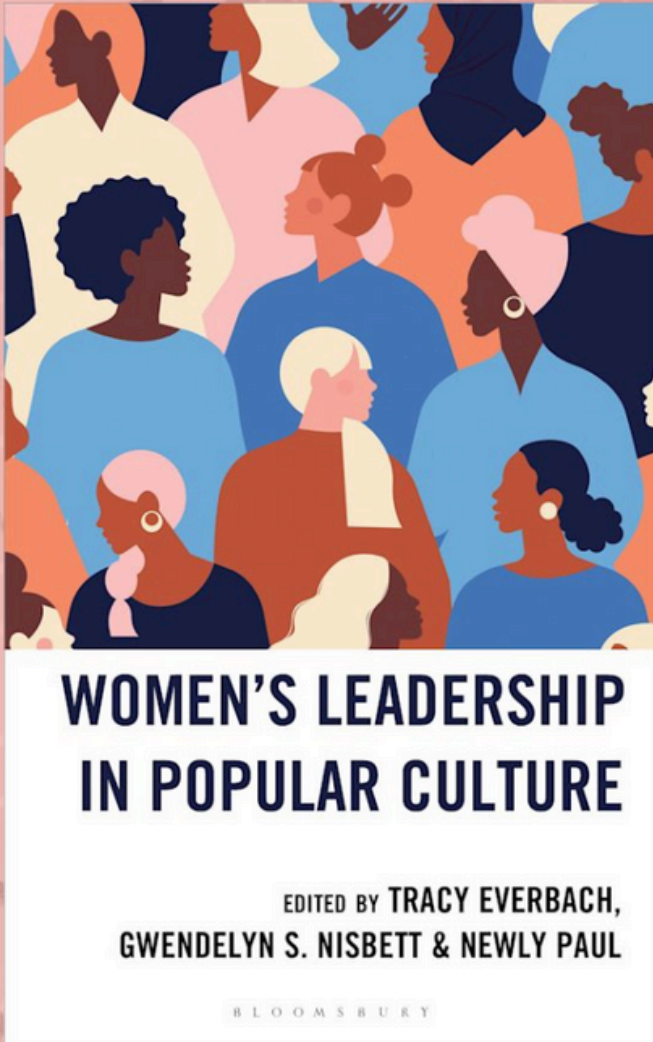
Tracy Everbach, Tracy.Everbach@unt.edu

Graduate Student Liasion co-chairs

Yelena Dzhanova, yelena.dzhanova@temple.edu

Mackenzie Mickavicz, mmickavi@ttu.edu

Community Updates



Check out ***Women's Leadership in Popular Culture***, which features the work of several CSW members and is edited by Tracy Everbach, Newly Paul, and Gwen Nisbett.

[Click here for more information!](#)

Updates to share?

If you have any updates, calls, or potential collaborations you'd like to share, please email Abby.Mayer.Phd@gmail.com, and we'll include them in the next section of our newsletter!

Thanks!
Abby

AEJMC Southeast Colloquium

March 12-14, 2026

Venue

THE UNIVERSITY
OF TAMPA

Contact Person

For inquiries, please reach out to **Dr. Sohana Nasrin**: snasrin@ut.edu - the Director of the colloquium.

Submission Deadline

The deadline to submit papers is **December 1**. Call for papers and panels coming soon!



We look forward to your participation!

Join a panel on women, families, and health at the AEJMC Southeast Colloquium!

Abstract and paper submissions are due by Dec. 1!

[Click here!](#)

The Southeast Colloquium on Women's and Parental Healthcare will feature Dr. BeachGem and Meredith Clements from the University of Tampa.

There are two slots available for joining the panel. Message Perreaultm@usf.edu if interested. Engage in discussions about women, families, and health at the AEJMC Southeast Colloquium. Remember, the deadline for abstract and paper submissions is December 1!

*We are
seeking
reviewers!*

We invite non-student CSW members to join us as reviewers for our Midwinter, Southeast Colloquium, and main summer conference, even if you won't be attending! Your participation helps scholarship progress within our CSW community.

Fill out this form to sign up to review for our conferences.

Virtual Book Promotion Event

Call for Editors and/or Authors

The AEJMC Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is excited to announce a virtual event showcasing new books related to women and gender in journalism and mass communication.

We invite book editors and/or authors of recently published or forthcoming books to participate in an opportunity to promote their work and connect with scholars, researchers, and professionals in the field.

Eligibility:

Books must have a 2025-2026 publication date and be related to the CSW's mission, which includes topics such as:

- Women's representation and participation in media
- Gender and media studies
- Feminist theory and criticism
- Women's empowerment and social justice through media

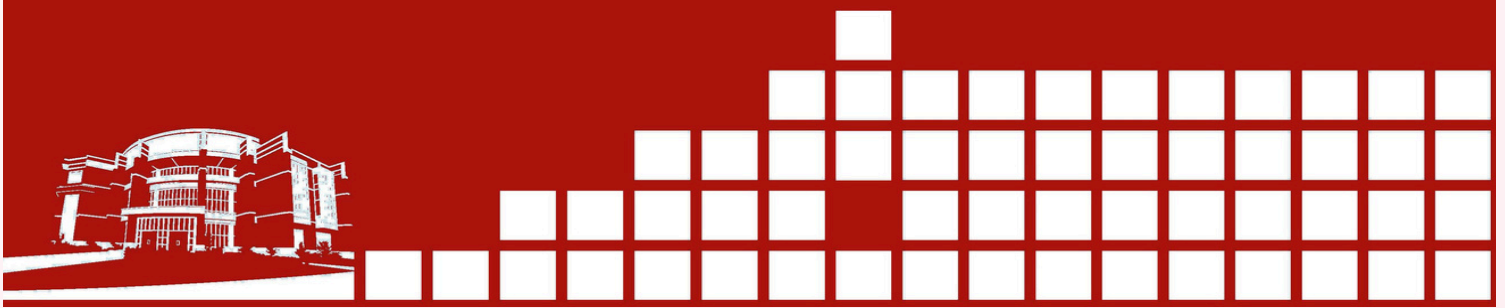
Authors must be willing to participate live in a virtual event, which may be recorded. Authors will have a few minutes to present their own work before taking part in a panel discussion and Q&A.

Submission Guidelines:

Interested authors should submit the following to rcoche@ufl.edu by Jan. 15, 2026:

- Book title and publication information
- Brief summary (150-200 words) of the book's content and relevance to the CSW's mission
- Author bio and contact information

The CSW looks forward to showcasing impactful research related to women and gender in journalism and mass communication. We hope you will consider joining us!



AEJMC MIDWINTER CONFERENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA!

AEJMC MIDWINTER CONFERENCE 2026

March 6-7, 2026

Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication
University of Oklahoma

General Call for Paper Abstracts and Panel Proposals:

The AEJMC Midwinter Conference is an annual forum for the presentation of research and debate in areas relevant to the AEJMC groups (divisions, interest groups and commissions) sponsoring the event. The conference provides a platform for presentations and extended discussions in a relaxed setting.

We are happy to host the upcoming conference again at the Gaylord College, University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma between March 6 and 7, 2026. Conference participants will be able to enjoy the College's state-of-the-art teaching and research facilities, as well as the city's and campus' world-class museums, art galleries and restaurants in person.

Paper abstract submissions: Authors are invited to submit research paper abstracts of between **600 and 800 words** (word count excludes author information and references) appropriate to **one** of the Divisions or Interest Groups represented at the conference. Abstracts should give a clear sense of relevant literature, research objectives, methodological approach, stage of research project (conceptual, data gathering, data interpreting), findings and conclusions.

Submissions should be done online and by the December 15, 2025 deadline.
Submission links below.



Note that authors can submit any specific paper abstract to only **one** participating group – submitting the same paper abstract to more than one group will result in disqualification and withdrawal from the review process. ***Do not submit full papers*** but please ensure that abstracts are between 600 and 800 words; shorter abstracts (i.e., 75 words) don't allow for adequate consideration with longer abstracts. **Authors must ensure that they remove any identifying information from their document.**

Authors of accepted abstracts will be notified by early January 2026. Studies presented at the midwinter conference are also eligible for presentation at the AEJMC national convention in August. Authors are encouraged to use the midwinter conference as an opportunity to get feedback on their research, to improve and finalize it for submission to the national conference.

Authors of accepted abstracts must submit complete papers (not exceeding 30 pages) to the discussant of their conference session at least **two weeks before the midwinter conference**. The midwinter chair for the relevant group will send authors the names and contact details of the discussant for their session.

At least one author of each accepted paper must register and attend the conference to present the paper.

Failure to register by the deadline will result in authors' names and papers being removed from the program. NO onsite registration will be available.

Some groups participating in the midwinter conference have award opportunities (e.g. for travel). Authors are encouraged to contact the groups' individual midwinter chairs for details.

Panel submissions: In addition, the organizers are also inviting panel proposals. These panel proposals should **NOT** be done through the online abstract submission system. Instead, submissions for panels should be sent to the relevant midwinter chair directly via email (see list of participating AEJMC groups and the midwinter chair for each group below). The deadline for panel submissions is the same as for abstract submissions, December 15, 2025, 11:59 p.m. Central Time.

Panel submissions should include the panel title, a description of the session's focus, the issues to be discussed, and a list of panelists (potential and confirmed), including affiliation. Proposals should not exceed two double-spaced pages.

The University of Oklahoma is located in Norman, 20 miles south of Oklahoma City, with easy access to the Will Rogers World Airport. Details on conference registration, hotel accommodation and airport transportation will be available at <http://www.ou.edu/gaylord>.

For more information, please contact Elanie Steyn, Conference Site Host (elanie@ou.edu).

AEJMC Midwinter Conference Research Chairs and Submission Links 2026

Commission on the Status of Women Amal Bakry – amal.bakry@louisiana.edu Dinfin Mulupi - dinfin.mulupi@colorado.edu <https://aejmc2.wufoo.com/forms/26-midwinter-conference-cswn-research-competition>

Community Journalism Interest Group

Mushfique Wadud - mushfique.wadud@colorado.edu
<https://aejmc2.wufoo.com/forms/26-midwinter-conference-comj-research-competition>

Communication Technology Division

Manuel Goyanes - Manuel.goyanes@uc3m.es
<https://aejmc2.wufoo.com/forms/26-midwinter-conference-ctec-research-competition>

Cultural and Critical Studies Division

Raiana de Carvalho - raiana.decarvalho@furman.edu
<https://aejmc2.wufoo.com/forms/26-midwinter-conference-ccsd-research-competition>

Entertainment Studies Interest Group

Lauren Auverset - lauren.auverset@louisiana.edu
<https://aejmc2.wufoo.com/forms/26-midwinter-conference-esig-research-competition>

International Communication Division

Meagan Doll - dollm@umn.edu
<https://aejmc2.wufoo.com/forms/26-midwinter-conference-intc-research-competition>

Mass Communication & Society Division

Liang Chen - chenliang@tsinghua.edu.cn
<https://aejmc2.wufoo.com/forms/26-midwinter-conference-mcsd-research-competition>

MME Division

Todd Holmes - todd.holmes@csun.edu
Monica Chadha - monicachadha@arizona.edu
<https://aejmc2.wufoo.com/forms/26-midwinter-conference-mmee-research-competition>

Minorities and Communication Division

Monique Luisi - luisim@missouri.edu
<https://aejmc2.wufoo.com/forms/26-midwinter-conference-macd-research-competition>

Political Communication Division

Josh Anderson jtlanderson@arizona.edu
<https://aejmc2.wufoo.com/forms/26-midwinter-conference-plcd-research-competition>

AEJMC MIDWINTER CONFERENCE 2026 March 6-7, 2026 Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication University of Oklahoma

General Call for Paper Abstracts and Panel Proposals (Due December 15, 2025)

The AEJMC Midwinter Conference is an annual forum for the presentation of research and debate in areas relevant to the AEJMC groups (divisions, interest groups and commissions) sponsoring the event. The conference provides a platform for presentations and extended discussions in a relaxed setting.

The *Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)* is happy to participate in the upcoming conference again at the Gaylord College, University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma between March 6 and 7, 2026. The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) within AEJMC encourages diverse research and conference programming on the status of women in journalism and mass communication education. Conference participants will be able to enjoy the College's state-of-the-art teaching and research facilities, as well as the city's and campus' world-class museums, art galleries and restaurants in person.

1. Paper abstract submissions: Authors are invited to submit research paper abstracts of between 600 and 800 words (word count excludes author information and references) appropriate to the *Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)*. Abstracts should give a clear sense of relevant literature, research objectives, methodological approach, stage of research project (conceptual, data gathering, data interpreting), findings and conclusions.

Submissions should be done online and by the **December 15, 2025** deadline. Use this submission link:

<https://aejmc2.wufoo.com/forms/26-midwinter-conference-csw-n-research-competition>

Note that authors can submit any specific paper abstract to only one participating group – submitting the same paper abstract to more than one group will result in disqualification and withdrawal from the review process. Do not submit full papers, but please ensure that abstracts are between 600 and 800 words; shorter abstracts (i.e., 75 words) don't allow for adequate consideration with longer abstracts. Authors must ensure that they remove any identifying information from their document.

Authors of accepted abstracts will be notified by early January 2026. Studies presented at the midwinter conference are also eligible for presentation at the AEJMC national convention in August. Authors are encouraged to use the midwinter conference as an opportunity to get feedback on their research, to

improve and finalize it for submission to the national conference. Authors of accepted abstracts must submit complete papers (not exceeding 30 pages) to the discussant of their conference session at least two weeks before the midwinter conference. The midwinter co-chairs for the ***Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)*** will send authors the names and contact details of the discussant for their session.

At least one author of each accepted paper must register and attend the conference to present the paper. Failure to register by the deadline will result in authors' names and papers being removed from the program. NO onsite registration will be available.

Some groups participating in the midwinter conference have award opportunities (e.g. for travel). Authors are encouraged to contact the groups' individual midwinter chairs for details.

2. Panel submissions: In addition, the organizers are also inviting panel proposals. These panel proposals should NOT be done through the online abstract submission system. Instead, submissions for panels should be sent to the CSW midwinter co-chairs directly via email (amal.bakry@louisiana.edu; dinfin.mulupi@colorado.edu). The deadline for panel submissions is the same as for abstract submissions, **December 15, 2025, 11:59 p.m. Central Time.**

AEJMC Commission on the Status of Women 2026 Awards Call [3/3]

Mary Gardner Award for Graduate Student Research

Deadline: February 27, 2026

Graduate students who conduct research on women in journalism and mass communication are invited to apply for the Mary Gardner Award. This award is designed to fund research that has the potential to make an excellent contribution to the scholarship on women and journalism and mass communication. The award honors Mary Gardner, professor emeritus at Michigan State University and the first woman elected president of AEJMC. Applicants submit a digital copy of a three-to-five-page description of the project, its potential contribution and the applicant's qualifications for undertaking the project. A three-person panel evaluates the applications based on the project's expected contribution, the applicant's establishment of their qualifications, and the clarity of the proposal. Applications should be submitted via [this online form](#). Questions about the award should be emailed to Dr. Kelsey Mesmer, Secretary of the Commission on the Status of Women, at kelsey.mesmer@slu.edu.

Mary Ann Yodelis Smith Award for Undergraduate Feminist Scholarship

Deadline: February 27, 2026

Undergraduate students who conduct research on women in journalism, mass communication, or feminist communication are invited to apply for the Mary Ann Yodelis Smith Undergraduate Research Award. The award is designed to recognize research that has the potential to make a contribution to the scholarship on women and journalism, mass communication, or feminist communication. The award honors Mary Ann Yodelis Smith, a past president of AEJMC and long-time advocate for women in the academy. In order to be considered for the award, undergraduates must fill out [this form](#) and upload in a single PDF file:

- o An explanation of the article's contribution to the field (300-500 words)
- o A letter of recommendation from their mentor/faculty about the work's potential to impact the academy.
- o A digital copy of the article

A panel of three judges will evaluate all submissions based on the expected contribution to feminist scholarship, ability to improve on the project, and potential for the applicant to influence the academy. Projects that include either a solo-authored undergraduate researcher, undergraduate student research team, or (an) undergraduate student(s) and a faculty mentor will be considered for the award. However, an undergraduate researcher must be the first author.

The winning submission will receive \$500 and winners will be recognized at the AEJMC Commission on the Status of Women meeting in August. Questions about the award should be emailed to Dr. Kelsey Mesmer, Secretary of the Commission on the Status of Women, at kelsey.mesmer@slu.edu.

AEJMC Commission on the Status of Women 2026 Awards Call [2/3]

Mary Ann Yodelis Smith Award for Feminist Scholarship

Deadline: February 27, 2026

Applications are invited for the Mary Ann Yodelis Smith (MAYS) Award, which funds feminist scholarship that has the potential to make significant contributions to the literature of gender and media. First presented in 1995, it honors Mary Ann Yodelis Smith, a past president of AEJMC and long-time advocate for women in the academy. The submission, which should be between five and seven pages, should include a description of the project and its potential contribution to the scholarship on gender and the media. Additionally, a brief one-page description of the applicant's qualifications for undertaking the project should be included. A three-person panel, including a past recipient of the award, judges applications. Scholars at all levels, including graduate students, are encouraged to apply. Applications should be submitted via [this online form](#). Questions about the award should be emailed to Dr. Kelsey Mesmer, Secretary of the Commission on the Status of Women, at kelsey.mesmer@slu.edu.

Donna Allen Award for Feminist Advocacy

Deadline: February 27, 2026

The Donna Allen Award recognizes feminist advocacy by a woman or non-binary person or group. This award honors Donna Allen, founder of the Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press in Washington, D.C. Nominations should be between 3-5 pages and demonstrate how the nominee's feminist media activism promotes the rights and freedoms of women and minorities across the world. Nominees need not be AEJMC members. Applications should be submitted via [this form](#). Questions about the award should be emailed to Dr. Kelsey Mesmer, Secretary of the Commission on the Status of Women, at kelsey.mesmer@slu.edu.

AEJMC Commission on the Status of Women 2026 Awards Call [3/3]

Outstanding Woman in Journalism & Mass Communication Award

Deadline: February 27, 2026

This award honors a woman or non-binary scholar who has supported women well through excellence in scholarship that explores gender in mass communication, mentorship, and high standards for collaboration.

Nomination letters, each between one and four pages, must detail that individual's contributions to journalism and mass communication education. Applicants may submit multiple letters from multiple people for this nomination packet. The more support a person has from a variety of people, including administrators, colleagues, and students, the more convincing an application. Applications should be submitted via [this form](#). Questions about the award should be emailed to Dr. Kelsey Mesmer, Secretary of the Commission on the Status of Women, at kelsey.mesmer@slu.edu.

Call for CSW Awards Judges

If you are able to serve as a judge for one of the Commission on the Status of Women's annual awards, please indicate your interest by completing this [short form](#).

Call for Nominations: 2026 Lillian Lodge Kopenhagen Outstanding Early-Career Woman Scholar Award

Nominations deadline: April 1, 2026

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2026 Lillian Lodge Kopenhagen Award, which honors an early-career woman-identifying scholar who demonstrates outstanding research and potential for future scholarship. Self-nominations are accepted and encouraged. All nominees must be current members of AEJMC.

Sponsored by the Lillian Lodge Kopenhagen Center for the Advancement of Women in Communication at Florida International University and the AEJMC Commission on the Status of Women, this award is designed to honor early-career women faculty researchers and encourage them as they pursue their research agendas in the academy.

An early-career faculty member is defined as a scholar who has earned a Ph.D. but does not yet have tenure. Nominees are preferably on the tenure track, but scholars with no more than five (5) years of teaching experience at a college or university may also be considered.

To nominate a scholar, please upload a single PDF file containing: 1) a letter outlining the nominee's qualifications; 2) a one-page summary of the nominee's research agenda; and 3) the nominee's CV.

We welcome nominations for scholars from diverse cultural backgrounds and institutions, including international scholars. Because outstanding scholarship can manifest in multiple ways, we encourage the nomination letters and research statements to explicitly highlight the candidates' unique strengths. Both quantity and quality will be considered.

The winner will be chosen by a panel of scholars and honored with a \$250 cash award and a plaque in August 2026 at the AEJMC conference in New Orleans. The award will be presented by Lillian Lodge Kopenhagen, dean emeritus and professor at Florida International University's School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Please direct any questions to the award committee chair, Dr. Deborah J. Danuser, at deborah.danuser@gmail.com.

Award nominations must be submitted using [this online form](#).

2026 Feminist Scholarship Division Award Calls (ICA)

Due date for (Self-)Nominations, February 1, 2026

Teresa Award for the Advancement of Feminist Scholarship

Helen Award for Emerging Feminist Scholarship

Byerly Award for Research in Feminist Political Economy of Communication

More information:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAGT7Va7Sbc/2JAwRomnI_4fFHudIqzRJA/edit

2026 ICA Pre-Conference of the Feminist Scholarship Division and the Activism, Communication and Social Justice Division, Cape Town, South Africa

Intersectional Political Economy: New Directions for Research and Teaching

Thursday, June 4, 2026 | 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (Half-Day)

On-Site, Conference Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa, Room TBD

This pre-conference celebrates the 40th anniversary of the Feminist Scholarship Division and the 1st anniversary of the Activism, Communication, and Social Justice Division in 2026 by focusing on new directions for researching and teaching the contexts of inequalities in media through political economy scholarship. This half-day hands-on event will convene participants to explore ways of researching and teaching about structural inequalities in media policies, ownership, management, and financing through the lenses of gender, race, class, and nationality. Traditional political economy scholars have been slow to recognize the varied ways that gender, race, nationality and other aspects of intersectionality are imbricated in this approach to media inquiry, particularly in a variety of global contexts.

Confirmed panelists and panel chairs include both established and emerging political economy scholars from the Global South, Europe, and the United States. The pre-conference design includes presentation and discussion. Panel presentations are expected to lead to a publication on the topic of the day's event.

No paper submission required.

Fee: \$40 (to be paid via ICA registration website) (In order to be able to fund the pre-conference.)

AEJMC CSW 2025 Top Paper/Poster Competition

* Teenage Girls and Digital Health: Navigating Health Misinformation on Social Media

Hyunjin Seo, K. Macy Burkett, Olga Morales, Nazra Izhar, Rim Hayat Chaif, Michaela Coelho, Huong Ha, Blessing Jona, Azhar Iqbal, and Taylor Doyle, University of Kansas



Congrats!

**Journalists' Engagement with Athlete Social Media Content in Women's Sports Reporting

Shannon Scovel and Katy Niedling, University of Tennessee



Congrats!

***A Comparative Study of the News Media Representation of Chinese Female Astronauts in the Past Decade

Hanbo Liu and Steve Bien-Aimé, University of Kansas

**** Shaping the 21st Century Woman: Fourth-Wave Feminism in Shapewear Social Media Marketing

Anika Ausness-Ayres, California State Fullerton, Chelsea J. Reynolds, Arizona State, Bayla Gomberg, and Dakota Smith, California State Fullerton



*****Mapping Gender-Based Incivility in MOBA Gaming Community

Dongni Li, Jingyi Zhang, and Hanjing Wang, Hong Kong Baptist University



Congrats!

* Top Faculty Paper

** Second-Place Faculty Paper

*** Top Open Paper

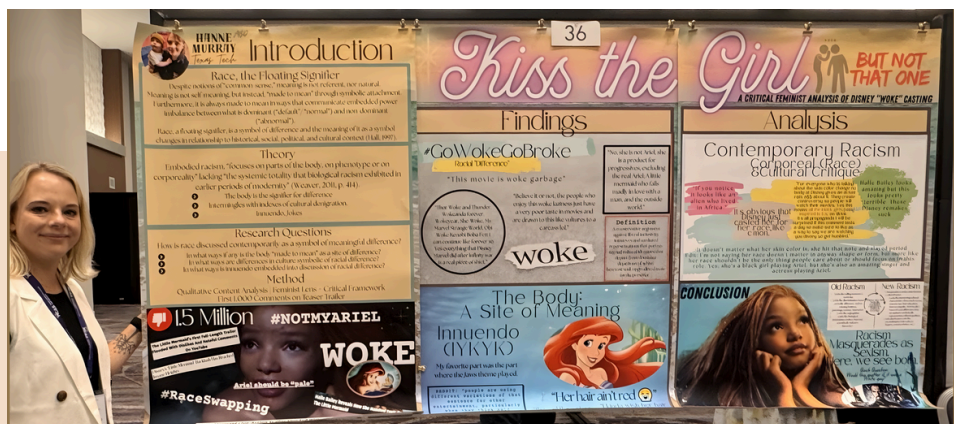
**** Second-Place Open Paper

***** Top Student Paper

Top Poster

"Kiss the Girl," (But Not That One): A Critical Feminist Analysis of Disney "Woke" Casting

Hanne Murray, Texas Tech



Women Faculty Moving Forward/AEJMC 2025 Conference





AEJMC CSW 2024 Individual Awards

Congrats!



Outstanding Woman in JMC: Marie Hardin

@mariehardinqu (twitter and Instagram)

This award honors a woman or non-binary scholar who has supported women well through excellence in scholarship that explores gender in mass communication, mentorship, and high standards for collaboration.

Letter writers described Dr. Hardin:

“As a female in a male-dominated space (sports media), she has worked to necessarily complicate the paths for women in the space... her work has focused on altering the systems in which women navigate sports... a tireless advocate for women in decision-making spaces.”

“Both at a distance and in my personal relationship with Marie, I have witnessed great integrity. The powerful leader who moves mountains and the mentor who makes time to share a meal with me are the same woman. Since I have graduated, her intentionality with our relationship has not faded a bit. Marie Hardin simply cares. She has an incredible capacity to calculate and attend to every detail, yet people are not details to her. Students are not products to her, and their education in journalism is not a means to her own success.”

“She understands that working in teams can achieve bigger and better outcomes and she is not only the ultimate team player but an effective leader. To that point: She is a former AEJMC President, current chair of the committee for the Accrediting Council on Education Journalism and Mass Communication and also on the steering committee for the Hearst Journalism Awards Committee. She is also the former Dean of the Bellisario College of Communication at Penn State where she helped grow its reputation as an international leader in mass communication and become the largest accredited College in that field in the United States.”

“What I admire most about Dean Hardin is her remarkable ability to lead with strength while making space for every voice. She is charismatic, bold, and kind—with a spark that lights up any room she walks into. Her confidence, spunk, and unwavering positivity have inspired countless students, myself included. She is the kind of leader who leaves places better than she found them.”

We are excited to see what she accomplishes next as President of Quinnipiac University.

AEJMC CSW 2025 Individual Awards

Congrats!

Mary Gardner Award for Graduate Student Research Award:

Shoba SV, @shobhasv (X)



AEJMC Commission on the Status of Women's Mary Gardner Award for Graduate Student Research Award: This award is designed to fund research that has the potential to make an excellent contribution to the scholarship on women and journalism and mass communication. The award honors Mary Gardner, professor emeritus at Michigan State University and the first woman elected president of AEJMC.

Proposal Title: Navigating gendered violence and precarious labor: The Journey of a 'fearless, formless' journalist collective

Reviews described the proposal as:

"Timely and crucial analysis of the role of an all-women's journalist alliance in India."

Project is "quite intriguing as the author hopes to understand how NWMI is able to 'sustain itself'; despite missing what many people believe would be necessary components to the organization (i.e. there is no formal leadership, no funding, etc.)"

"Strong potential for significant contributions to the field of journalism in better understanding NWMI's successes and model (and perhaps providing a roadmap for others to follow)."

Mary Ann Yodelis Smith Award for Feminist Scholarship:

Dinfin Mulupi



This award funds feminist scholarship that has the potential to make significant contributions to the literature of gender and media. First presented in 1995, it honors Mary Ann Yodelis Smith, a past president of AEJMC and long-time advocate for women in the academy.

Proposal Title: Risks and Resistance: Examining the Intersectional Experiences of Women and Non-Binary Photojournalists in the Global North and Global South

Reviews described the proposal as:

“An innovative, timely study on the experiences of women and non-binary photojournalists”

“This was a really strong proposal that highlights intersectional dimensions of gender-based issues.”

“The justification and theoretical underpinnings were strong; this project is one with great potential.”

Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Outstanding Early-Career Woman Scholar Award:



Congrats!

Winner:
Dr. Rana Arafat

Dr. Rana Arafat is an award-winning assistant professor in digital journalism at City St George's, University of London, with a PhD from Università della Svizzera italiana. Her research focuses on advocacy journalism, digital activism, and innovations like AI in non-Western newsrooms, particularly in conflict-ridden environments in the Global South. She aims to amplify diaspora journalists' voices and engage with media stakeholders to create real-world impact. Her work has been published in top journals and has earned prestigious awards, including the ICA Wolfgang Donsbach Outstanding Journal Article Award and the AEJMC Nafziger-White-Salwen Dissertation Award. The latest award was presented at AEJMC's San Francisco conference.

Call for Papers

[Don't forget to check the Commission on the Status of Women \(AEJMC\) Facebook Page for additional calls!](#)

Women in Mass Communication Industries

Here's a call from Breann Murphy who is serving as a guest editor for a special issue for *Corporate Communication International Journal*.

The opening date for submissions is **February 6, 2026**, and you can email Breann Murphy at bmurphy5@jsu.edu. Call info below:

Women in mass communication has become a growing or trending area for scholarly research due to the rise of women in the industry but notable lack of representation in executive positions. Gaps in the literature persist when it comes to understanding the complete picture of the challenges and industry practices of women in mass communication. Therefore, there remains a need for more research to be conducted. An endless array of topics in women in mass communication await discovery, such as workplace culture, formal and informal mentorship at all levels, career trajectory challenges or boundaries, employee relations or management, c-suite practices, and work-life balance. Additionally, explorations into ethnic differences among the inclusion or representation of women in mass communication can provide beneficial insight into cultural differences or similarities that face these women in the industry. Exploring these areas can also incorporate various methodologies and theoretical frameworks to help provide discovery into the nuances of women in mass communication.

List of Topic Areas

Workplace culture for women in mass communication
Career path or trajectory challenges for women in mass communication
Leadership or c-suite practices or challenges for women in mass communication
Employee management practices of women in mass communication
Mentorship or professionalism practices for women in mass communication
Work-life balance for women in mass communication

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AEJMC CSW Officers Meeting, Oct. 10, 2025 [1/4]

AEJMC CSW Officers Meeting, Oct. 10, 2025

In attendance: Roxane Coche, Laura Willis, Kelsey Mesmer, Mimi Perreault, Andrea Baker, Dinfin Mulupi, Abby Mayer, Mackenzie Mickavicz, Deborah Danuser, Yelena Dzhanova, Amal Bakry

Roxane: We are currently missing a social media chair, so if you know anyone who would be a good fit for that position, that would be really helpful and welcome. Please let us know.

AEJMC Board meeting to kick off the new year was last week, and the Commission has a seat on that board. One of the things they discussed was the option to postpone panel submissions. the deadline was Oct. 7 but other groups have postponed. We've received 6 panel pitches so far, all in research, but we are entertaining the idea of re-opening the submission to try to get more teaching and PF&R panels.

Laura: There is some conspiring happening to co-chair at least one teaching panel.

Mimi asked what the topics are.

Panel topics:

- Journalism, Gender, and Activism in the Global South
- The Role of the Political Climate and Research Funding on Strategic Communication & Gender Scholarship: A Case Study of the Socio-Ecological Model of Influence
- Framing Women's Rights under Digital Authoritarianism: A Critical Discourse Analysis of the Taliban's Twitter Narratives
- Framing Authority Online: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Taliban Twitter
- The Predicament of the Second Amendment, Portrayals of Women and Gun Violence in the Media
- America250: Examining the Power and Influence of First Ladies

Mimi said some of these topics could be reconfigured as teaching panels.

Mimi asked what the goals were, how many panels we wanted.

Roxane clarified how the process of panels works at AEJMC. We only get 10 "slots" and if we don't have a co-sponsor it uses two of our slots. Typically we have about 6 panels and then 4 papers sessions.

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Decided we are going to have a hail-Mary re-opening of the panels to try to get a few more.

Biggest change from the board meeting: no longer going to accept extended abstracts, and instead AEJMC will have a research-in-progress separate competition. We will have to decide if we want to do that as a Commission and we should hold a vote. The graduate students and LGBTQ+ group is definitely going to do it.

Mimi: What would this look like? Poster session, something else?

Roxane: That would be up to us, but probably something like a poster session.

Mimi: I like the idea of this being a place where people can get a lot of feedback, maybe something like a round table setup where people present their paper multiple times because you can get a lot of good feedback that way. I do think this is needed, especially as CSW because we're offering a place for scholarship that is going away from other places so we should do it.

Roxane: I do want to make a motion to opt in to the research-in-progress option for the AEJMC conference. Does anyone want to move the motion forward?

Laura: If we make this motion pretty generic right now, do we vote again later on how to do it, or will the research chairs decide what to do with them later? And what does this mean for our slots for research paper sessions?

Roxane: It's unclear what that will mean. I'll get clarity from AEJMC on that.

Mimi: Called for a poll on whether or not we are in favor of the research-in-progress if it doesn't affect our number of sessions

- all voted in favor

Laura: What about if it does have a negative effect?

- majority still voted in favor

Kelsey: Might want to look into a high-density session option even though CSW hasn't done those in the past.

Roxane: The new AEJMC president wanted to make a distinction between divisions and commissions, with commissions being there to advocate, in our case for women. We should make that a focus this year and moving forward. Some goals:

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- a. Find ways to support members during times of uncertainty. This includes creating opportunities for belonging and networking, and, when possible, financial support to attend and participate in AEJMC.
- b. Continue to broaden teaching focus. This includes the following specific tactics:
 - i. Schedule messaging to our members regarding GIFT and AEJMC teaching award applications
 - ii. Discuss the viability of a teaching chair
 - iii. Continue our push for teaching-focused panels).
- c. Find ways to increase engagement through social channels, newsletter and external communications, and perhaps a few online events throughout the year. Specific tactics include:
 - i. Creating calendar invites for members for all AEJMC programming (something we did for the first time in advance of the 2025 meeting, following the lead and best practices established by the PR division
 - ii. Explore the idea of virtual book launches, something the Commission sponsored during the Covid period. Attendance began to dwindle at these events and they were ultimately discontinued, so re-starting the book launches should be done with attention to how effectively promote and encourage attendance.
 - iii. Find ways to encourage undergraduate research submissions
- d. Support excellence in research. Specific tactics include:
 - i. Continuing to administer the Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Early Career Award
 - ii. Explore how to support book authors. Ideas include:
 - 1. Virtual book launches
 - 2. A specific panel dedicated to a book talk and/or an edited book featuring authors from that volume
 - 3. Sponsoring a table at the book fair featuring CSW-member authored books. Invite authors to be present at the table to discuss their books with attendees.

Looking at opportunities to increase engagement without spending money.

Abby: The newsletter call will be going out soon, and it will be open probably through Nov. 2 Also, almost no one has filled out the mentorship survey I shared. Only two so far, so please if you have something to share please do that.

Roxane: Midwinter conference is in March, the deadline is in December.

Amal: Nothing more specific to share at this point.

AEJMC CSW Officers Meeting, Nov. 21, 2025 [1/3]

In attendance: Roxane Coche, Kelsey Mesmer, Andrea Baker, Abby Mayer, Amal Bakry, Deborah Danuser, Paromita Pain, Tracy Everbach, Yelena Dzhanova, Mimi Perreault

Roxane: Laura managed to secure 6 co-sponsored panels, and AEJMC will start reviewing each division's requests next week. They will give the green light on the panels. This leaves 4 slots for research paper sessions, which is standard. Sometimes we might be able to get an additional slot from one of AEJMC's "neutral" slots that they may give out if we have a large amount of submissions and want to keep a standard acceptance rate.

Tracy volunteered to work with the people on teaching panels.

Roxane: We could have one of our four paper slots could be used for this new research-in-progress sessions. Someone last meeting mentioned we could do this as a preconference, however that can be cost prohibitive for some people. So we need to make a decision on if we want to do this research-in-progress session as a preconference or as one of our sessions. We should vote on this today.

Deborah: Another division I'm in was talking about doing the research-in-progress as a high-density session so we could have more than a handful of these papers.

Andrea: I think high-density is a good option.

Abby: I suggested the preconference but now I'm changing my mind about that.

Roxane: Does someone want to make a motion about this?

Paro: I will make a motion to make the high density session part of the regular conference.

Everyone seconded.

Mimi: Can I suggest that we do a table session, with small groups presenting at each table? Then people would rotate around the tables.

Roxane: Can we have an amendment to the motion to incorporate Mimi's idea?

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Paro: Yes, I will amend the motion.

Everyone seconded the motion.

Deborah added that the official AEJMC survey says the high-density has only 10 papers, so if we want it to be more we would have to ask about that.

Roxane: I'm sure we can make a note about our round table option and ask about the number. They're usually very open to changes.

We have a motion open the table. All in favor (everyone raises hand) Any opposed? (no)

OK, great, and so that uses one of our 4 slots and then we could have a poster session as one of our slots, which is what we typically do.

Abby: I just emailed everyone the newsletter draft, so if you have any additions or corrections let me know. I'm looking for photos from the conference, so if people could send me those that would be great. I also need to add the top paper winners' info and some information about why last years' award winners were selected. If anyone on those selection panels could add a line or two about the winners, that would be great. I'm also looking for the meeting minutes, I might need someone to send me a link for that Google folder.

Yelena: Can we add something for the Southeast Colloquium?

Abby: Sure!

Clarified we are doing both Southeast and Midwinter this year.

Kelsey: The awards call is ready and the deadline will be Feb. 27, so that call is going in the newsletter. Do we have a social media chair yet?

Roxane: No, not yet.

Paro: I will do that, just send me the login info. I also have the Google groups account that we can use to communicate with members.

Amal: I've sent out the Midwinter call and shared it out on Facebook, through AEJMC and on CommNotes.

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Mimi: We're doing Southeast for the first time, we have the call out and Dec. 1 is the deadline. We're planning on having two paper sessions. We have a scholar coming, Meredith Clemens and an influencer, Dr. Beachgem, a board-certified pediatric emergency medicine physician.

Roxane: I think that's all for updates, and now I have the call for authors who want to do book promotions for the spring. I'll share it on my screen and let everyone read it to check it over.

Mimi: Would this be for a series of events or just one thing?

Roxane: I don't want to lock us in to anything long term since I'll be leaving the board, but it could be something that the board next year continues.

Mimi: How many books will we select from this list?

Roxane: It will depend on the number of submissions we get.

Mimi: And one more question, is this for full books or parts of a book?

Roxane: Full books, but it could be edited volumes so editors could do this.

That's all for old business. The only last thing is that I'm going to update the website, so I'm going to share my screen and please double check that the email listed here is the correct email that you want listed here.

Abby: You can add me as doing the website.

Amal: One questions, should I start trying to recruit for reviewers for Midwinter?

Abby: If there is a link I can put it in the newsletter.

Roxane: Ok, if there is no other business then we are adjourned and I will circulate a when2meet to find a time for meetings next year.