



Team of Four Wins 2026 Grant for Innovative News Audience & News Engagement Research

“Revealing AI’s Role in News Engagement through Media-Use Diaries” won the \$3,000 AEJMC-NED Grant for Innovative Research on the News Audience & News Engagement. Researchers Haiyan Jia, Lehigh University; Alyssa Appelman and Steve Bien-Aimé, University of Kansas; and Mu Wu, California State University, Los Angeles said their proposed study will contribute to a greater understanding of “how audiences integrate AI into their everyday information practices” and provide insight into whether “AI is complementing existing news consumption” or “becoming a dominant source of news, potentially displacing traditional sources and restructuring media repertoires into AI-mediated interfaces.”

The \$3,000 grant for innovative research on the news audience and news engagement is one of several activities that have grown out of News Engagement Day, an annual AEJMC event, which this year will be Tues., Oct. 6, 2026. Paula M. Poindexter, News Engagement Day Committee Chair, founded News Engagement Day as one of her most important initiatives when she was the 2013-2014 president of AEJMC. Eleven years after establishing News Engagement Day, she created and funds the \$3,000 AEJMC-NED Grant for Innovative Research on the News Audience & News Engagement. For more information about News Engagement Day and/or the Grant, please email paula.poindexter@austin.utexas.edu.



L to R, AEJMC-NED Session, 2026 AEJMC Conference, New Orleans: Steve Bien-Aimé, University of Kansas; Haiyan Jia, Lehigh University; Alyssa Appelman, University of Kansas; Paula M. Poindexter, University of Texas at Austin, News Engagement Day Founder and Committee Chair; Creator and Funder, AEJMC-NED Grant for Innovative Research on the News Audience & News Engagement. (Not Pictured: Mu Wu, California State University, Los Angeles)