

# AEJMC Conference 2026 Paper Competition

New Orleans, Louisiana | August 5-8, 2026

[aejmc.org/aejmc-events/conference/paper-competition](http://aejmc.org/aejmc-events/conference/paper-competition)



## AEJMC 2026 Uniform Paper Call

**Dates:** August 5-8, 2026 • **Location:** New Orleans, Louisiana • **Submission Opens:** January 15, 2026 • **Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. CDT, April 1, 2026



The following uniform call will apply to **ALL AEJMC group competitions**. Specific requirements, including limits on paper length, are outlined in each Division's and Interest Group's (DIG) individual calls.

### Submission guidelines

- Anonymize your paper: Remove all identifying information (names, affiliations, acknowledgements, properties, metadata, etc.). **Submissions with author identifiers will be disqualified. All AEJMC Divisions, Interest Groups and Commissions will abide by this rule. Reviewers and research chairs are prohibited from searching document properties or anywhere else beyond the text of the paper for identifying information.**
- Upload your paper (PDF preferred; Word accepted) to the correct group via [aejmc.org](http://aejmc.org).
- Include an abstract (**maximum 75 words**) in the online submission form.
- Complete the submission with the author(s)' name, affiliation, mailing address, phone number, and email address.
  - The title should only appear on the paper's first page and running heads. **Do NOT include the author's name on running heads or title page.**
- Deadline: **Wednesday, April 1, 2026, 11:59 p.m.** (Central Daylight Time). Any submissions after this time will not be accepted.

### Policies

1. **Language:** Submissions are to be in English only.
2. **Membership:** You do not have to be a current member to submit.
3. **Originality:** Submissions must not be under review elsewhere, and each individual submission may be sent to only one AEJMC group. Accepted papers must not have been presented at other conferences (except for

AEJMC regional conferences) or published before the competition deadline.

4. **Student eligibility:** Student papers compete on an equal footing in open paper competitions unless otherwise stated by the individual Division or Interest Group. Faculty-student co-authored papers are considered faculty submissions and are ineligible for student-only competitions.
5. **Presentation requirement:** Accepted papers must be presented at the conference (by an author; students may have a designee). If the paper is not presented at the conference, the acceptance is revoked and may not be included on a vita.
6. **Diverse perspectives:** Papers should follow the best practices in accounting for diverse perspectives as applicable to the field.
7. **Copyright:** Authors retain copyright and may pursue publication after the competition deadline.

### Notification

- Authors will be notified by **May 20, 2026**. Reviewers' comments will be accessible through the submission portal.
- If you have not been notified by May 20, contact your Division or Interest Group research chair. The AEJMC Central Office may not have this information available.

### Avoiding self-identification in citations

- Replace self-references ("In my prior work...") with neutral phrasing ("In a previous study, researchers..."). This is not always possible since authors may desire to build on their previous work but avoid obvious self-citation that would reveal author identity.
- Remove or minimize self-citations if they risk revealing identity.
- Cite your own work as if by another author.

### Formatting notes

- A cover sheet and/or the required 75-word abstract page do not count toward the AEJMC groups' set page limits.
- Follow any additional group-specific length/format rules.

### AI use

- Adhere to AEJMC's policy on AI usage.

### Questions

- For comments, concerns, and other Conference Paper Call inquiries, contact Felicia Greenlee Brown at [Felicia@aejmc.org](mailto:Felicia@aejmc.org).

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## Advertising Division

### [ADVD]

The AEJMC Advertising Division (ADVD) invites submissions of original research papers that address a topic or issue relevant to our field. The Advertising Division accepts submissions in five paper categories, which are described below. Papers submitted to any category must be double-spaced and use 12-point Times New Roman or equivalent font. Submissions should follow *APA or any other reference style*. The maximum length for any paper is 30 pages, including tables, figures, and references. **Any paper longer than 30 pages (not including a title page and/or abstract) will be disqualified and not assigned for review. Submissions with any residual identifying information will not be considered for review and will automatically be disqualified from the competition.** Before uploading your paper, please exercise extra diligence to remove all author identification from the document, including any file properties or obvious references to self-citations. We recommend submitting your manuscripts at least a day or two before the deadline so you can check to make sure that the uploaded document does not contain any self-identifying information in its properties, as can happen sometimes, mysteriously, via “save as pdf” or because of some other technical issue. An early submission will allow all individuals to fully check submissions as they are entered into the system so that a resubmission prior to the deadline is possible. **A paper may not be simultaneously under review** with more than one division within AEJMC; with the AEJMC annual conference and any other academic conference; and/or with the AEJMC annual conference and any publication (e.g., journal, book chapter, etc.). As a condition of acceptance, one or more authors of any paper must agree to attend and present the paper at the AEJMC annual conference in New Orleans.

**Open Research:** Full papers submitted to the Open Research category must address a topic that is relevant to the field of advertising. Examples include (but are not limited to) advertising and media effects; analysis of ads and advertising content; cross-cultural, international and/or global advertising; agency management, structure and/or organization; and the economic, political, social and/or environmental impact of advertising. Research informed by and testing theories and/or using methods associated with quantitative, qualitative, or critical/cultural research perspectives is welcome in this category. The top three papers in this category will receive awards of \$300, \$200, and \$100, respectively. This award is sponsored by the College of Communication and Information at the University of Kentucky. For more information, please contact Dr. Mengtian Jiang, Research Chair, University of Kentucky, at [mengtian.jiang@uky.edu](mailto:mengtian.jiang@uky.edu), and Dr. Samuel Tham, Research

Chair-elect, Colorado State University at [samuel.tham@colostate.edu](mailto:samuel.tham@colostate.edu).

**Sponsored Research – Webtoon Category:** Webtoon is a mobile-first, vertical scroll storytelling platform engaging over 160 million monthly active users worldwide, including more than 20 million in North America. Average daily usage ranges from 26 to 38 minutes, with approximately 75 percent of North American users belonging to Gen Z. Its format combines serialized narrative delivery, AI-based content recommendations, and hybrid monetization models such as Fast Pass and Daily Pass. In collaboration with Webtoon, this sponsored category invites research examining how the platform’s storytelling format and fan-based community dynamics influence user perception, engagement, and adoption, particularly in the North American market. This category aims to establish foundational insights that advance scholarly thinking and may inform future platform strategies. Thus, it follows a slightly different evaluation standard from traditional submissions. **Studies should demonstrate clear relevance to platform-specific practice and forward-looking insight**, rather than solely theoretical contribution. Internal platform data is not required; studies may use simulated Webtoon-style stimuli, content analysis, surveys, experiments, interviews, focus groups, secondary data or conceptual/critical work. Top two papers in this category will receive awards of \$300 and \$200, respectively. The award is sponsored by Webtoon. **For detailed eligibility requirements, submission formatting, recognition criteria, and suggested topic areas, please refer to the full Call for Papers here.** For inquiries, please contact Anna Kim, Head of Advertising Division, AEJMC, at [eunjink@usc.edu](mailto:eunjink@usc.edu).

**Graduate and Undergraduate Student Research:** Full papers submitted to this category must be authored **only** by undergraduate or graduate students, including Ph.D. candidates, at the time of submission. Faculty members and postdoctoral researchers are ineligible to co-author papers submitted to this category. Faculty and student co-authored papers will be disqualified and should be submitted to the Open Research competition or other relevant categories. We welcome student research that is relevant to the field of advertising, is informed by theories and methods associated with quantitative, qualitative, or critical/cultural research perspectives, and tests these theories and methods. The top three student papers in this category will receive awards of \$200, \$100, and \$50, respectively. This award is sponsored by Temerlin Advertising Institute at Southern Methodist University. For more information, please contact Dr. Quan Xie, Graduate Student Chair, Southern Methodist University, at [quanxie@smu.edu](mailto:quanxie@smu.edu).

**Professional Freedom & Responsibility (PF&R):** Papers submitted to this category should present research that

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explores concepts that would include the following: (1) free expression; (2) ethics; (3) media criticism and accountability; (4) diversity and inclusion; and (5) public service within the advertising industry. Free expression in advertising may include international, cultural, or political dimensions of communication. Ethics in advertising encompass areas such as data use, marketing to vulnerable audiences, including minors, the elderly, and the uninformed, as well as other emerging issues within the industry. The advertising industry has also received increased media criticism and calls for accountability; research examining topics such as regulation and industry responsibility is encouraged. Diversity and inclusion address questions of representation within the advertising industry, while public service focuses on advertising's role in advancing social good. To further guide potential submissions, example topic areas may include, but are not limited to, equity and representation in advertising, ethical and responsible advertising, and social impact and accountability. Topics in any of the abovementioned areas will be welcomed in the submission.

Submissions may take the form of traditional research papers; however, commentaries, critical essays, and integrative literature reviews are also welcome. The top paper in this category will receive an award of \$100. The top paper in this category will receive an award of \$100. This award is sponsored by the A.Q. Miller School of Media & Communication at Kansas State University. For questions or more information, please contact Dr. Anan Wan, PF&R Track Chair, Kansas State University, at [anan@ksu.edu](mailto:anan@ksu.edu).

**Special Topics in Advertising:** Papers are invited for submission to The Special Topics in Advertising competition. This year's call focuses on "Generative AI and Creative Automation: Reimagining Creativity, Labor, and Control in the Age of Machine-Made Advertising." Generative AI is rapidly transforming the creative landscape of advertising. From campaign conceptualizing to scriptwriting, image generation, voice synthesis, and even video production, tools like ChatGPT, Midjourney, Sora, and DALL-E are now integral to many creative workflows. As agencies and brands embrace these technologies, fundamental questions arise: What is the future of human creativity in advertising? Who owns AI-generated content? And how does automation impact labor, and originality? This special topic invites manuscripts that critically examine the role of generative AI in the advertising industry. We seek contributions that explore both the opportunities and the tensions this technology introduces, including case studies, theoretical analyses, qualitative and quantitative studies, and policy perspectives. Potential themes include (but are not limited to): AI-assisted creative development and campaign design; Human-AI collaboration vs. creative automation; Impacts on creative labor, authorship, and agency roles; Legal and IP implications of AI-generated

content; Brand control, consistency, and risk in automated messaging; Consumer perception of AI-generated ads and narratives; Training bias, representation, and cultural implications in generative models. The top special topics paper author/s will be awarded \$100, sponsored by the University of Florida Department of Advertising. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Dr. Juliana Fernandes, Special Topics Track Chair, University of Florida, at [juliana@jou.ufl.edu](mailto:juliana@jou.ufl.edu)

**Teaching and Pedagogy:** This year, the Advertising Division will accept two types of teaching and pedagogy submissions: 1) advertising education papers and 2) Great Ideas for Teaching (GIFT) submissions.

**Advertising education papers:** Papers submitted to this category should present research that addresses a topic relevant to advertising education. Examples include (but are not limited to) approaches to or case studies about teaching a specific advertising course; innovations in teaching and pedagogy; use of technology in the classroom; assessment of learning outcomes; advising student groups and organizations; and review or revision of core courses or advertising curriculum. Commentaries about teaching philosophy will not be accepted. Papers submitted to the teaching competition will be considered for review by the *Journal of Advertising Education*. The top paper in this category will receive an award of \$100, sponsored by the Department of Advertising and Public Relations at Michigan State University.

**Great Ideas for Teaching (GIFT):** GIFT is a submission that describes teaching strategies and tactics successfully implemented in advertising courses. Such strategies and tactics may include, but are not limited to, effective teaching techniques, course assignments, and other in-class activities. GIFT submission must include the following elements combined in one file. All authors' information must be removed from all parts of the submission document.

- 1) a anonymized title page with the submission's title and a maximum of five (5) keywords,
- 2) A 500-word summary of the teaching idea without the author's information that must include the idea description, student learning objectives, and the justification of the selected teaching strategy, tactic, or approach to achieve the set learning objectives.
- 3) List of references (not included in the 500-word GIFT summary).
- 4) Appendix with any supplemental materials (e.g., assignment, activity, students' feedback) that present the evidence of the idea's effectiveness and success.

Top GIFT submissions will be accepted for presentation at the 2026 AEJMC main conference and considered for publication in the *Journal of Advertising Education* as part of the Advertising Insights and Innovations section (reformatting

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for the journal submission might be needed). For more information, please contact Dr. Anastasia G. Kononova, Teaching and Pedagogy Chair, Michigan State University, at [kononova@msu.edu](mailto:kononova@msu.edu).

## Broadcast and Mobile Journalism Division [BAMJ]

The Broadcast and Mobile Journalism Division invites faculty and students to submit original research (including research-in-progress submissions) on any aspect of broadcast and/or mobile news content and/or production. This may include many topics related to broadcast or mobile journalism, including television, radio, or audio (including podcasting), digital reporting, practices, mobile and app-based journalism, virtual reality/360 reporting, social media journalism, or the role of new and changing media in journalism.

Research papers for the 2026 AEJMC annual conference in New Orleans, LA, must be submitted no later than 11:59 P.M. (Central Daylight Time) on April 1, 2026. We welcome research articles that employ any methodology, including qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods.

Some possible topics that may be relevant to the Broadcast and Mobile Journalism Division are:

- The impact of social media and/or broadcast news on politics, environmental issues, racial and social justice issues, crisis reporting, or other topics.
- The impact of emerging technologies on democracy.
- The role of broadcast, mobile journalism, and emerging technologies in representing marginalized communities and the changing media landscape.
- AI-driven journalism and news production.
- AI-based editing and writing tools (generative AI in journalism, storytelling, and news production).
- AI-driven fact-checking and mis/disinformation in news production.
- The role of mobile technologies in news production.
- The impact of mobile technologies on traditional broadcast news
- Global perspectives on broadcast and mobile journalism
- Diversity in the newsroom
- Audience effects in broadcast and mobile journalism
- Video news produced directly for social media or online sites
- The role of the broadcast journalist in the evolving media landscape
- The role of organizations, ownership, and sociological structures on broadcast and mobile reporting practices.

Authors of papers accepted for the conference will be encouraged to submit their manuscript for possible publication in *Electronic News*, the official journal for the

Broadcast and Mobile Journalism Division. Papers accepted for the conference are not guaranteed publication in the journal. Papers submitted to the Broadcast and Mobile Journalism Division competition should be no longer than 25 pages of manuscript, excluding tables, figures, references and appendices, and should be submitted in one of the generally approved academic bibliographic styles (i.e. APA, Chicago, etc.). Papers should be in 12-point, Times New Roman font, double-spaced and with one-inch margins. Additionally, a separate page containing an abstract of no more than 75 words is required. Documents must be uploaded as Word, WordPerfect, or PDF files. PDF format is strongly encouraged.

Please be sure to submit a clean paper without author identifying information; otherwise the paper will be disqualified. In addition to removing author identifying information from the paper and file properties, the uniform paper call has added suggestions for avoiding identification through self-citation. If you plan to submit a paper that includes a self-citation, you should remove language that suggests the cited study is yours (e.g., “in a previous study, researchers...” rather than “in a previous study, I...”). “Simply put,” the guidance concludes, “cite your own work as if it were being cited by another author – not yourself.” If the broader scholarly community is unlikely to have access to your self-citation (e.g. it’s an unpublished pilot or a conference paper that was never made available in published proceedings), AEJMC suggests referencing a different work that can support the same argument or eliminating the citation altogether. To be clear, self-citation is not automatically disqualifying, but self-citation that obviously identifies the author through one of the ways mentioned above will be disqualifying. Please refer to AEJMC’s uniform paper call on how to upload clean papers, including guidance on self-citation.

You are encouraged to submit your paper at least a day or two before the deadline so that you can check to ensure your paper does not contain any identifying information in its properties, as can happen sometimes when documents are saved as PDFs.

The Broadcast and Mobile Journalism Division accepts a total of one paper in which the author is the first author. You can submit a maximum of two papers in the division regardless of author order. For example, you can submit one paper in which you are the first author and one where you are the second author; however, you cannot submit two papers in which you are the first author. If you have additional publications outside of these guidelines, please submit one of the papers to another division.

## RESEARCH-IN-PROGRESS SUBMISSIONS

The Broadcast and Mobile Journalism Division will allow



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research-in-progress submissions, provided that the research is still ongoing at the time of the 2026 conference. This will allow researchers to receive and incorporate feedback from the conference into the final work product. **Research-in-progress submissions should contain all sections of a full paper (e.g., a full-length intro, literature review, and methods, while results/discussion can be shortened to reflect the “in progress” nature.)**

Research-in-progress submissions will not be eligible for the division’s “Best Paper” awards.

**AWARDS-** The division offers cash prizes for top faculty paper submissions, split evenly among coauthors; top student papers will receive free conference admission. A **Top S2S Poster Award** will be given to the best BAMJ poster **presented in person** at the AEJMC annual conference. There will also be an award for **best research-in-progress submission**. Please note that the student papers must be completely authored by students. Students with a faculty member as a co-author will be judged in the faculty division. Papers submitted for the student paper competition must clearly contain “Student Paper Competition” on the title page to be considered for the student paper competition. Authors of all selected papers are expected to present their work in New Orleans. Cash awards for winning papers will be awarded only if the authors present their work at the conference. Questions concerning conference paper submissions should be directed to the division’s research chair, Stan Jastrzebski, at [sjtyq@missouri.edu](mailto:sjtyq@missouri.edu).

Questions regarding submissions to the division’s journal, *Electronic News*, should be directed to the editor, Dr. Debora Wenger at [drwenger@olemiss.edu](mailto:drwenger@olemiss.edu). All papers must be uploaded through the AEJMC Submission portal. Once you have created an account, you will be able to choose the Broadcast and Mobile Journalism Division prior to submitting your paper.

## Communicating Science, Health, Environment and Risk Division [SHER]

The Communicating Science, Health, Environment and Risk (SHER) Division invites full-length paper that represent original research related to science, health, environment, risk, and other topics relevant to the communication of scientific information to the public or specific populations. SHER welcomes submissions from all disciplinary approaches and methodological orientations, including quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods. SHER is committed to highlighting research that showcases diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice issues and international perspectives.

In any one year, an individual can appear as an author or co-author on a maximum of two (2) submitted research

papers. If one individual appears on more than two submissions, the SHER Executive Committee reserves the right to disqualify some or all the papers in question from the research competition.

To acknowledge research excellence of SHER members, all non-student papers will be considered for Top Paper Awards, which are determined by overall reviewer rankings. Authors of awarded Top Papers are invited to present their research on a panel at this year’s conference and are honored at the SHER Business Meeting.

Further, in honor of former University of Texas doctoral candidate Lori Eason (1957–2002), SHER offers the Eason Prize for the top three student papers. The Eason Prize remains the largest overall student award at AEJMC and includes \$500 for first place, \$300 for second place, and \$200 for third place. Student submissions competing for the top student paper and the accompanying Eason Prize are judged together with other faculty submissions. Eason Prize submissions cannot be co-authored with faculty and must be clearly identified as an Eason Prize entry on the cover page of the submission. If not identified, they will be disqualified from the competition.

SHER will not accept Research-in-Progress submissions (formerly known as extended abstracts). Only full-length paper submissions are accepted. All submissions should follow APA format and the AEJMC Uniform Paper Call Guidelines (no more than 25 pages of double-spaced text with 12-point Times New Roman font and 1-inch margins, plus references, tables, figures, and appendices).

All accepted papers must be presented by a listed author. Authors unable to present must find another person to present their work and inform the Research Chairs in advance. Failure to appear to present may result in the author(s) losing eligibility to submit to the Division for one year. Direct questions to the Research Chair, Shupe Yuan, at [syuan@niu.edu](mailto:syuan@niu.edu).

The Division encourages all submitters to carefully check their submissions for self-identifying information of any kind, including metadata embedded in submitted documents. Submissions containing any identifying information will be rejected without review. Before uploading your submission (including PDF and Word documents), exercise extra diligence to remove all author identification from the document, including file properties or any obvious self-citations. AEJMC’s Uniform Call for Papers provides helpful guidance on managing self-citation.

## Communication Technology Division [CTEC]

The Communication Technology Division (CTEC) invites submission of original, unpublished research papers to be

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considered for presentation at the AEJMC Conference, where the central focus is communication technology and its impact on media processes and content as well as audiences, institutions, and society. Research in the division focuses on examining a broad range of trends related to technology; topics involving emerging technologies are strongly encouraged. The division welcomes theoretical and conceptual papers as well as a diversity of methodological approaches from both faculty and students.

Authors are limited to two (2) CTEC submissions. Papers are to be submitted in English only. The deadline for submissions is April 1, 2026, 11:59 P.M. (Central Daylight Time). We request that each author who submits to CTEC also consider volunteering to peer-review other CTEC submissions.

**Full Papers:** Full papers are limited to 30 pages (double-spaced), including title page, abstract, tables, figures, references, and notes. Papers should follow the APA style, have 1-inch margins, and use 12-point Times New Roman or Arial font. Abstracts must be no more than 75 words. The title should be on the first page, with page numbers and running heads on each page of text.

**Student Paper Competition:** Graduate and undergraduate students are invited to submit original research regarding any topic related to communication technology. For a paper to be considered for a student paper award, all co-authors must be undergraduate or graduate students enrolled during the 2025-2026 academic year. Papers coauthored by faculty and students should be submitted to the Faculty Paper Competition. Papers submitted for the Student Paper Competition must clearly contain "Student Paper Competition" on the title page to be considered for the Student Paper Competition. These papers are eligible for entry in the Jung-Sook Lee Student Paper competition. The Jung-Sook Lee Award recognizes the best student paper, which makes "a substantial contribution to the substance or method on a topic related to communication technology." The award honors the division's 1997-1998 research chair, Jung-Sook Lee of the University of Southwestern Louisiana, who died soon after the 1998 conference. In addition, the author of the best student paper will have their conference registration fee paid by the division.

**Faculty Paper Competition:** The division is also pleased to award a Top Faculty Research Paper Award for excellence in faculty research to recognize the best faculty paper submitted to the division. For a paper to be considered for this award, at least one of the authors must be faculty.

For both awards, the top three papers will be recognized at the conference, during the CTEC top paper sessions. Submissions that do not win recognition in the Jung-Sook Lee Award or the Top Faculty Research Award are still considered for acceptance along with open competition submissions.

**Submission Guidelines:** All papers must be submitted in Word or PDF format through the AEJMC's submission website to the Communication Technology Division. PDF format is strongly encouraged. Hard copy or electronic versions of papers submitted individually to the Research Chair will NOT be accepted.

Before submitting your research, please make sure that all author-identifying information is fully removed. Submissions containing identifying information—intentional or accidental—will be rejected. Early submission is strongly recommended to allow time to review your PDF proof and resubmit if file adjustments are needed. If you have any questions or require more information about the submission process, please contact Jieun Shi, University of Florida at [jieun@ufl.edu](mailto:jieun@ufl.edu).

## Communication Theory and Methodology – [CTAM]

The Communication Theory and Methodology (CTAM) Division invites submissions of original research papers that advance the literature in mass communication theory, research methods, or both. CTAM welcomes both conceptual and empirical papers and is open to all methodological approaches, quantitative and qualitative. We accept submissions from both faculty and students.

**Paper Competitions** - Papers may be submitted either to the open-call or student paper competitions. Papers in both competitions will be considered for the theory paper competition or method paper competition. Winners of all awards will be recognized at the 2026 CTAM members meeting.

**Student competition:** CTAM strongly encourages submissions by students. To be considered for the student paper competition, all authors must be students, and the author(s) must type "Student Paper Competition" in the upper right-hand corner of the first page of text. The winner of the Chafee-McLeod Award for Top Student Paper will be awarded \$250 and get registration costs for the conference waived; two additional top student papers will also receive cash prizes.

**Theory and Method competition:** CTAM also recognizes the top theoretical and methodological submissions to the division each year. Papers submitted to the theory and method paper competitions will also be considered for awards in the open-call and student competitions, as applicable. A theory paper may extend what is known about the current workings of a theory by including a data analysis section or strictly extend the current theory literature without including data. A method paper may discuss, develop, or apply measurement, statistical approaches, sampling techniques, or field methods that demonstrate research method innovation. We ask that all authors consider if their

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paper may fit into either competition. To be considered for the theory paper competition, the author(s) must type “Theory Paper Competition” in the upper right-hand corner of the first page of text; to be considered for the method paper competition, the author(s) must type “Method Paper Competition” in the upper right-hand corner on the first page of text.

**Full Paper Submission Requirements:** Please limit papers to no more than 25 pages (double spaced) in length, excluding tables and references. Please limit papers to 35 pages total, including text, tables, and references. Papers exceeding length requirements will be disqualified from the competition. All manuscripts should follow APA Style 7<sup>th</sup> edition, have 1” margins, and use 12-point Times New Roman font.

**Research in Progress:** CTAM also accepts research in progress submissions. This format is suitable for authors who are sufficiently along in the research process to address the content elements described below, but who have not had sufficient time to prepare a full paper. Submissions should be developed enough to allow meaningful peer feedback but not substantially finished or under review elsewhere. Research in progress submissions are not eligible to participate in CT&M’s paper competitions.

**Research in Progress Submission Requirements:** Research in progress submissions must be between 1,000 and 1,500 words. For research in progress submissions, authors will be required to upload a summary of the abstract, which may not exceed 75 words. References, tables, and figures are not included in the final word count.

- Research in progress submissions should follow the same outline as a general paper submission but may include emerging ideas, pilot studies, data collection efforts, or early analyses. Each submission must include:
  - Purpose and significance
  - Theoretical framework or literature grounding
  - Research questions or hypotheses
  - Methodology
  - Expected contributions to the field
  - Preliminary findings (if any)
  - Areas where feedback is desired
- Authors should clearly report how far along the data collection and analysis phases are, respectively, and explain what steps remain and the anticipated value/contribution of these steps, so that reviewers can assess the foundations on which conclusion are based. Research in progress submissions will be reviewed and scored using evaluation criteria specific to the category and not the same as those used for full papers.
- When submitting in this format, authors must select the “Research in Progress” option in the AEJMC Submission Portal AND include the words “Research in Progress” at

the start of their paper title (e.g., “Research in Progress: [Your paper title]”). Authors should clearly indicate the same on the title page of their submission. Submissions that are not appropriately labeled may be rejected.

- When creating the file for upload, please insert the 75-word summary of the abstract at the beginning of the research in progress submission, so that this is what readers and reviewers see first.
- Other than the research in progress submission format (including length differences) and ineligibility for award competitions, all other AEJMC Uniform Paper Call Guidelines apply. Please review these shown in the AEJMC Uniform Paper Call shown on page 23 of this newsletter.

**Self-Identification:** It is critical that there is no self-identifying information of any kind, such as in the body of the paper or in the document properties. **Before you submit your work, please check the file’s document properties and file information to ensure you and/or your co-authors’ names are not listed anywhere.** Please also pay attention to the issue of self-citation. The AEJMC Uniform Call for Papers lists possible solutions for self-citation. We strongly encourage you to submit your paper or research in progress at least a day or two prior to the deadline so that you can check to make sure there is no self-identifying information in the properties of the files you submit. **Any submissions that have not removed identifying information, whether intentionally or accidentally, will be rejected.**

**Conference Attendance:** At least one author of an accepted faculty paper or research in progress submission must attend the conference to present the paper. If student authors cannot be present, they must arrange for the paper or research in progress to be presented by someone else. Failure to be present or provide a presenter for any paper will result in a one-year ban on the review of papers for all of the authors involved. Authors of accepted papers and research in progress submissions are required to forward papers to discussants prior to the conference. **Please note that co-authors cannot be added after a paper has been reviewed. The deadline for paper and research in progress submissions is April 1, 2026, 11:59pm CDT.** For any questions related to paper submission or competition, please contact Sang Jung Kim, Research Chair, at [sangjung-kim@uiowa.edu](mailto:sangjung-kim@uiowa.edu).

## Cultural and Critical Studies Division [CCSD]

The Cultural and Critical Studies Division invites submissions of original research that contributes to the study of journalism and mass communication from a cultural and/or critical perspective and that cuts across theoretical and methodological boundaries, with particular interest in

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qualitative approaches. We also encourage scholarship that challenges conventional media research and practice and includes intersectional perspectives that highlight global voices, traditionally marginalized or underrepresented groups, and decolonizing experiences. Ideas central to the Division include (but are not limited to) notions of power, ideology and hegemony, resistance, agency, and social justice.

We encourage collaboration across divisions and interest groups to develop interdisciplinarity and inclusivity. This year, we only accept full paper submissions, which will qualify for paper award competitions. The Division's conference paper awards include the James W. Carey Memorial Award for Top Student Paper and the James Murphy Award for Top Faculty Paper, as well as a Top Poster Award. Only one paper per author is accepted for review, and submissions must not be under consideration elsewhere for presentation or publication.

Paper length should not exceed 25 pages of double-spaced text with 12 point, Calibri or Times New Roman font, and 1-inch margins, excluding tables, figures and references. All paper submissions should include an abstract no more than 75 words. Papers that are generated by AI programs or do not meet the AEJMC Uniform Call for Papers requirements will not be accepted.

Please be sure that submissions contain no identifying information, such as name, university affiliation, job title, etc., either in the text of the paper or in the document properties. Guidelines for removing personalized or identifiable information in a document can be found in the AEJMC General Call. Please note document properties as Word and PDF can also contain personal and identifiable information. Any identifying information found on the submission results in an immediate disqualification of the paper.

The paper must be uploaded to the server no later than 11:59 P.M. (Central Daylight Time) Wednesday, April 1, 2026. Questions or comments concerning submissions should be directed to research co-chairs Steven Wang ([ywang22@ltu.edu](mailto:ywang22@ltu.edu)) and Bimbisar Irom ([b.irom@wsu.edu](mailto:b.irom@wsu.edu)).

## History Division

### [HIST]

The History Division seeks original research paper and research-in-progress submissions from faculty and students on all topics related to media history for the upcoming 2026 AEJMC Conference in New Orleans. We welcome all research methodologies.

We will evaluate submissions on originality, importance of topic, literature review, clarity of purpose, robustness of research, and the degree to which the paper contributes to the field of journalism and mass communication history.

Multiple submissions to the History Division are not

allowed. An author may appear on only one submission, regardless of authorship position or submission type (full paper or research in progress).

No submission may include any identifying information, including metadata and within self-citations. Papers uploaded with author's identifying information will automatically be disqualified from the competition. For help creating a clean copy of your submission, please refer to the AEJMC general paper call submission guidelines or see here:

<https://ncculaw.libguides.nccu.edu/Technology/metadata>

Authors will be advised whether their paper has been accepted by **May 20, 2026**, and may access a copy of reviewers' comments from the online server. Contact the division's research chair if you are not notified or have questions about paper acceptance.

- Submit under History Division
- Submissions will open January 15, 2026
- Submission deadline: April 1, 2026, 11:59 PM CDT

**Research Paper Call:** Please fill out the online submission form completely, including the author(s) name, affiliation, mailing address, and email address. Papers that do not adhere to the following guidelines will be disqualified:

- The target page count is 25 double-spaced pages, not including notes, references, or appendices.
- Authors should include a 75-word abstract.
- Papers should have 1-inch margins and use a standard 12-point font.
- PDF formatting is strongly encouraged, but Word files will also be accepted.
- The Chicago Manual of Style is encouraged but not required.
- Identifying author information should not be included anywhere in the text or metadata of submissions.
- Submitters must indicate their student or faculty status, and that of any co-authors, at the time of submission in the submission portal.

Authors of accepted papers must forward papers to discussants and moderators prior to the conference. Submissions should not be under review at another conference or AEJMC group. Papers already presented at other conferences or published in scholarly, or trade journals are not eligible for submission. Papers that do not meet the above requirements will NOT be accepted.

At least one author of an accepted faculty paper must attend the conference to present the paper. If student authors cannot be present, they must arrange for the paper to be presented. If a paper is accepted, and the faculty author does not present the paper at the conference, and if a student author does not decide for his/her paper to be presented by another, then that paper's acceptance status is revoked, and the paper may not be included on a vita. All other AEJMC



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Uniform Paper Guidelines apply. Adhere to AEJMC's policy on AI usage (page 22).

**Research-in-Progress Call:** The History Division will accept submissions to the new research-in-progress competition for the 2026 conference. This format provides scholars with an opportunity to present and receive feedback on projects that are underway but not yet complete at the time of presentation. It is ideal for emerging research ideas, pilot studies, data collection efforts, or early analyses that show strong potential for scholarly contribution. This format allows participants to present their project's purpose and current progress to encourage discussion and constructive feedback.

Submissions should adhere to the following guidelines:

- An abstract of 75 words
- A project description of 1,000 to 1,500 words (not including references, tables, and figures) outlining purpose and significance; theoretical framework and/or literature grounding; research questions and/or hypotheses; methodology; expected contributions to the field of journalism and mass communication history; preliminary results or findings, if available; and areas needing feedback that would benefit the research project
- Title your submission "Research-in-Progress: [Your Paper Title]."
- Submit under the "Research-in-Progress" category in the AEJMC Submission Portal.
- Research-in-progress submitted to the History Division may not be submitted for consideration to any other AEJMC group.

All other AEJMC Uniform Research-in-Progress Guidelines apply. Adhere to AEJMC's policy on AI usage shown on page 23.

**Awards:** The History Division presents awards for the top three faculty papers and top three student papers. Papers submitted with both faculty and student authors will be considered faculty papers and are not eligible for student competitions. To preserve the value of fully developed research papers, research-in-progress submissions are not eligible for History Division or AEJMC conferencewide awards, aside from the division's top research-in-progress award.

**Student Paper Award:** Current undergraduate and graduate students may enter the Warren Price Student Paper Competition, which recognizes the History Division's best student paper. The award is named for Warren Price, the History Division's first chair. Student papers should include a separate cover sheet indicating their student status but omitting the author's name or other identifying information. Students who submit top papers are eligible for small travel grants from the Edwin Emery Fund. Only full-time students not receiving departmental travel funds are eligible for these grants.

**Diversity in Journalism History Research Award:** In

addition to rewarding the top faculty and student papers, the outstanding submission on diversity in journalism history research will receive a \$100 prize. For questions, please contact Carolina Velloso, Minnesota, History Division Research Chair: [cvelloso@umn.edu](mailto:cvelloso@umn.edu)

## International Communication Division [INTC]

The International Communication Division (INTC) invites submissions for the AEJMC 2026 Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, from August 5-8, 2026. INTC welcomes research that critically explores the transformative role of media and communication globally. We seek contributions that go beyond geographic boundaries to analyze how media influences, adapts to, and impacts international, cross-cultural, and transnational contexts amid societal change.

**Thematic and Research Focus** - INTC encourages submissions that align with the division's mission of examining global media dynamics, particularly in regions often overlooked by mainstream communication studies. Topics of interest include:

- **Global Media Flows and Knowledge Production:** Analyses of media flows between the Global North and South, and South-South, are essential for understanding disparities in global knowledge production, access to information, and media representation. Research that investigates the implications of these flows for global media ethics, international diplomacy, and cross-border media partnerships is especially valued.
- **Media Landscapes in the Global South:** We welcome studies that examine evolving media practices, structures, and challenges unique to the Global South, providing critical insights into how local journalists, media practitioners, and platforms operate within complex socio-political environments.
- **Media's Role in Addressing Pressing Global Issues:** Research that considers the role of media in public discourse around urgent global challenges—such as climate change, migration, human rights, and social justice—aligns with INTC's commitment to impactful scholarship. Studies that explore how media narratives shape public opinion, policy responses, or community mobilization on these topics are particularly encouraged.
- **Crisis Communication and Conflict Reporting:** INTC values scholarship that examines media's role in times of crisis, including conflict, post-conflict, or disaster contexts. Papers that explore how underrepresented voices, particularly in crisis regions, navigate media landscapes to bring attention to critical issues are essential to INTC's mission.

Submissions should demonstrate methodological rigor,

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theoretical grounding, and a commitment to inclusive scholarship that enhances understanding of international communication. We accept a diversity of approaches, including qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods, as well as interdisciplinary perspectives that contribute to INTC's focus on meaningful global communication research.

## **Submission Categories and Guidelines: Full Papers:**

Original, unpublished research of up to 25 pages (excluding references, tables, and figures). Papers can be submitted to either:

- *Robert L. Stevenson Open Competition* for faculty or faculty-student co-authored papers.
- *James W. Markham Student Competition* for sole student-authored papers.

**Research-in-Progress:** This category supports projects still in progress at the time of the conference. Submissions should be developed enough for meaningful peer feedback during the review process but not substantially complete or under review elsewhere. This format allows participants to present their project's purpose and current progress to encourage discussion and constructive feedback. Research-in-Progress submissions are reviewed separately from full papers and are ineligible for top paper awards. Submit Research-in-Progress proposals of 1,000–1,500 words outlining:

- Purpose and significance
- Theoretical framework and/or literature grounding
- Research questions and/or hypotheses
- Methodology
- Expected contributions to the field of communication or media studies
- Preliminary results or findings
- Areas needing feedback that would benefit the research project
- References, tables, and figures (not part of word count).

## **Additional Submission Guidelines:**

- **Deadline:** April 1, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CDT.
- **Format:** Submissions should be in Word or PDF format, including a 75-word abstract and four keywords to facilitate reviewer pairing.
- **Anonymity:** Remove all identifying information from the submission, including metadata, to ensure anonymize review compliance. Submissions that do not meet anonymity standards will be disqualified.
- **First-author submissions:** INTC prioritizes diversity in programming and reserves the right to prioritize different first authors in final programming decisions.

For Research-in-Progress submissions, authors must select the "Research-in-Progress" option on the AEJMC submission site and include "Research-in-Progress" at the beginning of the paper title.

## **Commitment to Review and Participation** - INTC fosters

an equitable review process and values reciprocal engagement. ***All authors submitting to INTC—whether as first authors or co-authors—are expected to serve as reviewers for the division.*** Failure to fulfill the review requirement will disqualify the submission from consideration for any INTC awards. Reviews may be assigned in proportion to the number of submissions received by an author.

This policy ensures that all participants contribute to and benefit from the peer-review process, maintaining a high standard of scholarly exchange. Please double-check the spelling of all coauthors' email addresses to ensure accurate communication and avoid missed reviewer assignments due to email errors.

**Awards and Recognition** - INTC offers cash prizes for the top three faculty papers (Robert L. Stevenson Competition) and the top three student papers (James W. Markham Competition), based on rankings by reviewers. First authors of the top student papers will also receive complimentary conference registration. Award recipients will be informed in advance, except for the Best Poster Award winners, who will be announced at the INTC business meeting during the conference.

In addition to the Robert L. Stevenson faculty and James W. Markham student paper awards, INTC provides the following distinguished prizes:

- **African Journalism Studies Best Paper Award:** Sponsored annually by *African Journalism Studies*, this award recognizes the most exceptional paper submitted to INTC's Stevenson Open Paper Competition. Established in 2003, it promotes scholarship in global journalism, with a focus on enhancing understanding in areas such as international news flow, media ethics, media education, and issues surrounding gender and race. Research on specific topics, including media and climate change, media's role in democratic transitions, and technological transformations in media, is especially encouraged. The award supports research relevant to INTC's international mission, with particular attention to North-South and South-South journalism topics. Winners receive a certificate and a book coupon.
- **Latin American Communication Research Award (LARA):** INTC grants up to three awards to outstanding papers by scholars from Latin America, those of Latin American heritage, or researchers focused on Latin American topics. For eligibility, "Latin America" is broadly defined to encompass Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking regions in Latin America, the Caribbean (including Puerto Rico), and Latin American diaspora communities. Topics can span Inter-American communications, media theory, technology, journalism studies, communication for social change, media law, education, political communication,

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and Latinx communities, among others. Any methodology is welcomed. Note: Previous LARA winners must wait two years to re-qualify. Eligible submissions should indicate “Eligible for INTC LARA award” on the title page.

- **Online Media and Global Communication Best Paper Award:**

Offered by the *Online Media and Global Communication* (OMGC) journal, this award supports exemplary research in online media and global communication, emphasizing cross-national comparisons and online media with global implications. Special consideration is given to collaborative papers between scholars from the Global North and South. Two awards are available: one for the OMGC Best Open Paper Award (Stevenson Competition) and one for the OMGC Best Student Paper Award (Markham Competition). All methodologies are encouraged. Recipients must agree to OMGC’s first right of refusal to publish in order to receive the award.

- **Best Poster Award:** This award celebrates excellence in poster presentations, aiming to recognize outstanding visual communication, improve poster quality, and increase participation in INTC’s scholar-to-scholar sessions. Awards will be given to one faculty or faculty-student poster and one student-only poster. Winners receive certificates and honorariums in recognition of their high-quality work.

All the competitions in INTC are open to AEJMC members and non-members, students, and faculty.

For questions about this call or submission process, please contact: Robert L. Stevenson Open Paper Competition Chair Yiping Xia at [xia@tamu.edu](mailto:xia@tamu.edu) or James W. Markham Student Competition Chair Meagan Doll at [dollm@umn.edu](mailto:dollm@umn.edu).

## Law and Policy Division

### [LAWP]

The Law and Policy Division invites the submission of original, non-published research papers and research-in-progress submissions related to communication law and policy. Authors need not be members of AEJMC or the Law and Policy Division to submit. Each paper and research-in-progress submission must be the original research and unique writing of the author(s) submitting the paper or research-in-progress **for consideration for presentation at the 2026 conference in New Orleans, Louisiana (August 5-8, 2026).**

The Division welcomes research that uses methods or theories appropriate to the paper’s research questions. For example, the Division welcomes papers employing traditional legal analysis of doctrines and statutes about communication law and policy, as well as research that studies communication law and policy from a historical,

philosophical, sociological, or related perspective by employing quantitative or qualitative methods. The Division also welcomes research that uses traditional perspectives on freedom of speech and press, as well as research that uses critical perspectives involving (but not limited to) matters of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression.

Papers and research-in-progress should adhere to the best practices of diversity and inclusion in scholarly research.

**Most of each paper should focus on communication law and/or policy.**

There is no limit to the number of submissions authors may make to the Law & Policy Division. Except for the AEJMC Southeast Colloquium or the AEJMC Midwinter Conference, papers are accepted for review on the understanding that they are not already under review for other conferences and that they have been submitted to only one AEJMC group for evaluation (see rule #7 set forth by the AEJMC Uniform Paper Call). Additionally, any paper that has been submitted for publication or that is under review or accepted for publication **before** submission to the Law & Policy Division competition deadline is ineligible for submission. Per rule #12 of the AEJMC Uniform Paper Call, authors of accepted submissions retain the copyright of their papers and are free to submit them for publication **after receiving paper reviewers’ comments.**

Authors must submit papers or research-in-progress via the process described in the Uniform Paper Call. Follow the instructions on the AEJMC conference submission site to create your account and complete the steps required. The submission portal for completed **papers and research-in-progress** opens on starting **January 15, 2026**, through Wednesday, **April 1, 2026, by 11:59 p.m. CDT (Central Daylight Time)**. For more information on the research-in-progress category, please see full details at the end of this call.

Submissions are to be in English only, and PDF files are preferred. **Papers and research-in-progress must not include author-identifying information in the running heads, text, citations, or file properties.** Per rule #6 of the AEJMC Uniform Paper Call, submissions uploaded with author-identifying information will not be considered for review and will be **disqualified.**

In addition to removing explicit self-identification in the files, authors should follow the AEJMC uniform paper call guidelines on **avoiding self-citations.** The following **guidelines** are recommended: **(1)** Replace self-references (“In my prior work...”) with neutral phrasing (“In a previous study, researchers...”). **(2)** Remove or minimize self-citations if they risk revealing identity. **(3)** Cite your own work as if by another author.

Please be sure to adhere to AEJMC’s resolution on **AI usage.** Additionally, an AEJMC AI task force is finalizing a document on **AI usage:** the Law & Policy Division will adhere

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to those rules, and papers that don't comply will be rejected without review.

If the presenting author(s) is/are unavailable to present their research (be it a poster, paper, or research-in-progress), the author(s) must arrange to have the research presented at the conference and the author(s) must notify the Research Chair regarding the changes in who is presenting the research. If a paper or research-in-progress submission is accepted and the author (whether faculty or student) does not present it in-person at the conference and does not have arrangements for the research to be presented by another person present at the conference, then that acceptance status of the research is revoked. The paper or research-in-progress may not be included on a vita.

Authors will be notified about acceptance decisions by **May 20, 2026**. At that time, authors may access a copy of reviewers' comments from the online server. Authors whose papers are selected for presentation should send their completed papers to moderators and discussants before the conference. Research-in-progress is **not** submitted as a full paper before the conference.

**Papers:** Law and Policy Division papers must not exceed 50 double-spaced pages and must have one-inch margins and 12-point font, **including a cover page with a 75-word abstract**, appendices, tables, footnotes/endnotes, and end-of-paper reference list, if applicable. (Exceptions: Footnotes/endnotes, reference list, and any tables or appendices may be single-spaced; footnotes/endnotes can be in 10-point font.) A 75-word (maximum) summary of the paper must be included with the paper submission; the summary can be the paper's abstract or another form of summary that describes the paper, but it must be 75 words or less. **Papers will be rejected without review if they do not comply with these requirements.** Please note that the submission website does **not** check word counts, so be sure to do so before uploading your paper.

Authors should use the citation style that is most appropriate for the research. For example, the Bluebook citation style is preferred for papers employing traditional methods of legal analysis, while authors submitting sociologically oriented papers may use any recognized, uniform style for referencing authorities, including APA, Chicago, or Harvard.

A panel will review all paper submissions submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST on April 1, 2026. The selection of papers for conference presentations will be based on the quality of the work and the contribution it makes to the field. Evaluation of quality will consider the clarity of the stated purpose of the paper, clarity of ideas stated throughout the paper, citation of appropriate and relevant literature that takes into account diverse perspectives as applicable to the field of communication law and policy, evidence of a high level of

critical thought in conceptual claims or arguments, descriptions of the research process and data collection, and explanation and execution of the author's chosen method. Reviews also will consider the level of critical thought of the analysis, relevance of the purpose of the paper to the analysis, and how well the conclusion or findings support the purpose of the paper. Each paper is expected to be substantively relevant to communication law and policy as well as to represent a significant direction for journalism or mass communication research.

**Top Paper Awards:** *Top Faculty Papers:* The Division will present awards to the top three papers written by faculty members who have previously submitted research to the Division. The winners will receive plaques.

**Top Debut Faculty Paper:** The Law and Policy Division will award a Top Debut Faculty Paper. This will be the top paper by a faculty member who has never had a paper accepted by the Division as a faculty member (faculty who previously submitted to the Division as students are eligible for the Debut Faculty award). The faculty member will receive a prize of \$150 and free conference registration. For papers with multiple authors to be eligible (e.g., multiple faculty or faculty/student), none of the authors may have previously had a faculty paper accepted by the Division at the national conference. In addition, only one faculty author presenting the paper will be eligible for free conference registration. Authors should submit their paper to the "Top Debut Faculty Paper Competition" option on the submission website.

**Top Student Paper:** Student-only submissions will be considered for the Whitney and Shirley Mundt Award and its \$100 prize, given to the top student paper. Student authors should submit their papers to the Open Call, but they must clearly indicate their student status on the cover page. Co-authored papers are eligible, as long as all authors are students. The Law and Policy Division will also cover conference registration fees for the top three student paper presenters. In the case of co-authored student papers, only one student author presenting the paper will be eligible for free conference registration.

**Research-in-Progress:** The Law & Policy Division will accept submissions of research-in-progress from authors who lack time to write a full paper prior to the April 1 deadline. Research-in-progress submissions provide scholars with an opportunity to present and receive feedback on projects that are underway but not yet complete at the time of presentation. It is ideal for emerging research ideas, pilot studies, data collection efforts, or early analyses that show strong potential for scholarly contribution. **The Division will recognize the top faculty and top student research-in-progress submissions through the Promising Research Award certificate. All authors of the student research-in-progress submissions**



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**must be students to be eligible for this Award.**

**Research-in-progress** submissions should **not** be substantially complete or under review elsewhere at the time of the conference. It follows that **no full paper** should be submitted by the time of the conference. The deadline for these submissions is the same as full papers: **April 1, 2026, by 11:59 p.m. CDT (Central Daylight Time)**, with an acceptance notification of **May 20, 2026**.

This category supports projects still in progress at the time of the conference. Submissions should be developed enough for meaningful peer feedback during the review process but not substantially complete or under review elsewhere. This format allows participants to present their project's purpose and current progress to encourage discussion and constructive feedback. Any submission that is uploaded with author's identifying information will not be considered for review and will automatically be disqualified.

Projects must be actively in progress—data collection, analysis, or writing should be underway. Submissions must include sufficient detail for reviewers to evaluate scholarly potential (see below under Submission Requirements for further details). Finally, completed papers or those under review elsewhere are not eligible.

Research-in-progress will be accepted for in-person presentation, and registration for the conference will be required. You do not have to be a current member to submit.

**Contact for Questions:** Please email the LAWP Research Chair, Katie Montalbano, with any questions you have about submitting at: [kathryn.montalbano@uky.edu](mailto:kathryn.montalbano@uky.edu).

## Magazine Media Division [MMAG]

The Magazine Media Division invites submissions of original research papers and theoretical essays that advance magazine scholarship or scholarly knowledge about magazine media broadly defined, including narrative nonfiction, special interest publications, content management, electronic magazines, and the freelance economy. Research may be relevant to the journalistic, historical, cultural, political, artistic or economic aspects of magazines, or to their production, distribution, promotion and/or reception. All methodologies and theoretical frameworks are welcome. Authors need not be AEJMC or Magazine Media division members, but if their paper(s) is/are accepted, they must attend the conference to present their research.

**Scope.** Submissions may address a range of aspects of magazine media – whether online (including social networking sites), on mobile platforms, or print – including editorial and advertising content, production, audience reception, and readership communities. Submissions that examine lifestyle and literary journalism outside the confines

of mainstream magazine media – such as blogs and long form publications – are strongly encouraged. Submissions that explore the definition of magazine media itself are of particular interest. Magazine Media division papers presented at past conferences have included content or discourse analyses of magazine editorial or advertising content (including native advertising/content marketing); ethnographies of magazine newsrooms, with an emphasis on their digital transitions; historical analyses of individual magazines or magazine coverage of controversial topics over time; analyses of magazines as political forces; rhetorical analyses of literary journalism; and experiments investigating the effects of page layout and other magazine content features.

**Submissions.** Preferred paper length for full papers is up to 8,000 words, not including notes, references, and tables. The Magazine Media Division is also accepting submissions for the new Research-in-Progress category at the 2026 conference. Papers submitted to this category must be 1,000-1,500 words and discuss projects that will still be in progress at the time of the conference. References for all submissions can be in any style or format, so long as a consistent scholarly citation format is applied. There is no limit on the number of papers authors may submit for presentation in the Magazine Media Division research sessions. Multiple submissions of the same paper(s) to other divisions will be disqualified. Please follow the basic submission requirements in the AEJMC Uniform Paper Call and be sure to remove all identifying information. Papers that contain authors' identifying information will not be considered for review and will be automatically disqualified. Early submissions are encouraged. **The deadline for all submissions is April 1, 2026.**

**Awards.** Certificates and cash prizes will be awarded at the conference in **New Orleans, LA** for a) Top faculty paper (\$200), b) Top student paper (\$200), c) Second-place paper (\$150), and d) Top research-in-progress paper (\$100). Papers will be evaluated on methodology; theoretical framework; importance and originality of topic; literature review; significance of findings and how they support the paper's conclusions; focus, writing, and organization; and overall contribution to magazine research. Authors will be automatically entered in the award competitions based on their rank and paper submission category. The Magazine Media Division reserves the right not to give out any top paper awards any given year. Please direct any questions to the division's research chair, Lydia Cheng, Nanyang Technological University ([lydia.cheng@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:lydia.cheng@ntu.edu.sg)).

## Mass Communication and Society Division [MCSD]

The Mass Communication and Society Division seeks

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research paper submissions from both faculty and students for the 2026 AEJMC annual conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, to be held from August 5-8, 2026. Submissions to the Mass Communication and Society Division can be on any topic that advances mass communication theory, especially at the societal or macrosocial level. The Division accepts research submissions from a variety of theoretical and methodological perspectives as well as research that draws heavily from other disciplines, including sociology, psychology, anthropology, law, and history. Papers should be submitted to only one competitive paper category in the division: 1) Open Competition, 2) Student Competition, or 3) Moeller Student Paper Competition. Papers must not be under consideration elsewhere for presentation or publication.

**Submission Deadline: Wednesday, April 1, 2026, 11:59 p.m.** (Central Daylight Time). Any submissions after this time will not be accepted.

**Full Research Papers:** Should not exceed 30 double-spaced pages (count and format include main text, notes, references, tables, and figures, but not the title and abstract pages).

**Submission Procedures** - Submissions to the MC&S division should adhere to the guidelines outlined below, as well as in the AEJMC uniform paper call. The MC&S-specific guidelines take precedence over the AEJMC Uniform Paper Call. Individual full research paper submissions should not exceed **30 double-spaced** pages (count and format include main text, notes, references, tables, and figures, **but not the title and abstract pages**). All material for full papers must be double-spaced. **Double-space** all material, including title page, abstract, text, quotations, acknowledgments, references, appendices, tables, figure captions, and footnotes. **All papers must be submitted in Word or PDF format** through the submission link on the AEJMC website ([www.aejmc.org](http://www.aejmc.org)) to the Division. Papers should follow the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.), have 1-inch margins, and use 12-point Times New Roman, Times, or Arial font. Abstracts (summaries) must be no more than 75 words. The title should be on the first page with page numbers and running heads on each page of text. Do NOT include the author's name on running heads or title page. Hard copies or electronic versions of papers submitted individually to the Research Committee will **NOT** be accepted.

**Author-identifying information MUST NOT** appear anywhere in the attached paper file. Identifying information includes (1) listing of authors' names and/or affiliations, (2) references to authors' previous work in a way that reveals authorship of the current work, (3) keeping author-identifying information within the text, in headers, or within the embedded electronic file properties and (4) links to authors' websites, email addresses, or social media accounts. The **inclusion of identifying information will result in automatic**

**disqualification of the paper** (please review the instructions on the AEJMC website for stripping identifying information from the electronic file properties). Authors are solely responsible for checking the final uploaded version of their paper for all author-identifying information.

All paper submitters are strongly encouraged to submit at least a day or two before the deadline so they can check to make sure that the uploaded document does not contain any self-identifying information in its properties, as can happen sometimes via "save as PDF" or because of some other technical issues. **An early submission will allow all submitters to fully check submissions as they are entered into the system, so that a resubmission prior to the deadline is possible.** Submitters should download a PDF version of their paper submissions from the AEJMC Submission Portal system and verify that self-identifying information has been successfully removed from the document's properties. This will need to be done **EACH** time you submit your paper to the AEJMC Submission Portal.

**Authorship:** When submitting co-authored papers, permission to submit the paper should be sought and obtained from all authors on the paper prior to submission. Paper authorship cannot be added, deleted, or changed after a review of the paper.

**Two-Paper Limit:** In any one year, an individual can appear as author or co-author on a maximum of two (2) submitted research papers to the Division. If one individual appears as an author or co-author on more than two (2) submitted research papers, the Division Research Committee has the right to disqualify the third or more submitted papers.

**Author Information:** Completely fill out the online submission form with author(s) name, affiliation, mailing address, telephone number, and email address. All authors and co-authors, their institutional affiliations, and contact information must be included **WHEN REGISTERING** on the paper submission system. If there are three co-authors, for example, information about all three must be included in the registration.

**Originality:** Submissions must not be under review, have been presented at other conferences (except for AEJMC regional conferences), published, or appear online before the competition deadline.

**Use of AI:** Submissions should adhere to AEJMC's policy on AI usage. AI should not be used as an author, and any use of AI in manuscript creation must be disclosed. Authors are fully responsible for the accuracy and integrity of the content, and AI-generated text must be transparently cited, with the tool, version, and prompt details provided in the reference. The use of AI-generated content (including text, images, or data) without clear disclosure will result in the paper's automatic disqualification.

# AEJMC Conference 2026 Paper Competition

New Orleans, Louisiana | August 5-8, 2026

[aejmc.org/aejmc-events/conference/paper-competition](http://aejmc.org/aejmc-events/conference/paper-competition)



**Authors are responsible for following the guidelines for paper submissions outlined in the AEJMC Uniform Paper Call and the additional Division's guidelines listed in this call. For questions, please contact Research Chair Juan Liu ([juanliu@towson.edu](mailto:juanliu@towson.edu)), Research Associate Chair Christina Najera ([cnajera@utk.edu](mailto:cnajera@utk.edu)) or Research Committee Member Anastasia Kononova ([kononova@msu.edu](mailto:kononova@msu.edu)).**

**Top Paper Awards:** To acknowledge research excellence, the MCS Division provides cash awards and waives one AEJMC conference registration fee for the top three winners in each research paper competition (Open, Student, and Moeller). Student papers are judged separately from the faculty papers. Top papers in the Open and Student categories are recognized separately. At least one author of each winning paper is asked to attend the MCS Awards Luncheon to receive their awards. For a list of past Top Paper Awards, please visit <https://aejmc.us/mcs/awards/research-awards/top-paper-awards/>

**Student Competition:** Graduate and undergraduate students are invited to submit original research regarding any topic related to mass communication and society. For a paper to be considered for a student paper award, **all** the coauthors must be students. The paper must be correctly submitted to the Student Competition category online. **Papers submitted for the Student Competition must clearly note the competition on the title page.** A faculty member as a co-author automatically moves the paper to the Open Competition.

**Moeller Student Paper Competition:** Graduate and undergraduate students who submit a paper written for a class during the previous year are eligible for the Mass Communication and Society Moeller Student Paper Competition. **Moeller Competition papers must be nominated by the faculty member who taught the class.** To nominate a Moeller Student Paper, faculty should send an email to the MCS Division Research Committee Chair, Juan Liu ([juanliu@towson.edu](mailto:juanliu@towson.edu)) before April 1, 2026, 11:59 p.m. (Central Daylight Time), verifying that the paper was completed for a class. **Papers submitted for the Moeller Student Competition must clearly note the competition on the title page.** Please remember that the Moeller Student Competition is separate from our Student Paper Competition. The paper must be correctly submitted to the Moeller Student Competition category online.

**Open Competition:** All other papers submitted to the Division will be reviewed in the Open Competition.

**Presentation Obligation:** At least one author of an accepted faculty paper must attend the conference to present the paper. If student authors cannot be present, they must decide for the paper to be presented by someone else. Failure to be present or provide a presenter for any paper will result in author(s) losing eligibility to submit to the division for one

year. The author(s) will also not be eligible to count that presentation on his/her vita. Authors of accepted papers are required to forward papers to discussants and moderators prior to the conference. **For questions, please contact Research Chair Juan Liu ([juanliu@towson.edu](mailto:juanliu@towson.edu)), Research Associate Chair Christina Najera ([cnajera@utk.edu](mailto:cnajera@utk.edu)) or Research Committee Member Anastasia Kononova ([kononova@msu.edu](mailto:kononova@msu.edu)).**

## Media Ethics Division [ETHC]

The Media Ethics Division (ETHC) seeks a diverse range of original faculty and graduate student paper submissions related to ethics. Media ethics pertain to all communication types and practices, and we welcome submissions that address both traditional and emergent issues in our changing media landscape. Ethics-related topics and concerns include but *are not limited to*: issues of justice, power, and representation; the ethics of storytelling; the ethics of diversity, inclusion, and belonging; ethical decision-making; moral development; truth-telling and deception; privacy; credibility; accountability; the relationship between journalism and democracy; organizational norms and routines; global ethics; the impact of technology on ethics; the relationship between economic structures and ethical practices, audience considerations; applied ethics in journalism, advertising, public relations, digital technology (such as social media and platforms), or entertainment; the pedagogy of media ethics; and the relationships between law, history, and ethics.

The division seeks scholarship on all media contexts such as journalism, advertising, public relations, entertainment, digital media, social media, etc.; from a range of theoretical/paradigmatic approaches including philosophical, critical, sociological, psychological, pedagogical, etc.; and using a range of methods including qualitative, quantitative, critical cultural, and mixed methods. Essays grounded in ethics theory are also welcome. All papers should adhere to APA style (7th ed.); must be no more than 25 pages (excluding title page, references, figures, illustrations, and/or appendices); should be double-spaced, use 1inch margins and 12point Times New Roman; should be saved as Word or PDF; should include an abstract (maximum 75 words); and must otherwise conform to the rules outlined in the AEJMC Uniform Call for Papers.

**Research-in-Progress:** ETHC also accepts Research-in-Progress (1,000-1,500 words) submissions following the Research-in-Progress Call Guidelines for AEJMC. The new Research-in-Progress category supports projects still in progress at the time of the conference. Submissions should be developed for meaningful peer feedback during the review

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process but not substantially complete or under review elsewhere. Projects must be actively in progress (e.g., data collection, analysis, or writing should be underway) and submissions must include sufficient detail for reviewers to evaluate scholarly potential. The project proposal should include the following: (1) purpose and significance; (2) theoretical framework and/or literature grounding; (3) research questions and/or hypotheses; (4) methodology; (5) expected contribution to the field; (6) preliminary results or findings; (7) areas needing feedback that would benefit the project; and (8) references, tables, and figures (not part of word count).

Papers or Research-in-Progress that do not conform to these rules or contain information identifying the author(s) will be disqualified. The deadline is **Wednesday, April 1, 2026, 11:59 p.m.** (Central Daylight Time). Authors will be notified by May 20, 2026. Reviewers' comments will be accessible through the submission portal.

**Anonymize your paper:** Submissions with author identifiers will be disqualified. Before submitting, we strongly suggest conducting an internet search to learn how to remove metadata from your chosen document type (Word or PDF) based on your use of either Windows or macOS. Implementing those steps ensures identifying factors are not present (as can especially happen when someone "saves as pdf" even after clearing metadata from a Word doc). AEJMC's Uniform Call for Papers includes helpful solutions to self-citations. The division strongly advises authors to submit papers with sufficient time to review them in the submission portal and ensure identifying information is removed.

Submitting a paper or Research-in-Progress to the Media Ethics Division implies that the author (or one of the coauthors) intends to present the paper in person at the conference.

**James Whalen Award for Student Research:** All students who submit papers to the Media Ethics Division are encouraged to enter their papers in the James Whalen Award competition. The Media Ethics Division teams with the University of St. Thomas to sponsor this special paper competition for students.

The award is named in honor of Father Whalen in recognition of his national reputation as a journalism educator, ethicist, and founder of the University's journalism program. Its goal is to encourage research on media ethics and excellence in professional practice. Students are invited to submit papers on any topic related to media ethics: public relations, entertainment, journalism, advertising, etc. The winning paper will receive the University of St. Thomas James Whalen Award for Outstanding Student Research in Media Ethics. The award includes a \$500 cash prize. The runner-up will receive a \$200 cash prize.

Authors for the top two submissions will receive a small

travel assistance stipend and be invited to present their papers at the 2026 conference in New Orleans. The winner will be invited to accept his or her prize at the conference's Kappa Tau Alpha Luncheon.

**Division Awards - Professional Relevance Award:** The Division gives special recognition to a paper considered the most relevant to working professionals in the media industry. The recipient will be selected from the open and special calls.

**Top Faculty Paper:** The division specializes in faculty papers judged to be the best papers submitted by faculty authors.

**The Penn State Davis Ethics Award:** Scholars who have successfully defended ethics-related dissertations in the 2025 calendar year are encouraged to apply for the Penn State Davis Ethics Award.

The award provides a \$1,000 honorarium, travel support to present their scholarship in a session of the Media Ethics Division at the 2026 AEJMC annual conference, and a fully supported guest lecture visit to Penn State's Bellisario College of Communications. The Don W. Davis Professor in Ethics at Penn State, Patrick Lee Plaisance, will administer all aspects of the award competition and selection process.

Applications should include a cover letter stating the applicant's ethics-related focus and contact information, defense date, full dissertation (either in PDF format or as a web link), and dissertation adviser contact information. All applications are due April 1, 2026, and should be sent to [plp22@psu.edu](mailto:plp22@psu.edu). The award will be presented at the Media Ethics Division's Business Meeting during the 2026 AEJMC conference. This award is intended to recognize new scholarship in media and communication ethics and is sponsored by the Davis Program in Ethical Leadership at Penn State. A guest lecture visit to Penn State will be arranged for Fall 2026 based on recipient availability. Questions regarding submission should be directed to Media Ethics Division Research Chair, Lana Medina, University of St. Thomas, [medi6836@stthomas.edu](mailto:medi6836@stthomas.edu).

## Media Management, Economics and Entrepreneurship Division [MMEE]

The Media Management, Economics, and Entrepreneurship Division (MMEE) invites original research paper submissions to be considered for presentation at the 2026 AEJMC conference in New Orleans, LA, August 5-8, 2026. Researchers interested in any aspect of media management, media economics, or entrepreneurship are encouraged to submit papers. The division welcomes the use of diverse theoretical and methodological approaches to relevant topics. Papers presented at the AEJMC Midwinter



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Conference and then revised are also welcome for submission.

The division gives awards to recognize the top three submissions from faculty, and the top three submissions from graduate students (faculty members cannot be included on student competition papers; faculty and student papers compete on an equal footing). **Top graduate papers also receive monetary awards to help offset the cost of attending the conference, and there are no division membership fees for graduate students.**

**Paper Topics:** As a division, we are proud to encourage submissions from a diverse array of topic areas. Some examples of relevant topic areas include, but are not limited to: analysis of economic or managerial questions affecting media firms and media industries; strategic management and business models of media firms; crowdfunding and other innovative funding methods for media products and industries; strategic leadership challenges faced by media companies; media ownership; management and economic issues from the public-interest perspective (e.g., effects on reporting or content); historical discussions of relevant developments in the field; policy issues from a legal, regulatory, or economic perspective; technology and its effects on management or economics; political economy; international and cross-cultural studies; the sociology and culture of media organizations; media audience analysis; teaching media management and economics; and other related topics.

In 2014 the division changed its name to expand its focus on entrepreneurship. Accordingly, we also encourage and welcome submissions within the following topic areas: opportunities and challenges for media startups; intrapreneurship and innovation within legacy media companies; the role of higher education in the context of media entrepreneurship; and other media entrepreneurship related topics.

**Guidelines for all Submissions:** All papers must be submitted electronically at the AEJMC website, by accessing the AEJMC submission portal. Papers must be uploaded to the AEJMC Submission Site no later than **11:59 P.M. (Central Daylight Time) Wednesday, April 1, 2026. All submissions must follow the guidelines from the AEJMC uniform call for all paper competitions.**

**Paper Formatting:** All papers should use 12-point Times New Roman, Times, or Arial font, and have 1-inch margins. Authors should use the citation style appropriate for the discipline, including APA, Chicago, MLA, and Harvard. Format should be Word, WordPerfect, or a PDF. **PDF format is strongly encouraged.** Paper submissions should be a maximum of 25-pages, excluding references and tables. Be sure to upload a paper abstract of no more than 75-words.

**Author Identification:** Please remove all potentially

identifying author information from submissions. Failure to do so will automatically disqualify the paper from consideration. Examples of information to be removed include citations of the author's previous work, individually or with co-authors; related reference list information; and file properties. Take every precaution to ensure that your self-citations **DO NOT** in any way reveal your identity. Instructions for how to remove identifying information from files can be found on the AEJMC website.

**Research-in-Progress Submissions:** The MMEE Division also accepts Research-in-Progress submissions (1000-1,500 words) following the Research-in-Progress Call Guidelines for AEJMC. For authors considering this option, data collection and analysis must be at least 75% complete to meaningfully report tentative findings and conclusions. Authors should clearly report in the Method and Findings sections how far along the data collection and analysis phases are, respectively, and explain what steps remain and the anticipated value/contribution of these steps, so that reviewers can assess the foundations on which conclusions are based.

Submissions should be developed enough for meaningful peer feedback during the review process but **not** substantially complete or under review elsewhere. This format allows participants to present their project's purpose and current progress to encourage discussion and constructive feedback.

**Any submission that is uploaded with author's identifying information will not be considered for review and will automatically be disqualified.**

Research-in-Progress submissions must include a reference list and a 75-word summary of the abstract. (The reference list and summary are not included in the word count). When submitting in this format, authors must include the words "Research-in-Progress" at the start of their paper title (e.g., "Research-in-Progress: [Your paper title]"). Authors should clearly indicate the same on the title page of their submission. Submissions that are not appropriately labeled may be rejected. Please be sure to submit a clean paper without author-identifying information, such as name, university affiliation, job title, etc.

For questions about submissions, contact the Research Chair, Todd Holmes ([todd.holmes@csun.edu](mailto:todd.holmes@csun.edu)).

**AEJMC Media Management, Economics and Entrepreneurship Division-OMGC Case Study Competition on Global Media Industries**

AEJMC MMEE Division, in collaboration with the Online Media and Global Communication (OMGC) sponsored by Shanghai International Studies University, will offer its inaugural Case Study Competition on Global Media Industries in 2026. Case study papers are to be submitted as a separate category to the MMEE Division in the AEJMC annual conference in San Francisco with a dedicated case study session.

To recognize high quality case study submissions, Online

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[aejmc.org/aejmc-events/conference/paper-competition](http://aejmc.org/aejmc-events/conference/paper-competition)



Media and Global Communication (OMGC) will offer cash awards and a certificate to top three case study submissions: \$300 to the top case study, \$200 to the second-place case study and \$100 to the third-place case study. Winners must give Global Media Industries Case Study Repository the first right of refusal to post the winning case with DOI. Submitters can choose single-anonymized review (author identity shown in the case study) or double-anonymized review (author identity not shown in the case study).

The case study format should follow the Global Media Industries Case Study Repository format and structure. Citations should follow OMGC in-house journal style. See examples of the published journal articles: <https://www.degruyter.com/journal/key/omgc/html#issues>.

Case studies will be divided into two categories of academic case study and industry practice case study respectively:

For academic case study research, theories related with international communication, advertising, media management, public relations, advertising, or management should be applied in analyzing cases.

For industry practice case study research, no theory is required but it should address a clear issue of concern or a function for guidance of media industry practices and/or lessons learned for students and practitioners in media and communication profession. It can be a blunder or exemplary case for future references.

Length of the case study should be between 2000-5000 words excluding references and appendices and a case study can follow the format below:

## **Title of the Case Study**

Author(s): Full Name, position, affiliation

- (1) Abstract: The summary of a case study in 150-200 words with at least five keywords.
- (2) Keywords must include these items: 1) industry/sector, 2) organization name under study, 3) country context/region/global, 4) topic areas (e.g., media management, international communication, advertising and public relations).
- (3) Introduction or background: provide an introduction or background information for a case study and explain why the case study
- (4) Research questions: address 3-5 questions related with the topic or industry
- (5) Description and data analysis: using the case study methods to analyze the collected data and other documentation regarding the case.
- (6) Discussions: analysis with historical, social and industry perspectives in relation with the key concepts and perceptions.
- (7) Conclusion and assessment: summarize key conclusions, major trends and discuss directions of future

developments of a specific topic or industry within some theoretical framework

An introduction and resource page on case study method reference is available on the Shanghai International Studies University OMGC web page:

<https://omgc.shisu.edu.cn/Repository/list.htm>

**Guidelines for all Submissions:** All case study papers must be submitted electronically at the AEJMC website, by accessing the AEJMC submission portal. Papers must be uploaded to the AEJMC server no later than **11:59 P.M.**

**(Central Daylight Time) Wednesday, April 1, 2026.**

**Paper Formatting:** All papers should use **12-point Times New Roman, Times, or Arial font, and have 1-inch margins.** Authors should use the citation style appropriate for the discipline, including APA, Chicago, MLA, and Harvard. Format should be Word, WordPerfect, or a PDF. **PDF format is strongly encouraged.**

## **Minorities and Communication Division [MACD]**

The Minorities and Communication (MACD) Division invites submissions from faculty and graduate students of original, unpublished research papers and research in progress on any topic related to minorities in communication. All papers should include appropriate literature reviews, methods, findings/preliminary findings, and discussion.

**Division Submission Criteria:** Within the context of the MACD Division bylaws, the term “minorities” has been defined as **U.S.-based racially and ethnically minoritized groups:** Latin/as/os/x Americans, Black/African Americans, Asian Americans, Middle East and North African (MENA) Americans, and Indigenous Americans. Papers examining how these groups are represented or represent themselves in media or through communications technologies, as well as how issues and perspectives related to race, ethnicity, and/or diversity are presented in mainstream or alternative media, would fall into this division’s area of interest. This division also welcomes papers on teaching or pedagogy related to minorities in communication. The division welcomes research informed by and examining existing theories and/or using quantitative, qualitative, or critical/cultural research methods.

**Exclusion Criteria:** We only send out one paper per primary (first) author for review. Papers that focus on minoritized or marginalized communities outside the scope defined by the MACD Division bylaws may have their papers transferred to another division or may be subject to disqualification.

**Full Paper Formatting:** Full paper submissions should be no more than 25 pages (12-point, Times New Roman or equivalently sized font, double spaced, 1-inch margins),

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excluding references, tables, and figures. Submissions should follow the APA reference style. **Full paper submissions should also follow all the guidelines and the instructions in the 2026 AEJMC paper competition uniform call and may be subject to disqualification if these policies are not followed.**

**Research in Progress Formatting:** This category supports projects still in progress at the time of the conference —data collection, analysis, or writing should be underway. Submissions should be developed enough for meaningful peer feedback during the review process, but **not** substantially complete or under review elsewhere. This format allows participants to present their project's purpose and current progress to encourage discussion and constructive feedback. Research in progress papers should be **1,000–1,500 words**, excluding references, tables, and figures. Submissions should follow the APA reference style. When submitting research in progress, authors must include the words **"Research in Progress"** at the start of their paper title (e.g., "Research in Progress: [Your paper title]"). Submissions that are not appropriately labeled may be rejected. **Research in progress submissions also should follow all the guidelines and instructions in the 2026 AEJMC paper competition uniform call and may be subject to disqualification if these policies are not followed. Please note: Research in progress submissions will not be eligible for division or AEJMC conference-wide awards.**

**Student Papers:** Graduate and undergraduate students are encouraged to submit original research on minorities and communication. Student papers are those in which **ALL co-authors** are currently enrolled students. Papers submitted for the student paper competition must contain the words "Student Paper Competition" on the title page to be considered for the student paper competition (e.g., "Student Paper Competition: [Your paper title]"). For student Research in Progress submissions, please include both "Student Paper Competition" and "Research in Progress" in the title (e.g., "Student Paper Competition/Research in Progress: [Your paper title]"). All student papers accepted for presentation in the Minorities and Communication Division will be considered for the Carolyn Stroman New Graduate Membership Award. The MAC Division will also recognize the top three scored student full paper submissions with a certificate and a check. The top three student research paper competition winners and the Stroman New Graduate Membership awardees will all be recognized at the Minorities and Communication members' meeting.

## Anonymization & Removing Self-Identifying

**Information:** Author identifying information must NOT appear anywhere in the attached paper file. Identifying information includes the authors' names and affiliations, previous work by the author(s) referenced in a way that makes it possible to determine who the author(s) is/are, and links to the author(s)

websites, emails, or social media accounts. Authors should check their manuscript for self-identifying information of any kind. We also encourage authors to check the "Properties" tab of their file and eliminate any author-identifying information before submitting the paper (including if you saved a Word file as a PDF file; check the Properties of the PDF file as well and eliminate author identifying information in the PDF's Properties tab, too). All papers submitted will be pre-screened for identifying information and proper submission in the student/faculty category. If a paper submitted **before** the deadline includes self-identifying information, the authors can resubmit their manuscript before the deadline. After the deadline, as per the uniform call, papers with identifying information will be automatically disqualified. For this reason, authors are strongly encouraged to upload their submissions a day or two before the deadline.

**Questions:** Please contact the Faculty Research Chair, Chelsea Peterson-Salahuddin, University of Michigan, at [caaps@umich.edu](mailto:caaps@umich.edu), and/or the Student Research Chair, Lourdes Cueva Chacón, San Diego State University, at [lcuevachacon@sdsu.edu](mailto:lcuevachacon@sdsu.edu).

## Newspaper and Online News Division [NOND]

The Newspaper and Online News Division has a new special paper call and a new competition for 2026 conference submissions. NOND welcomes all theoretical orientations and methodologies that investigate newspapers and online news, broadly defined, including (but not limited to):

- Audience analytics and perceptions
- Business models for news, entrepreneurship, economic issues for news organizations
- Digital divides, news deserts, news access issues
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion issues in news coverage
- Digital, mobile, streaming, social media news
- Disinformation/misinformation in news, news literacy
- Global journalism, foreign news
- News bias, news credibility, partisan perceptions of news
- News coverage
- Participatory journalism, citizen journalism
- User-generated content on news sites and social media

All papers must follow the AEJMC uniform paper competition guidelines. Papers cannot be already published or accepted for an academic journal or book, nor can they have been previously presented at another conference or submitted simultaneously to another AEJMC division.

**Paper Formatting (Full Paper):** Full papers should be no more than 30 pages (double spaced) in length, including title page, abstract, tables, figures, references, and notes. Authors are required to submit a title page with an abstract of their paper that is no more than 150 words, includes 3-5 keywords,

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and indicates which NOND call to which they are submitting (special call, open competition, or student competition. NRJ Top Paper submissions can be sent to any of these calls and must note on the title page that they wish to be considered for the NRJ Top Paper award). Papers should follow the current publication manual of APA or Chicago citation style, have 1-inch margins, and use 12 point Times New Roman. Submit a clean paper without author-identifying information, such as name, university affiliation, job title, etc. Inclusion of identifying information will result in automatic disqualification of the paper. Please refer to AEJMC's uniform paper call on how to upload clean papers. NOND highly recommends submitting papers as a PDF file.

**Paper Formatting (Research-in-Progress):** NOND will accept research-in-progress submissions for the 2026 AEJMC conference. The RIP format is suitable for authors who are sufficiently along in the research process to address the content elements described below but have not had sufficient time to prepare a full paper. Authors should clearly report in the Method and Findings sections how far along the data collection and analysis phases are, respectively, and explain what steps remain and the anticipated value/contribution of these steps so that reviewers can assess the foundations on which conclusions are based. The RIPs must be at least 1,000 words long but no more than 1,500 words (excluding title page, references, tables and figures). When submitting in this format, authors must use the RIP submission portal and include "Research in Progress" on the title page along with a 75-word abstract. RIPs must also include a reference list. Please ensure all identifying author information has been removed. RIPs are not eligible for NOND paper competitions or awards.

**Special paper call for 2026:** NOND seeks full papers with research that centers on "*AI in the news, newsroom, and journalism classroom.*" Manuscripts can explore any of these topics individually or together and may use a variety of methodologies and theoretical frameworks. All submissions must follow the formatting guidelines for full papers, and they must designate "NOND Special Paper Call" on the title page. Authors must use the NOND Special Call submission portal. RIPs are not accepted for this special paper call. The top paper will receive a \$200 award, and the second-place paper will receive a \$100 award.

**Open Paper Competition:** NOND grants Top Faculty Research Paper Awards for excellence in research to recognize the best faculty paper submitted to the division. Manuscripts should be submitted to the open paper competition if they are faculty- and student-faculty-authored papers submitted as FULL manuscripts. RIPs are NOT eligible for open paper competition. NOND recognizes the top three papers with a monetary award. The first-place prize is sponsored by the division's journal, *News Research Journal*. Papers should be submitted via the NOND open paper competition portal.

**Student Paper Competition:** Graduate and undergraduate students are invited to submit original research regarding any topic related to newspaper and online news. Student papers submitted in this category are eligible for the MacDougall Student Paper Award. For a paper to be considered for a student paper award, **ALL** coauthors must be students. Papers in which students are co-authors with faculty should NOT be submitted to this category. Authors should include "MacDougall Student Paper Award" on the title page and submit the manuscript via the NOND student paper portal. The manuscript must follow the NOND full paper format guidelines. MacDougall winners will receive a monetary award and a certificate of recognition during the conference. RIPs are NOT eligible for the student paper competition.

**News Research Journal Top Paper Competition:** All full manuscripts, including faculty-authored papers, student-authored papers, and faculty-student-authored papers, are eligible for consideration for the *News Research Journal* Top Paper award. Authors should include "News Research Journal Top Paper Award" on the title page to indicate their desire to be considered for this award, and they can be submitted via the NOND Open Paper, Student Paper, or Special Call portal. The winner will be chosen in consultation with the editors of the *News Research Journal*. The winner will be awarded \$1,000 and expedited review for publication in *NRJ*. Research-in-progress submissions are NOT eligible for the *NRJ* paper competition. Entries to the *NRJ* paper competition may NOT be under review simultaneously with a division other than NOND, simultaneously with the AEJMC conference and any other conference, or simultaneously with the AEJMC conference and any potential any potential publication, including refereed journals, book chapters, etc. The Newspaper and Online News Division reserves the right to not award the *NRJ* Top Paper Award if there not enough qualified submissions. All award winners are strongly encouraged to submit their manuscripts to the Newspaper and Online News Division's journal, *News Research Journal*.

All submissions undergo an anonymized review process by a panel of independent reviewers. Papers are accepted on the understanding that they have not been previously published or presented elsewhere and that they have been submitted only to the Newspaper & Online News Division for evaluation. Per the AEJMC Standing Committee of Research guidelines, self-citation is appropriate so long as the narrative surrounding the self-citation does not reveal authorship. The submission must be uploaded to the server no later than 11:59 p.m. (Central Daylight Time) Wednesday, April 1, 2026. For any questions, contact NOND research co-chairs Dr. Amber Hinsley ([ahinsley@txstate.edu](mailto:ahinsley@txstate.edu)) or Dr. David Wolfgang ([David.Wolfgang@colostate.edu](mailto:David.Wolfgang@colostate.edu))



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## Political Communication Division [PLCD]

The Political Communication Division invites submission of original, non-published research papers and Research-in-Progress to be considered for presentation at the 2026 AEJMC Conference. We welcome both faculty and graduate student papers of all methodological approaches and levels of analysis. Graduate students are particularly encouraged to apply. Research papers and Research-in-Progress should be directly related to political communication, broadly defined. Possible relevant topics include the processes and effects of mediated political communication in relation to political news, political journalism, public policy, political elites and candidates, political entertainment, citizen engagement and mobilization, public opinion, campaigns and political advertising, advocacy, and the political economy of the media. Papers that address non-U.S. politics are welcome. All submitted research papers should be clearly grounded in theory and methodology. All submissions will undergo an anonymized review process by a panel of independent reviewers. Papers and abstracts are accepted on the understanding that they have not been previously published or presented elsewhere. All authors must remove identifying information from the paper, including from the document's metadata. Failure to do so will result in automatic disqualification. As per the 2026 AEJMC Paper Call, "Take every precaution to ensure that your self-citations do not in any way reveal your identity."

The Political Communication Division has established the McCombs Shaw Award for Best Student Paper in Political Communication, which is awarded annually. This prize includes \$250 and free graduate student conference registration for up to 3 student authors. Awards are also given for runner-up student papers. Student papers may not include any faculty authors/coauthors and must be clearly labeled as "Graduate Student Paper" on the cover page. In addition, the Division annually honors the top three papers in political communication; both faculty and graduate student paper submissions are eligible for this honor. The first-place paper in political communication will receive a \$100 prize. The top poster in political communication will also receive a \$100 prize.

All entries should follow the guidelines of the AEJMC uniform paper competition (Note: Only full-length papers will be considered for top paper awards). The paper length is limited to 25 pages, not including title page, abstract, references, tables, figures, or appendices. Manuscripts longer than 25 pages will be disqualified. Research-in-Progress: This category is designed to provide opportunities for scholars whose projects are still in development and not yet ready for full paper submission. Participants will have the chance to

present their work and receive valuable feedback to advance their research and be clearly labelled "Research-in-Progress." All submissions should be standard type (12-point font, double-spaced, Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins), and must be prepared in accordance with the 7th edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact research chair Nana Kwame Osei Fordjour ([nkoford@umd.edu](mailto:nkoford@umd.edu)).

## Public Relations Division [PRDV]

The Public Relations Division invites submissions of original papers that advance the theory, practice, and pedagogy of public relations. The division encourages submissions that reflect a variety of theoretical and practical perspectives relevant to public relations, as well as a diversity of methodological approaches. Submitters should carefully review the specific instructions for the Public Relations Division as well as the general requirements contained in the AEJMC Uniform Paper Call.

**Submission Categories:** A paper may be submitted in one of the following PRDV research categories: (1) open research, (2) student research, or (3) scholarship of teaching, (4) GIFTs.

***The GIFT competition will run with the same submission system and deadline (11:59 p.m. Central Daylight Time, April 1, 2026) as the other categories. Complete information on the GIFT competition is available here.***

**Top Research, Teaching, and Student Papers:** Monetary awards are given for the top three papers in each of the categories. Thanks to a generous gift from Dennis Wilcox, Professor Emeritus, San José State University, top papers in open research and scholarship of teaching categories will be awarded: \$750 for the top paper, \$500 for the second-place paper, and \$250 for the third-place paper. Top papers will receive priority processing by the Journal of Public Relations Research, and top teaching papers will receive priority processing by the Journal of Public Relations Education, provided they are submitted by December 31, 2026. Thanks to the generous support of The Plank Center for Leadership in Public Relations at the University of Alabama, the first author of each of the top three student research papers will receive \$300, \$200, and \$100, respectively. In cases where a category does not have enough qualified submissions, the Public Relations Division reserves the right to not award any or all the three places in that category.

**Special Research Award Categories - Doug Newsom**

**Award:** The Doug Newsom Award created in honor of Doug Newsom, Professor Emeritus, Texas Christian University, will again be given in 2026. The award in the amount of \$250 is

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for the top paper that fits the theme of global ethics and diversity. Papers must follow the rules of the AEJMC Public Relations Division call for papers. A special Doug Newsom Award Committee will evaluate the papers based on the award's theme and recommend a nominee to the research committee for recognition.

**Museum of Public Relations History Award:** The Museum of Public Relations is also awarding \$250 for the best paper about the role of public relations in history. The historical figures do not need to self-identify as public relations people and can include social and political movement leaders. People who are not typically cited in public relations textbooks are of particular interest. Papers must follow the rules of the AEJMC Public Relations Division call for papers. A special Public Relations History Award Committee will evaluate the papers based on the award's theme and recommend a nominee to the research committee for recognition.

**DEI & Public Relations Award:** The Top Paper on DEI & Public Relations will also be awarded in 2026. The winning paper will earn \$250. Paper submissions must follow the general rules of the AEJMC Public Relations Division call for papers. The PRDV Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) committee will evaluate the papers based on the award's theme including (but not limited to) scholarship around race, gender, LGBTQ rights, and accessibility. The committee will recommend a nominee to the research committee for recognition.

Those who wish to compete for the Doug Newsom, Public Relations History, or DEI & Public Relations awards should submit papers using the appropriate award submission link in the AEJMC Submission Portal system. Authors must indicate the submission categories (i.e., teaching, open, or student) and then clearly label their papers for consideration of the award for which they wish to compete. Papers not selected for the awards will still be considered for acceptance in the categories (i.e., scholarship of teaching, open research, or student research) to which they are submitted.

In cases where an award competition does not have enough qualified submissions, the Public Relations Division reserves the right to not award any paper in that competition.

**Submission Limitations:** Each author or co-author may submit a maximum of two papers in total—whether full papers or works in progress—across all three PRDV categories (Teaching, Open, and Student), including award submissions. If it is found that one person is author and/or co-author of more than two submissions across the three PRDV categories, all submissions beyond the second submission will be excluded from consideration. ***GIFT submissions are considered separate and not included in this limitation.***

A Paper May NOT be Under Review: (1) simultaneously with more than one of the PRDV categories, (2)

simultaneously with more than one division within AEJMC, (3) simultaneously with the AEJMC conference and any other conference, or (4) simultaneously with the AEJMC conference and any potential publication, including refereed journals, book chapters, etc.

**Authorship:** When submitting co-authored papers, permission to submit the paper should be sought and obtained from all authors on the paper. Paper authorship cannot be added, deleted, or changed after submission of the paper.

**Author Identification:** All authors and co-authors, their institutional affiliations and contact information must be included WHEN REGISTERING on the online system. If there are three co-authors, for example, information about all three must be included in the registration. Student papers must be authored or co-authored by students ONLY (no faculty co-authors), and all student papers must have the word "STUDENT" on the title page and in the running head. Author-identifying information MUST NOT appear anywhere in the attached paper file. Identifying information includes (1) listing of authors' names and/or affiliations, (2) references to authors' previous work in a way that reveals authorship of the current work, and (3) links to authors' websites, e-mail addresses, or social media accounts. Inclusion of identifying information will result in automatic disqualification of the paper. It is the responsibility of the paper author(s) to verify that no identifying information is contained in the paper text or in the document file properties. Please follow the directions for removing your identifying information from the properties. This will need to be done EACH time you submit your paper to the AEJMC Submission Portal. All paper submitters are strongly encouraged to submit at least a day or two before the deadline so they can check to make sure that the uploaded document does not contain any self-identifying information in its properties, as can happen sometimes, mysteriously, via "save as pdf" or because of some other technical issues. An early submission will allow all submitters to fully check submissions as they are entered into the system so that a resubmission prior to the deadline is possible.

**Research paper content:** Any recognized research method and citation style may be used. Papers should include appropriate literature reviews, methodology, findings, and discussion. Papers should test, refine or expand public relations theory or practice; critically review issues relevant to public relations theory and research; or explore methods of effective public relations practice. Scholarship of teaching papers should test, refine or expand principles or practices associated with public relations pedagogy using rigorous research methods. GIFT submissions should review the GIFT-specific paper call for content guidelines.

**Paper Formatting (General):** All papers (full papers and

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research-in-progress) must contain continuous page numbers; if multiple files are merged for the paper, then the author must ensure that the page numbers are continuous and do not repeat or start over from page 1. Because of past conversion issues with the submission system that resulted in papers being longer than the established requirement, all papers must be submitted in PDF format. For those using the newest version of Microsoft Word, you can save your paper as a PDF file using the “Save As” function. For those not using this version, you may use a free web service, such as [www.freepdfconvert.com](http://www.freepdfconvert.com). Failure to follow these formatting guidelines will result in an automatic disqualification of the paper.

**Paper Formatting (Full Paper):** A full paper cannot exceed 25 pages EXCLUDING abstract, references, figures and tables. Tables and figures will be counted toward the page limit unless placed at the end of the paper. Papers must be typed in a 12-point font, using Times New Roman, Times, or Arial font. Paper text must be formatted with double line spacing with 1-inch margins on all sides of the document; references may be single spaced, with a double space between citation entries. Papers over the page limit will be disqualified.

## **Paper Formatting (Research-in-Progress):**

**\*\*The Research in Progress category replaces the former Extended Abstracts category. Please read instructions carefully\*\*.** The Public Relations Division will accept research-in-progress submissions for the 2026 conference. This category is intended for projects that are in progress but not yet complete. Submissions should be developed enough to allow for meaningful peer feedback but not substantially finished or under review elsewhere. Research-in-progress will be reviewed and scored using evaluation criteria specific to this category and not the same as those used for full papers. To preserve the value of fully developed research papers, research in progress will not be eligible for division awards. Each submission must include a 75-word abstract and a proposal of 1,000–1,500 words (PDF preferred; Word accepted). The proposal should include **(1) purpose and significance of the study, (2) theoretical framework or literature grounding, (3) research questions or hypotheses, (4) methodology, (5) expected contributions to the field, (6) preliminary findings (if any), and (7) areas where feedback is desired.** References, tables, and figures are excluded from the word count. In the AEJMC Submission Portal, select “Research in Progress.” Clearly include “Research in Progress: [Your Paper Title]” on both the title page and in the submission form.

**Presentation Requirement:** At least one author of an accepted faculty paper must attend the conference to present the paper. If student authors cannot be present, they must decide for the paper to be presented by someone else. Failure

to present will result in revocation of acceptance. Authors of accepted papers are required to forward papers to discussants and moderators prior to the conference. Presentations at AEJMC conference may be disseminated via social media; presenters may opt out of social media dissemination by requesting so at the time of presentation. Questions? Please contact the research committee chair, April Yue, Boston University, [april.yue@bu.edu](mailto:april.yue@bu.edu)

## **Public Relations Division GIFT Submissions**

The AEJMC Public Relations Division (PRDV) is pleased to announce a call for short form teaching submissions. Great Ideas for Teaching (GIFT) submissions will be considered for presentation at the 2026 AEJMC Conference in New Orleans, LA.

- The GIFT submission for the 2026 AEJMC Conference will share the same deadline as the general paper call (April 1, 2026, 11:59 pm Central Time).
- GIFT papers will be submitted to AEJMC paper management system where all paper submissions are hosted.

**What is a GIFT?** GIFTs are successful, class-tested assignments, in-class exercises, or teaching approaches that benefit students and instructors. GIFTs are tied to course learning objectives and contemporary public relations theory or practice. Submissions may stem from traditional and non-traditional classroom settings, including teaching outside of the classroom and online teaching.

**Examples of GIFT topic areas:** GIFT topic areas may be related to public relations knowledge (e.g., diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging; corporate social responsibility), skills (e.g., innovative crisis simulations; approaches to writing; analyzing data; pedagogical innovations in the era of AI) and/or abilities (i.e., best practices in teamwork; creative thinking; problem solving). We welcome any related new topics or pedagogical practices. View examples of GIFTs in the *Journal of Public Relations Education* issue.

**Benefits of submitting:** The top GIFT submissions will be selected for presentation during the AEJMC main conference in-person. High-ranking submissions, other than those presented at the conference, will also be considered for inclusion in future virtual conferences hosted by the division and featured on the AEJMC PRDV website and social media accounts. The top GIFT submissions will also receive special consideration for publication in the *Journal of Public Relations Education*.

**Eligibility:** You do not need to be an AEJMC member to submit GIFTs.

**GIFT submission guidelines: Title page (anonymized):** Title, type of submission (class-tested

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assignment, in-class exercise, teaching approach, or other), and up to five relevant keywords associated with your submission (e.g., online, writing, social media, etc.).

**Summary:** One-page, single-spaced description of the teaching idea that includes the following section headers in bold. The summary should also **have all identifying author information removed for an anonymized peer-review process.**

- Submission title that appears on your title page
- Brief summary or overview of the assignment
- Rationale for the assignment, including any connection to PR theory and/or practice
- Student learning goals achieved through the assignment
- Evidence of student learning outcomes or assessment of student learning (if available)

**References/Citations (as needed).** References should utilize APA 7th edition style, and don't count toward the one-page summary.

## **Supplementary Materials–Assignment/Example**

**(optional):** Your submission may include an example of the assignment itself (if applicable to your submission), along with any necessary instructions. However, all submissions will be evaluated based on the one-page summary. ***The assignment/example should have all identifying author information and institutional affiliation removed for a anonymized peer-review process.*** If selected, supplementary material may be made available for others to view and access, so copyrighted materials should be described rather than included directly. Please combine all elements into one full submission document, saved as either a .pdf or .docx file. The one-page summary description and corresponding assignment should have all identifying author information removed for an anonymized, peer-review process. Incomplete or incorrect submissions, and those submitted to other venues simultaneously, will be disqualified from consideration.

Authors can submit up to three GIFTs as leading authors and co-authors. *Submissions should not be (a) simultaneously under review at other conferences or publication outlets, or (b) previously presented or published elsewhere including AEJMC (virtual) conferences.* GIFT submissions are not counted toward the submission limitations in PRDV's open, student, and teaching paper competitions.

**Submission Process:** Submissions are due by 11:59pm CDT, April 1, 2026, same time as the general AEJMC paper call. Please submit your GIFT to the AEJMC paper management system.

**Review process:** All submissions will undergo an anonymized peer review. Each submission will be evaluated by at least two reviewers. Authors will be notified about the status of their submission at the same date as the PRDV paper competition results notification. Questions can be directed to

Tugce Ertem-Eray ([terteme@ncsu.edu](mailto:terteme@ncsu.edu)) or Ruoyu Sun ([rsun@uga.edu](mailto:rsun@uga.edu)), chair and vice chair for the teaching/GIFT competition sub-committee under the PRDV research committee.

## Scholastic Journalism Division [SCHJ]

The Scholastic Journalism Division is accepting submissions of research papers and Research-in-Progress submissions for the 2026 annual conference in New Orleans, La. Papers can be on any topic related to journalism and mass communication education at all levels: the student press; media, news, and civic literacy; youth journalism; media/news/information literacy efforts or effects; assessment of learning; or related fields. We welcome submissions from all theoretical and methodological perspectives and especially encourage work that incorporates aspects of diversity, equity and/or inclusion. Both faculty and student papers accepted will be eligible for top paper awards to be presented at the AEJMC Conference in August. Faculty papers with a student coauthor or student papers with a faculty coauthor will be judged in the faculty competition. The best papers should be theoretically based, methodologically rigorous, and clearly relate to an issue or trend in scholastic journalism.

**Special Call: News Literacy** The area of news literacy is expanding and deepening as the dynamics around journalism continue to shift. How does this affect student media and journalism education? The Scholastic Journalism Division is also accepting submissions for a special research competition on how journalism educators and students are exploring news literacy. Research papers can use any theoretical lens and research method to describe and/or assess uses and boundaries of news literacy and news literacy education. Authors should denote at the top of their work that they are submitting a paper for this special call.

**Expectations For All Paper Submissions:** Papers should be in 12-point type, Times New Roman, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins. Papers should not exceed 25 pages in length, not counting title page, abstract, references, tables, and appendices. Style should follow either the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association or the Chicago Manual of Style. Legal research papers may use the Bluebook citation system. Include an abstract of no more than 75 words. At least one author is expected to attend the AEJMC Conference in August 2026 to present the paper. To ensure an identity-hidden review, do not identify the author(s) anywhere in the paper, including the title page and the paper's properties.

**Expectations For Research-in-Progress Submissions:** Research-in-Progress submissions should cover all essential areas of a complete paper, depending on the type of final



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paper intended. These submissions need to demonstrate that research is ongoing and has made serious progress toward completion. Theory and legal focused Research-in-Progress submissions should include any models, frameworks or implications being used in the research.

Questions about the Scholastic Journalism Division calls, including potential fit for topics, can be directed to the research chair: Elizabeth Smith at [elizabeth.smith@pepperdine.edu](mailto:elizabeth.smith@pepperdine.edu)

## Visual Communication Division [VISC]

The Visual Communication Division of AEJMC invites faculty, students, and independent scholars to submit competitive papers and research-in-progress devoted to theoretically grounded studies of visual communications for presentation at the association's annual conference. Our interpretation of "visual" is broad, and we welcome submissions related to a wide range of visual forms, including photography, film, television, web design, graphic design, illustration, digital imaging, and emerging forms of visual phenomena like AI-generated images, augmented reality, gaming, and virtual reality.

The division encourages submissions that cover a broad spectrum of methodologies and applications, whether qualitative, quantitative, or computational. The submissions should address visual media across various contexts, such as advertising, broadcasting, digital and social media, photojournalism, propaganda images, visual culture, visual literacy, and the visual aspects of political campaigns. We also welcome research on visuals depicting environmental, health, and scientific issues. Additionally, research in media history, law, policy, media effects, processes, uses, and ethics regarding visuals is highly valued.

All submissions will be anonymously refereed by a panel of scholars. Student submissions will be assessed along with faculty submissions. A \$150 award will be given to the top student paper, with a \$50 award for the second-place student paper. These papers, along with the top three faculty papers, will be recognized in the AEJMC annual conference program. Top reviewers will also be recognized by the division. Papers are accepted for peer review on the understanding that they are not already under review for other conventions and that they have been submitted to only one AEJMC division or group for evaluation. Papers accepted for the AEJMC Conference should not have been presented at other conventions, except for AEJMC regional conferences, or published in scholarly or trade journals before their presentation at the conference. Authors may submit no more than two papers or research in progress, or a combination of both, to the Visual Communication Division. Authors are

highly encouraged to join the Visual Communication Division. Faculty submitting as a first author are expected to review papers for the division.

**Research in Progress:** This year, AEJMC is accepting research-in-progress (RIP) submissions instead of extended abstracts. The Visual Communication Division will accept up to 12 RIP submissions, and these will be programmed into a single high-density session. Unlike extended abstracts, RIP is not expected to have a completed manuscript before the annual conference. RIP should contain all the sections that would normally be in a completed research paper, including tentative findings, but should also include a section identifying the specific areas where feedback is desired. For authors considering RIP, research should be far enough along that some amount of data has been collected. RIPs should be between 1,000 and 1,500 words, excluding all figures, tables, and references. An abstract summary of no more than 75 words is required. RIPs will be reviewed and scored using evaluation criteria specific to the RIPs, distinct from those used for full papers. Please include the words "Research in Progress" at the start of the paper title on the title page of the submission. Submissions that are not appropriately labeled may be rejected. RIP is not eligible for consideration for paper awards.

**Submission Guidelines:** All submissions must be uploaded through AEJMC's Submission Portal. Make sure to upload through the link marked Visual Communication Division. All papers must be uploaded to the server no later than 11:59 p.m. (Central Daylight Time), April 1, 2026, and should comply with all the AEJMC submission guidelines. All papers must be typed and double-spaced with one-inch margins. Manuscripts must conform to one of four listed reference styles: APA, Chicago, MLA, or Turabian.

**Full Papers:** The page limit is 30 pages, inclusive of all references, notes, tables, illustrations, and appendices. An abstract of no more than 75 words is required. **Research in Progress:** These submissions must be between 1,000 and 1,500 words. A 75-word abstract is also required. References and abstracts are excluded from the word count. The division asks all authors to please fill out this form upon submission: <https://forms.gle/pkzccVFXjtfhqVw9>.

**All Submissions:** Please be sure to strip any identifying information from your submission documents according to AEJMC guidelines. This includes any self-citation in your submission. See your reference style guide for more clarification. The division highly recommends early submission to allow participants to fully check submissions as they are entered into the system so that a resubmission prior to the deadline is possible. All authors will be advised whether their paper has been accepted and will receive a copy of the reviewers' comments by late May 2026. At least one author of an accepted paper must attend the conference

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to present the paper. Failure to attend the conference will disqualify the author from next year's competition. For more information about submissions to the Visual Communication Division, please contact the division research chair, Dr. Alex Scott, University of Iowa, [alex-scott@uiowa.edu](mailto:alex-scott@uiowa.edu).

## Commission on Graduate Education [CSGE]

The Commission on Graduate Education (CSGE) invites graduate students to submit their work for inclusion in our programming at the 2026 AEJMC Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA. Planned sessions include the Graduate Research-in-Progress Roundtable, the Graduate Research Showcase, and the Graduate Teaching Showcase.

Questions regarding submissions for the Graduate Research-in-Progress Roundtable or the Graduate Research Showcase should be directed to the CSGE Research Chair, Deborah J. Danuser, at [deborah.danuser@gmail.com](mailto:deborah.danuser@gmail.com). Questions regarding the Graduate Teaching Showcase should be directed to the CSGE Teaching Chair, Matt Martin, at [m.e.martin@usm.edu](mailto:m.e.martin@usm.edu).

**GRADUATE RESEARCH-IN-PROGRESS ROUNDTABLE:** The CSGE invites graduate students to submit original research-in-progress proposals for inclusion in our Research-in-Progress Roundtable. This session provides up to 10 graduate student scholars with the opportunity to be matched with a senior scholar mentor who will offer valuable feedback and insights on students' emerging research.

Research-in-progress submissions may include developing ideas, pilot studies, ongoing data collection, or early analyses that demonstrate potential for scholarly contribution. We welcome research from all theoretical and methodological perspectives addressing any journalism and mass communication topic.

All submissions must follow AEJMC's uniform call for research-in-progress. Carefully review the instructions and ensure your submission is uploaded to the AEJMC Annual Paper Competition Submission Portal no later than 11:59 p.m. (Central Daylight Time) on April 1, 2026. Please check proposals thoroughly for any self-identifying information, including self-citations, to avoid rejection. As a reminder, a research-in-progress submission cannot be sent to more than one division, interest group, or commission.

**GRADUATE RESEARCH SHOWCASE:** All divisions, interest groups, and commissions are invited to select two of their top graduate student research papers to be featured in the CSGE Research Showcase poster session. The selected papers must be authored by graduate students and must not be presented as part of other conference programming (i.e., outside of their award-winning papers).

Authors will be notified of their acceptance into the

Graduate Research Showcase by May 20, 2026. All research papers presented in this showcase are considered accepted by both the DIG and the CSGE, and authors may indicate this dual acceptance on their CVs.

To be considered for the CSGE Graduate Research Showcase, authors should follow the instructions in AEJMC's uniform paper call as well as the division, interest group, or commission's student paper call. It is important to note that faculty members cannot co-author papers submitted to the Commission on Graduate Education.

## Commission on LGBTQIA+ Communities [LGBT]

The Commission on LGBTQIA+ Communities invites students, faculty, and other scholars to submit their research for the 2026 conference in New Orleans, LA, August 5-8.

We welcome submissions of original, non-published, English language only research papers on any topic related to sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender presentation, and journalism/media/communication. Papers employing all methods of inquiry and theoretical frameworks are welcomed.

We especially welcome scholarship dealing with – but not limited to – topics such as:

- Representations of genders and sexualities not covered explicitly in the “LGBTQ” acronym, such as asexual, intersex, pansexual, polyamorous, non-monogamous, questioning, two-spirit, non-binary, and gender-non-conforming people
- Media depictions of transgender issues and individuals
- Online queer advocacy and activism networks
- Representations of bisexuality, sexual fluidity, and other sexual orientations that do not fit cleanly within the boundaries of “straight” or “gay”
- Research by LGBTQIA+ academics that may not be directly related to any of the above areas, but has unique insights to the topic area that would not be afforded by another researcher

**Papers must be uploaded to the server no later than 11:59 p.m. (Central Daylight Time), Wednesday, April 1, 2026.** Paper submissions must comply with the AEJMC uniform paper call. Papers may be no longer than 25 pages (excluding tables, figures, and references) and may not contain any identifying information. PDF format is strongly encouraged. Each title page must identify whether the paper is a student or faculty/other scholar submission.

**Awards:** The Commission on LGBTQIA+ Communities is pleased to provide monetary awards and recognition for top student and faculty papers:

- **Top Student Paper Award:** The Commission on LGBTQIA+

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Communities encourages graduate student submissions in its Top Student Paper competition. To be considered for the competition, papers must be wholly the work of students. The author(s) of the top student paper award will receive \$100 and a certificate in recognition of their work.

- **Top Faculty Paper Award** The top faculty paper submitted to The Commission on LGBTQIA+ Communities will also receive an award. Papers written solely by faculty, or papers co-authored by faculty members and students, are eligible. The author(s) of the top faculty paper award will receive \$100 and a certificate in recognition of their work.

**Before submitting your paper, please make certain that all author-identifying information has been removed** and that all instructions have been followed per the AEJMC uniform paper call. **Take every precaution to ensure that your self-citations do not in any way reveal your identity.** There are three solutions to issues of self-citation:

- Remove language that signals the author of the published work is also the author of the current paper. For example, the author may simply use “in a previous study, researchers...” rather than “in a previously published pilot study, I...” or “As I argued in...” This is not always possible since authors may desire to build on their previous works, but wording can be rewritten to avoid obvious self-citation in many cases.
- Eliminating the citations altogether is another option and helps remove the awkward inclusion of “Author, Date” self-citations in the reference list. This may risk having the authors seem unknowledgeable by failing to refer to work that reviewers may commonly know. But often there is no problem by using another citation in its place.
- Ultimately, combining the two strategies described above may be the best solution. Authors are encouraged to remove personal pronouns and other descriptive language surrounding their work that might reveal a redacted name or pinpoint the source of an existing work. It may be best to cite your work sparingly without any signal of authorship.
- By carefully considering the wording surrounding citing your own work, it is often possible to eliminate issues that have caused conference paper disqualifications in the past simply by revising wording around the self-cited works. Simply put, cite your own work as if it were being cited by another author—not yourself.

Submit your paper early! After submission, you can view the anonymized version and double-check that all identifying information was removed.

Questions regarding submissions should be e-mailed to The Commission on LGBTQIA+ Communities Research Chair Gina Masullo, [gina.masullo@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:gina.masullo@austin.utexas.edu).

## Commission on the Status of Minorities [CSMN]

The Commission on the Status of Minorities (CSMN) invites submissions for the 2026 AEJMC conference aligned with the commission’s mission to advocate for the improvement of the status of minorities in journalism and mass communication. We define minorities as members of historically marginalized and/or underrepresented groups, with an emphasis on communities in the United States.

We are especially interested in work that is interdisciplinary; has an intersectional focus; explores the experienced of differently abled mass communications students, practitioners, scholars or communities; investigates efforts led by minoritized groups; and/or researchers advocacy on social issues affecting these groups.

Authors can submit up to two papers or research in progress to the commission, as lead or co-author. If an author submits more than two papers, all their submitted works will be excluded from consideration. The CSMN welcomes submissions in two formats:

**Full Papers:** Original, unpublished research related to CSMN’s focus. All methodological approaches are welcome. Your work should not be under review in any other AEJMC division or commission, academic conference or publication.

**Full Paper Format:** Papers cannot exceed 25 pages (double-spaced) in length, excluding abstract, tables and references. You must use Arial or Times New Roman font, 12-point and one-inch margins. Manuscripts must follow APA Style for in-text citations and references.

**Research-in-Progress:** To support scholars who research minoritized groups and are seeking guidance for their work, we invite submissions of research in progress in that reflect the commission’s mission. Submissions should be developed enough to allow peers to provide feedback on the purpose, methodology and theoretical grounding on the research in progress. The expectation for research in progress is that if accepted, you will be able to present findings (even if partial or preliminary) at the AEJMC conference. Your research-in-progress submission must include:

- A brief literature review (including your theoretical framework)
- Research questions, hypothesis or purpose statement
- Methods section
- Expected or preliminary findings
- Timeline for data collection and analysis
- References

For Research-in-Progress submissions, authors must select the “Research-in-Progress” option on the AEJMC submission site and include “Research-in-Progress” at the beginning of the paper title.

**Research in Progress Format:** Papers should be between

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3-5 pages long, excluding abstract, tables and references. You must use Arial or Times New Roman font, 12-point, double-spaced and one-inch margins. Manuscripts must follow APA Style for in-text citations and references.

**Both full papers and research in progress are expected to follow all the submission guidelines of the AEJMC uniform paper call. Questions:** Please contact the CSMN Vice Head, Maria De Moya Walcott, at [mdemoyat@utk.edu](mailto:mdemoyat@utk.edu) or Head, Carolyn Walcott at [carolynwalcott@clayton.edu](mailto:carolynwalcott@clayton.edu).

## Commission on the Status of Women [CSWM]

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSWM) invites students and faculty to submit original research for competitive paper sessions that discuss gender representation, identity, or performativity in the context of journalism, media, and communication. The Commission invites projects that use a variety of methodological approaches, including but not limited to critical, empirical, ethnographic, historical, legal, and semiotic analyses. It is expected that papers will employ feminist theoretical frameworks or will be grounded in the extant literature on issues of gender equality and intersectionality. The Commission encourages research that shows awareness of how gender intersects with class, race, disability, sexual orientation, and other sociocultural markers.

Past papers presented to the CSWM have explored topics such as representations of girls and women in the news; the role of gender in newsrooms or classrooms; effects of media on women and girls; feminist approaches to teaching and communication; girls' and women's use of/production of media; gender equality in the profession or the academy; how gender influences or matters in health, risk, and crisis public relations campaigns, etc. However, the CSWM is open to papers that address issues beyond the scope of these traditional topics and are grounded in recent developments in feminist and gender-related scholarship.

The suggested paper length is 25 pages (double-spaced, 12-point type), excluding tables, references, figures, or illustrations. We especially encourage submissions by undergraduate and graduate students. Awards will be given to the top faculty paper, top faculty-student paper, top graduate student paper, and, if applicable, top undergraduate student paper (with or without their advisor). Undergraduate students must write "Undergraduate Student Paper" on the cover sheet of their submission. The authors of the top papers will be recognized in the conference program and at the CSWM business meeting at the conference. This paper call is part of the overall AEJMC call for research papers; all submissions must adhere to the general guidelines put forth by AEJMC. Please consult the AEJMC 2026 Paper Competition

Uniform Call for information about paper formatting, submission deadline, and other requirements. Please note that papers containing any identifying author information will be disqualified. Authors are encouraged to take every precaution to ensure that their self-citations (if any) do not reveal their identity. Submissions must be uploaded as a single file to the AEJMC site no later than 11:59 P.M. (Central Daylight Time) **Wednesday, April 1, 2026.**

**Research-in-Progress.** The CSWM will accept Research-in-Progress submissions for the 2026 conference. The format is suitable for authors who are sufficiently along in the research process to address the content elements described below but have not had sufficient time to prepare a full paper. Submissions must be uploaded as a single file to the AEJMC site no later than 11:59 P.M. (Central Daylight Time)

**Wednesday, April 1, 2026.**

Research-in-Progress research may be submitted to only one division or interest group. To preserve the value of fully developed research papers, extended abstracts will not be eligible for division or AEJMC conference-wide awards. Research-in-Progress submissions should contain all the same content sections/elements that would normally be used in a paper submission. The main difference, however, is the length of the submission format.

For authors considering the extended abstract option, **data collection and analysis must be sufficiently advanced to allow for a meaningful reporting of tentative findings and conclusions; abstracts that do not report preliminary findings may be rejected.** Authors should clearly report how far along the data collection and analysis phases are, respectively, and explain what steps remain and the anticipated value/contribution of these steps, so that reviewers can assess the foundations on which conclusions are based. Research-in-Progress will be reviewed and scored using evaluation criteria specific to the RIP submissions and not the same as those used for full papers. Research-in-Progress submissions should adhere to the best practices of diversity and inclusion in scholarly research.

**Notes:** When submitting in this format, authors must select the "Research-in-Progress" option in All Academic AND include the words "Research-in-Progress" at the start of their paper title (e.g., "Research-in-Progress: [Your paper title]"). Authors should clearly indicate the same on the title page of their submission. Submissions that are not appropriately labeled may be rejected.

When creating the file for upload, please insert the 75-word summary of the abstract at the beginning of the extended abstract, so that this is what readers and reviewers see first.

Please ensure all identifying author information has been removed for extended abstract submissions and that title



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pages do not contain author information. Please reference the AEJMC Uniform Paper Call for information about how to ensure this information is removed to ensure an anonymized review. Other than the Research-in-Progress format (including length differences) and ineligibility for award competitions, all other [2026 AEJMC Uniform Paper Guidelines](#) apply.

Please forward any questions or queries to the CSWM Research Chair: Mildred Mimi Perrault  
[mfwperreault@gmail.com](mailto:mfwperreault@gmail.com).

## Community Journalism Interest Group [COMJ]

The **Community Journalism Interest Group (COMJ)** invites scholarly submissions from faculty members and graduate students for full papers and research-in-progress to be presented at the 2026 AEJMC national conference in New Orleans from August 5-8, 2026. The papers should advance theory, concepts, and/or practice in community/local journalism and can use a variety of methods and approaches. The deadline for paper submissions is April 1, 2026.

**Scope:** The concept of “community” has expanded beyond a group defined by geographic proximity. Communities are also defined by the strength of social relationships and shared backgrounds among individuals and the interests that unite them, including communities connected through gender, race/ethnicity, nationality, age, sexual identity, interests, and others. COMJIG encourages submissions that address this diversity and the role(s) journalism plays in reporting about as well as informing communities. COMJIG also encourages submissions that provide solutions-oriented insights into trends and issues facing community journalism outlets and practitioners. Finally, we encourage research that looks at community journalism (or even community) within a broad ideology, including on digital platforms. Research topics may include, but are not restricted to:

- How and whether news organizations—print, broadcast, and digital—fulfill a community’s critical information needs
- The challenges and opportunities facing local and community newspapers in the digital age and how they are responding
- Shifting and emerging funding models for community journalism
- The effects of the closure of community news outlets—print and online – on communities, specifically those considered news deserts
- The effects of ownership shifts and consolidation on community journalism practices and content
- How news organizations build relationships and engage

with communities

- The production and roles of grassroots and alternative community media, as well as student-produced media.
- Conceptual ideas that push the meaning and understandings of “community” in new directions
- Conceptual ideas that explore the meaning and interpretation of “local news” in a global and digital era
- Efforts to make community journalism more accessible and inclusive, particularly for and among underserved or marginalized groups

**Awards:** COMJ awards top papers in the faculty and student categories. The authors of these papers will be invited to publish their manuscripts to COMJ’s official peer reviewed publication, *Community Journalism*. Others are also encouraged to send their work to the journal for consideration.

**Submission guidelines: Full paper** submissions should include a 100- to 150-word abstract and should not exceed 8,000 words, including references, tables, and notes.

**Research-in-progress** submissions follow the AEJMC guidelines. The word limit for this format is 750-1,500 words.

**Formatting:** All papers should conform to APA style, 7th edition, and must be typed in 12-point font using Times New Roman; paper text must be double-spaced with 1-inch margins around each page. The pages should be continuously numbered. References must be provided. Tables or figures can be included within or at the end of the paper. An author can submit more than one paper to COMJ but no more than two manuscripts. All submissions will be subjected to anonymous peer review.

**Author identification:** All authors and coauthors should include their information when registering on the online system. It is the author’s responsibility to ensure that no identifying information is included anywhere in the paper or the properties section of the pdf document, or it will be disqualified from the conference. Thus, authors are encouraged to submit early to fully check their submissions in the system for self-identifying information so they can resubmit their manuscripts, if necessary, before the system closes on deadline. Please follow the directions provided in the “submitting a clean paper” section under the uniform paper call on the AEJMC website.

**Student submissions:** Graduate students are encouraged to submit papers to the group. Student authors should clearly mark their papers by including the phrase “STUDENT SUBMISSION” on the title page to be considered for the student paper competition. These papers should be solo-authored or first-authored by students only.

**Uploading manuscripts:** The papers should be submitted to COMJ via a link on the AEJMC website. Please see the AEJMC’s paper competition uniform call for more information.

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**Presentation requirement:** For the manuscript to be considered for presentation in the panel or poster session at the conference, at least one of the authors must attend in person to present the research. An exception may be made for papers with ONLY student authors; if the graduate students are unable to attend, they must arrange for an alternate to present the research on their behalf. Questions? Please contact COMJ Research Committee Chair Joy Jenkins, University of Missouri, at [joyjenkins@missouri.edu](mailto:joyjenkins@missouri.edu).

## Entertainment Studies Interest Group [ESIG]

The Entertainment Studies Interest Group invites submissions for the **Research-in-Progress** category at the 2026 Conference. This format provides scholars the opportunity to present and receive feedback on projects that are still in development but demonstrate potential for scholarly contribution. Research-in-Progress submissions may include emerging ideas, pilot studies, data collection efforts, or early analyses that deal with any aspect of mediated entertainment, including (but not limited to) narrative film, experimental cinema, fictional books, fictional television, game shows, new media, music, podcasts, popular magazines, sports, and cultural and entertainment journalism are welcome. All methods (qualitative, quantitative, historical, critical) of inquiry are encouraged. Submissions should follow the **AEJMC uniform Research-in-Progress submission guidelines**. All submissions will undergo a anonymize review process by a panel of independent readers.

These submissions are not eligible for AEJMC-wide or DIG Top Paper Awards but may receive Top Research-in-Progress recognition at the DIG level. The same author(s) can submit more than one Research-in-Progress submission to ESIG. All submissions must be uploaded as a single file through the AEJMC submission site. The paper must be uploaded to the server no later than **11:59 P.M. (Central Daylight Time) April 1, 2026**.

**Specific Guidelines:** Submissions should be written in Times New Roman using 12-point font, with 1-inch margins on all sides. APA or MLA are acceptable styles for references. Authors must adhere to AEJMC's official AI Usage Policy. At least one author of accepted Research-in-Progress submissions must attend the conference to present the research. Questions regarding submissions should be directed to the research chair, Lauren Auverset van Gerwen, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, email: [lauren.auverset@louisiana.edu](mailto:lauren.auverset@louisiana.edu).

The Entertainment Studies Interest Group invites faculty and graduate students to electronically submit papers for the 2026 AEJMC conference. Papers that deal with any aspect of mediated entertainment, including (but not limited to)

narrative film, experimental cinema, fictional books, fictional television, game shows, new media, music, podcasts, popular magazines, sports, and cultural and entertainment journalism are welcome. All methods (qualitative, quantitative, historical, critical) of inquiry are encouraged. Papers may not exceed 25 pages, excluding tables, figures, and references. All entries should follow the **AEJMC uniform paper competition submission guidelines**. All submissions will undergo a anonymized review process by a panel of independent readers.

Although all papers compete on an equal footing, the top-ranked student paper(s) sent to ESIG will receive special recognition and first author(s) will be awarded free conference registration. Students who wish to be eligible for this award must indicate when submitting electronically that the paper was written exclusively by one or more students. Only students are eligible for this prize; papers with any faculty coauthor(s) are not eligible. The top ranked faculty paper will be recognized. Research in Progress (RIP) submissions aren't eligible to be considered for awards. The same author(s) can submit more than one paper to ESIG. The paper must be uploaded to the server no later than **11:59 P.M. (Central Daylight Time) April 1, 2026**.

**Specific Guidelines:** Papers may not exceed 25 pages, excluding tables, figures, and references. Papers should be written in Times New Roman using 12-point font, with 1-inch margins on all sides. APA or MLA are acceptable styles for references. Authors must adhere to AEJMC's official AI Usage Policy. At least one author of accepted papers must attend the conference to present the paper. Questions regarding submissions should be directed to the research chair, Lauren Auverset van Gerwen, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, email: [lauren.auverset@louisiana.edu](mailto:lauren.auverset@louisiana.edu).

## Internship and Careers Interest Group [ICIG]

The Internship and Careers Interest Group (ICIG) of AEJMC is accepting submissions of research papers and Research-in-Progress from both faculty and students for the 2026 conference taking place August 5-8, 2026, in New Orleans, LA. Paper and Research-in-Progress submissions may be on any topic related to the journalism, advertising, public relations, and mass communication professions and internships. **Papers and Research-in-Progress submissions can be uploaded on the AEJMC Submission Site starting January 15, 2026, and the deadline for submission is April 1, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CDT.**

We are particularly interested in papers/research discussing:

- Diversity, equity, and inclusion of best practices in careers and internships

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- Principles, concepts, and approaches for incorporating non-traditional students in the internship experience.
- Resources/research available for internship coordinators to maximize student participation in program experiences including assessment/pedagogy practices for onboarding/evaluating internship candidates and experiences
- Resources/research available addressing skill sets needed for student success in internships and careers within communication, journalism, advertising, and PR fields
  - of particular interest are industry evaluation/measurement techniques.
- Interdisciplinary/collaborative research and best practice opportunities encouraging contributions from those involved in the journalism and mass communications fields
- Investigation into the evolution of careers in communication, journalism, advertising, and PR
  - of particular interest are topics addressing transition effectiveness for those seeking to contribute to academia and practice areas within their professional lives.

**For graduate students ONLY**, the interest group is offering free conference registration to authors (maximum 3) of the top student paper.

**Other considerations:** Entries should follow the AEJMC Uniform Paper Call Guidelines. Please limit papers to no more than 30 pages, including references, tables, figures, and appendices, of APA style, double-spaced text with 12-point Times New Roman font, and 1-inch margins. This year Research-in-Progress are also being accepted. Researchers need to follow AEJMC's Research-in-Progress Guidelines found in the AEJMC Uniform Paper Call.

**Submissions with any residual identifying information will be rejected.** Before uploading your paper, exercise extra diligence to remove all author identification from the document, including any file properties or obvious reference to self-citations. See <https://its.temple.edu/removing-hidden-information-microsoft-office-files> for tips on keeping your submission anonymous.

Questions should be directed to research chair, Carolyn Smith, [carolynsmith@arizona.edu](mailto:carolynsmith@arizona.edu), Arizona University.

## Participatory Journalism Interest Group [PJIG]

The Participatory Journalism Interest Group (PJIG) invites your research paper submissions for the upcoming 2026 AEJMC Conference, scheduled for Wednesday, August 5 – Saturday, August 8 in New Orleans. The conference will be hosted at the New Orleans Marriott, 555 Canal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana – 70130.

We encourage you to contribute your insights and research on participatory journalism and engaged journalism at this vibrant meeting of scholars, journalists, and leaders in the field. The submission site opens on January 15, 2026.

**Submission Deadline:** Mark your calendars to submit your papers before April 1, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. (CDT).

**Conference Theme & Scope:** The conference theme for 2026 is “Jazz & Jambalaya: Nurturing Harmony and Health in Higher Education.” This year, PJIG invites all manner of research into the roles journalists and news organizations play when engaging actively in communities.

Participatory journalism is and has been a dynamic field of study that examines news practices and organizational policies that integrate the public into meaning-making processes from story selection to content creation and dissemination. As political and industry powers shift, we must continue to examine the role of journalists and news organizations as collaborators creating shared understanding about communities. The publics engaged or invited to be engaged may be as small as the population of a rural town or a niche fandom; or they may be as large as the world. To underscore, we are looking for studies that delve into how journalism continues to evolve with the active involvement of “citizens,” “users,” “audiences,” “fandoms,” “followers” and/or other types of engaged “participants.” Whether the research focuses on digital platforms, analog means of communication or both, we’re interested in how participatory practices are shaping the news landscape and fostering a more collaborative environment for Journalism.

**Suggested Research Topics:** Your research may address, but is not limited to, the following areas:

- Participatory journalism in political coverage and elections
- Building trust through participatory journalism
- User-generated content and its impact on news reporting
- Citizen media and community engagement in journalism
- Collaborative elements in entrepreneurial journalism
- Legal, ethical, historical, and philosophical perspectives on participatory media
- The interplay between participatory journalism and “traditional” journalistic norms
- The role of social media and other communication technologies in participatory journalism and other forms of engagement between news organizations and their communities
- Economic aspects of participatory journalism, including entrepreneurial efforts
- Educational approaches to teaching Journalism in participatory contexts
- The role of AI in supporting or thwarting efforts to engage audiences in the co-creation of news and shared meaning

**Awards:** Submissions will be considered for five awards:

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two faculty paper awards (first and second place), two student paper awards (first and second place), with prizes of \$150 and \$75 respectively, and a dissertation competition, with a \$150 prize. Paper submissions should be submitted through the AEJMC submission site. Student submissions should be clearly marked as “student papers” to qualify for the student competition. Those interested in submitting a full dissertation for consideration for the dissertation award should directly contact PJIG co-research chair Mark Poepsel at [mpoepse@siue.edu](mailto:mpoepse@siue.edu) for a short list of submission requirements. Dissertation award submissions (and only dissertation submissions) are handled entirely by email.

## **Submission Guidelines:**

- Papers should not exceed 25 double-spaced pages, excluding references, tables, figures, and appendices, and should adhere to the AEJMC uniform paper call requirements.
- Use a 12 pt. Times New Roman font with at least 1-inch margins.
- Include a cover sheet or an abstract of 75 words, not counted in the page limit.
- You may use any academic formatting style.
- Submissions must be original and not under review elsewhere.

**Research-in-Progress:** Research-in-progress submissions are new for 2026. They are replacing the call for extended abstracts some may be familiar with from years past. A research-in-progress submission provides scholars with a venue to workshop developing projects, whether early-stage studies, pilot data, or emerging theoretical ideas, and receive constructive feedback from the AEJMC community. Submissions should be anonymized, 1,000–1,500 words (plus references), and clearly outline the project’s purpose, grounding, methods, and anticipated contribution, demonstrating strong potential for future scholarly development. You can refer to a more detailed submission guideline here.

**Submission Process:** Follow the AEJMC’s electronic submission guidelines. **Questions?** Contact PJIG Research Co-Chair, Dr. Mark Poepsel at [mpoepse@siue.edu](mailto:mpoepse@siue.edu) or Dr. Nisha Sridharan at [nisha.sridharan@temple.edu](mailto:nisha.sridharan@temple.edu) for inquiries related to your submission.

## **Religion and Media Interest Group [RMIG]**

The Religion and Media Interest Group (RMIG) invites submission of research papers from both faculty and students for the 2026 AEJMC annual conference in New Orleans, LA. RMIG accepts submission in two paper categories: Open Research and Student Research. Faculty may submit original, unpublished research papers to the Open Research category

but may not coauthor any paper submitted to the Student Research category. Only graduate students are invited to submit original unpublished research papers to the Student Research category. Papers will be considered for presentation as standard refereed research sessions and poster sessions.

**Scope.** Papers submitted to any category within RMIG must address a topic related to religion and media. Examples include (but are not limited to) studies of religious group members and uses of religious or secular media; exploration of media coverage of religious issues and groups; analysis of audiences for religious news; media strategies of religious organizations; religious advertising; religious and spiritual content in popular culture; impact of new digital/social media on religious practice; etc. Papers focusing on historically underrepresented religions, denominations and/or groups as well as religious contexts outside the U.S. are encouraged. RMIG will consider papers using quantitative, qualitative or historical research methods. Please note that essays, commentaries, or literature reviews will not be considered. RMIG will accept Research-in-Progress (RIP) papers, and RIP submissions need to be clearly labeled and identified on the title page and in the submission process.

**Submissions.** RMIG accepts any recognized citation style, although APA is preferred. Please limit papers to no more than 25 pages (doubles paced) in length, excluding title page, abstract, tables, figures, references, and notes. In addition, papers should have 1-inch margins and use 12-point Times New Roman font. All paper submissions must follow formatting and procedures in the 2026 AEJMC Uniform Paper Call. Please pay particular attention to the following section of that call. Papers uploaded with author’s identifying information will not be considered for review and will automatically be disqualified from the competition. Please submit at least a day or two before the deadline to make sure that the uploaded document does not contain any self-identifying information in its properties. Please refer to AEJMC’s Uniform Call for Papers on how to upload a clean document. RMIG will accept Research-in-Progress (RIP) papers, and RIP submissions need to be clearly labeled and identified on the title page and in the submission process. RIP must include all the same content and sections as a full paper. RIP should be between 1,000-1,500 words (references and summary excluded from word count), 75% of the data should be collected with some results to allow for meaningful evaluation from reviewers.

Authors must ensure that all submitted work is the product of their own scholarly thinking and writing. While generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude) may be used for limited tasks such as proofreading or organizing references, they may not be used to draft or substantially compose any portion of the paper. Submissions produced



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wholly or in part by AI will be disqualified. By submitting, authors affirm that the ideas, analysis, and writing are their own original work and adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity. Questions should be submitted to RMIG Research Chair, Jordan Morehouse, at [jordan.morehouse@colorado.edu](mailto:jordan.morehouse@colorado.edu). Include "RMIG 2026 Paper Submission" in the subject line when communicating via email. For more about RMIG and its mission, please see [community.aejmc.org/religionmediainterestgroup/home](http://community.aejmc.org/religionmediainterestgroup/home).

## Small Programs Interest Group [SPIG]

The AEJMC Small Programs Interest Group (SPIG) invites submission of original, non-published research papers that focus on teaching and pedagogy to be considered for presentation at the AEJMC Conference, August 5 to 8, 2026, in New Orleans, LA. We invite members of all divisions and interest groups to contribute research papers – using any methodology, whether quantitative or qualitative. We especially encourage authors to submit studies on pedagogy and curriculum, as well as learning through student media, internships, and classroom/community partnerships. Members of this division are particularly interested in smaller, teaching-oriented programs. In addition to completed research papers, Research-in-Progress submissions will be accepted for this competition. Details will be available on the AEJMC website. Accepted papers and/or Research-in-Progress will be presented in a poster session during the conference. The top paper will be considered for publication in the Small Programs Interest Group's journal, *Teaching Journalism and Mass Communication*.

**GUIDELINES:** See the AEJMC General Paper Call for instructions to upload to the AEJMC Submission Site. The paper must be uploaded to the server no later than 11:59 p.m. (Central Daylight Time) April 1, 2026. The competition is open to faculty and to graduate students; no separate student competition is held.

The paper must be formatted in Microsoft WORD or PDF. PDF format is strongly encouraged. Authors must completely fill out the online submission form, including author's name, affiliation, mailing address, telephone numbers (academic, home and cell), and preferred email address. The title must be on the first page of the manuscript and on the running heads on every page. However, DO NOT INCLUDE author's name or affiliation within the running heads or title page or any pop-up options that may be contained in PDF submissions. Papers uploaded with author's identifying information WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR REVIEW AND WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE DISQUALIFIED FROM THE COMPETITION. Follow instructions on how to submit a clean paper for anonymized reviewing that are in the AEJMC uniform paper call.

SPIG requests a paper length of NO MORE than 25 pages (excluding references) and the document must be double-spaced and typed in 11-point Arial font or Times Roman font and follow APA style guidelines. Researchers must also upload an Abstract of no more than 75 words.

Authors must heed the AEJMC General Paper Regulations and Deadlines. For example, papers submitted to the wrong division or that do not meet ALL the above guidelines will not be reviewed (for example, submission of an abstract by the deadline but a paper AFTER the deadline, will result in the paper NOT being accepted). However, SPIG research co-chairs will make every effort to contact authors who do not meet guidelines so that they will be aware as early as possible that their paper has not been accepted and the reasons why.

Paper submitters are encouraged to submit at least a day or two before the deadline. An early submission will allow all individuals to fully check submissions for self-identifiers after they are entered into the system so that a resubmission prior to the deadline is possible.

Papers are accepted for peer review with the understanding that they are NOT under review (or being submitted during the AEJMC review period) to a second division or interest group OR to a journal or other publication. Papers submitted to the 2026 conference should NOT have been presented to another conference and neither should they have been published or be in the publication process BEFORE the date of the 2026 Conference in August. NOTE: Authors of winning papers/posters must be available to present their poster at the AEJMC conference in August 2026 or have a proxy present for them.

For more information, contact the SPIG Research Chair: Janice Colvin, Wilmington University, [janice.k.colvin@wilmu.edu](mailto:janice.k.colvin@wilmu.edu).

## Sports Communication Interest Group [SPRT]

The Sports Communication Interest Group invites faculty and student submissions of original research papers or Research-in-Progress submissions that focus on this subject area. Submissions must contain a clear media dimension such as traditional media (newspapers, TV, radio), digital or social media, or strategic communication (PR, advertising, or sports marketing). Submissions should be theoretically grounded and offer tangible evidence of scholarly rigor. We welcome qualitative and quantitative research methods; we encourage a broad spectrum of approaches, including sociological, historical, critical, pedagogical, and cultural research. AEJMC encourages submissions to be mindful of diversity, equity, and inclusion, to ensure diverse identities, voices, perspectives, and experiences are considered, acknowledged, or included.

Submissions must not be under consideration or

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previously accepted elsewhere for presentation or publication. Any paper found to be under consideration or previously accepted elsewhere will be removed from consideration or the program, as appropriate. Only one paper per lead author will be accepted for review in this interest group. While author(s) are not required to join the group to submit a paper for consideration, only Sports Communication Interest Group members are eligible to present at the conference. Author(s) may join the group after acceptance decisions are made. Student membership to the Sports Communication Interest Group is free.

Please see the AEJMC Uniform Call for Papers for applicable submission requirements and instructions to upload to the AEJMC Submission site and on how to successfully remove identifying information. We strongly recommend submitting early so you have time to check your uploaded document to ensure no identifying information is included and that the manuscript is both uploaded and accessible. Papers should be no longer than 25 pages, double-spaced (not including tables, figures and references), using a standard 12-point font and 1-inch margins. Papers that do not meet the AEJMC Uniform Call for Papers requirements will not be accepted.

Submissions should contain no identifying information, such as name, university affiliation, or job title. Please be certain that any identification that may occur via electronic means is fully removed, as the presence of any identifying

information, whether intended or unintended, will result in removal from consideration.

***By submitting, first authors are also agreeing to review papers in the competition.***

Faculty and student submissions will be entered into separate competitions (note the separate links on the submission site) for presentation and for the top paper awards. They will undergo separate anonymous review processes by faculty-only judges. Students who co-author with faculty will be inserted into the faculty pool, regardless of lead author status. Student authors — undergraduate and graduate students enrolled during the 2025-2026 school year — should include a cover sheet that clearly states the paper is a student-authored submission. Only full papers are eligible for award consideration.

The AEJMC Sports Communication Interest Group invites submissions for a new Research-in-Progress submission category at the 2026 Conference. This format provides scholars with an opportunity to present and receive feedback on projects that are underway but not yet complete at the time of presentation. It is ideal for emerging research ideas, pilot studies, data collection efforts, or early analyses that show strong potential for scholarly contribution. Please follow the all the submission protocols from the AEJMC Uniform Paper Calls.

For questions contact the Sports Communication Interest Group Chair, Shannon Scovel at [shannonscovel2@gmail.com](mailto:shannonscovel2@gmail.com).