

Friday, August 7, 2026

7:30 to 9:30 a.m. / F000

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Membership Committee

Business Session

Committee Meeting

Moderating/Presiding

Jennifer Vardeman, Houston, Chair

8 to 9:15 a.m. / F000

Communication Theory and Methodology and Public Relations Divisions

Teaching Panel Session

Seeing Patterns: Teaching Data Analytics and AI-Driven Visualization in Mass Communication

Moderating/Presiding

Judith E. Rosenbaum, Maine

Panelists

Amanda Weed, Kennesaw State

Joe Colacurcio, SVP Analytics & Intelligence, Weber Shandwick

Lee Ahern, Pennsylvania State

Hunter Overton, Pennsylvania State

This panel explores how communication educators can integrate data analytics and artificial intelligence into undergraduate curricula to cultivate critical, visual, and analytical thinking. Panelists will discuss strategies for teaching data storytelling through hands-on visualization projects, the use of AI as a collaborative tool, and the creation of synthetic datasets to simulate real-world insights. Emphasis will be placed on empowering students to use AI responsibly as an assistant—not a driver—of analysis, preparing them for data-rich communication environments. Attendees will gain practical frameworks for incorporating analytics, visualization, and AI into entry-level and advanced courses.

8 to 9:15 a.m. / F000

International Communication Division

Teaching Panel Session

Title

Moderating/Presiding

name, affiliation

Panelists

name, affiliation

Description

Friday, August 7, 2026

8 to 9:15 a.m. / F000

Law and Policy and Media Ethics Divisions

Research Panel Session

Content Moderation and Transparency: Democratic Accountability Meets Corporate Responsibility

Moderating/Presiding

Caitlin Ring Carlson, Seattle

Panelists

Amanda Reid, North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Evan Ringel, Appalachian State

Jared Schroeder, Missouri

Social media platforms shape what we see, share, and believe, yet the rules and algorithms that govern our digital public square remain largely hidden. Their moderation practices spark criticism across the political spectrum: some argue platforms silence too much speech, while others say they fail to curb harmful content. In response, governments have experimented with transparency requirements, from California’s content moderation disclosure law to the European Union’s Digital Services Act. At the same time, platforms themselves increasingly release “transparency reports,” which critics caution may serve more as reputation management tactics than meaningful accountability. This panel will examine transparency as both promise and performance. Panelists will explore whether disclosure mandates can survive First Amendment scrutiny, how platforms frame transparency reports as legitimate corporate social responsibility tactics, and whether emerging norms across Big Tech mark real accountability or simply transparency theater. By combining perspectives from law, policy, ethics and strategic communication, this panel will assess the benefits and drawbacks of transparency regulations and reporting as effective tools for platform governance.

8 to 9:15 a.m. / F000

Media Management, Economics and Entrepreneurship Division

Research Panel Session

Title

Moderating/Presiding

name, affiliation

Panelists

name, affiliation

Description

8 to 9:15 a.m. / F000

Commission on Graduate Education, Commission on the Status of Minorities, and Commission on LGBTQIA+ Communities

PFR Panel Session

Friday, August 7, 2026

On the Margins: Ethics, Safety, and Visibility in Contemporary Communication Research within Marginalized Communities

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

Panelists

Gina Masullo, Texas at Austin
Patrick Johnson, Marquette
Chelsea J. Reynolds, Arizona State

Academia – and being an academic – is an increasingly contentious domain fraught with challenges that are often swept under the rug. Graduate students, early-career scholars, and marginalized communities face heightened concerns related to safety, visibility, and vulnerability in both academic and public spaces. At the same time, these issues resonate across rank and position, affecting faculty and researchers at every stage of their careers. Panelists will explore questions of ethics and responsibility when marginalized identities intersect with sensitive research topics, such as race, gender, sexuality, politics, and media representation. Potential discussion topics may engage with issues including online harassment, institutional protections, navigating “public” versus “private” selves, and the implications of First Amendment rights in both academic and digital contexts. By centering the lived experiences of researchers, this panel highlights not only the risks of visibility in public scholarship but also strategies for cultivating ethical, safe, and inclusive research environments.

8 to 9:15 a.m. / F000

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Elected Standing Committee on Publications

Panel Session

JMCQ Editorial Meet Up

Moderating/Presiding

Daniela Dimitrova, Iowa State, editor, *JMCQ*

By invitation Only.

8 to 9:15 a.m. / F000

Kappa Tau Alpha

Business Session

KTA Advisor’s Breakfast

Moderating/Presiding

Beverly Horvit, Missouri, executive director, Kappa Tau Alpha

Pre-registration is required.

8 to 9:15 a.m. / F000

Minorities and Communication Division

Friday, August 7, 2026

High-Density Refereed Research Paper Session

Title

Moderating/Presiding

name, affiliation

Discussant

name, affiliation

[RP] = Denotes a Research-in-Progress submission.

8 to 9:15 a.m. / F000

Political Communication Division

Refereed Research Paper Session

Title

Moderating/Presiding

name, affiliation

Discussant

name, affiliation

[RP] = Denotes a Research-in-Progress submission.

8 to 9:15 a.m. / F000

Commission on Graduate Education, Commission on the Status of Minorities, and Commission on LGBTQIA+ Communities

PFR Panel Session

On the Margins: Ethics, Safety, and Visibility in Contemporary Communication Research within Marginalized Communities

Moderating/Presiding

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8 to 9:15 a.m. / F000

Religion and Media Interest Group

Refereed Research Paper Session

Title

Moderating/Presiding

name, affiliation

Discussant

name, affiliation

[RP] = Denotes a Research-in-Progress submission.

9:45 to 11a.m. / F000

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication

[00-0945] — Scholar-to-Scholar (Poster) Refereed Research Paper Session

Communicating Science, Health, Environment and Risk Division

Communication Technology Division

Communication Theory and Methodology Division

Law and Policy Division

Media Management, Economics and Entrepreneurship Division

Visual Communication Division

Commission on the Status of Minorities

Participatory Journalism Interest Group

Religion and Media Interest Group

Small Programs Interest Group

Discussant

name, affiliation

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9:45 to 11a.m. / F000

Friday, August 7, 2026

Broadcast and Mobile Journalism Division and Community Journalism Interest Group

PFR Panel Session

Broadcasting in the Public Interest: Examining FCC Leadership Shifts and Policy Upheaval

Moderating/Presiding

Bill Davie, Louisiana-Lafayette

Panelists

Laurie Thomas Lee, Nebraska

Carey Higgins-Dobney, Kentucky

Tod Smith, WWL-TV New Orleans

Since Brendan Carr became chair of the FCC, U.S. broadcasting has experienced sweeping regulatory and ownership changes, including mergers involving Paramount Global and Skydance Media, congressional defunding of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, investigations into NPR and PBS, and renewed scrutiny of broadcast ownership limits. This panel will explore creative solutions local communities are undertaking to fill unmet information needs by re-envisioning the role of public, community spaces in view of budget cuts and regulatory changes affecting broadcast rights and media ownership. It will also shed light on whether these developments serve the public interest.

9:45 to 11a.m. / F000

History and Magazine Media Division

Teaching Panel Session

Living History: Journalism Lessons of America 250 for the Future

Moderating/Presiding

Lisa Lenoir, Indiana

Panelists

Autumn Linford, Auburn

David Bulla, Augusta

Teri Finneman, Kansas

Will Mari, Louisiana State

Melissa Greene-Blye, Kansas

Keith Greenwood, Missouri

Tim Vos, Michigan State

David Mindich, Temple

Robin Sundaramoorthy, Lehigh

Antoine Haywood, Florida

As America marks its 250th anniversary, this is an ideal time to reflect on critical lessons from journalism history. This high-density, interactive session will bring teams of scholars together for discussions and teaching application ideas.

9:45 to 11a.m. / F000

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Mass Communication and Society Division

Refereed Research Paper Session

Title

Moderating/Presiding

name, affiliation

Discussant

name, affiliation

[RP] = Denotes a Research-in-Progress submission.

9:45 to 11a.m. / F000

Newspaper and Online News Division

High-Density Refereed Research Paper Session

Title

Moderating/Presiding

name, affiliation

Discussant

name, affiliation

[RP] = Denotes a Research-in-Progress submission.

9:45 to 11a.m. / F000

Public Relations and Media Ethics Divisions

PFR Panel Session

Campus Reactions to Active School Shooter Situations

Moderating/Presiding

name, affiliation

Panelists

name, affiliation

Active shooter incidents present universities with urgent challenges that test crisis communication systems, leadership response, and ethical decision-making in real time. This proposed panel will bring together faculty researchers who have studied communication dynamics during and after school shootings to examine how institutions can better respond to these crises. Panelists will discuss findings from research on institutional messaging during active shooter situations, including the speed, tone, and clarity of alerts; how students, faculty, and staff interpret and react to those messages; and how communities perceive official communication compared to peer-to-peer social media exchanges. The panel will also address the longer-term implications of communication choices, including the impact on institutional image, reputation, and trust. By drawing on case studies, survey research, and theoretical frameworks in public relations and crisis communication, this session will provide PRD

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members with tools for teaching, research, and administrative consultation. With shootings remaining a tragic reality in educational settings, this panel will contribute timely knowledge to advance both scholarship and practice in communication during life-threatening crises.

9:45 to 11a.m. / F000

Scholastic Journalism Division

Research Panel Session

National Census Research on State-Level Scholastic Journalism Outreach and Engagement

Moderating/Presiding

Dorothy Bland, North Texas

Panelists

Peter Bobkowski, Kent State

Nina Brook, South Carolina

Monica Hill, North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Jimmy McCollum, Lipscomb

R.J. Morgan, Mississippi

Melanie Wilderman, Oklahoma

Scholastic media associations serve as the backbone of journalism/media education in U.S. middle and high schools. Association leaders present recent census results from 50 state organizations that serve journalism students and teachers in 46 states.

9:45 to 11a.m. / F000

Commission on the Status of Women, Commission on the Status of Minorities, Commission on Graduate Education and Commission on LGBTQIA+ Communities

Teaching Panel Session

From Margins to Mainstream: Embracing Neurodiversity in Academic Spaces

Moderating/Presiding

Amal Bakry, affiliation

Panelists

Lara Lengel, Bowling Green State

Lauren A van Gerwen, Louisiana at Lafayette

Marianne Vanderbeke, Bowling Green State

Savannah Blanco-Trumps, Louisiana at Lafayette

In 1998, sociologist Judy Singer coined the term neurodiversity in her honors thesis *Odd People*, arguing that differences in neurological wiring are a natural part of human diversity—not a deficiency. In academia, neurodiversity refers to the recognition and inclusion of individuals with cognitive differences—such as autism, ADHD, dyslexia, dyspraxia, and other neurological variations—as valuable and integral aspects of human variation. This discussion panel draws on the neurodivergent and intersectional identities of its participants to explore how academic institutions have historically upheld rigid norms around behavior, communication, and performance—norms that often marginalize neurodivergent students and faculty. Neurodivergent women may face compounded

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misunderstandings and stigma, leading to isolation or under recognition of their intellectual contributions. As a result, many talented scholars and students remain underserved or excluded within traditional academic structures. This panel will examine how neurodivergent women can influence institutional culture to better value diverse cognitive styles and foster environments where all forms of intelligence and creativity are supported and celebrated.

9:45 to 11a.m. / F000

Internships and Careers Interest Group

Research Panel Session

Title

Moderating/Presiding

name, affiliation

Panelists

name, affiliation

Description

9:45 to 11a.m. / F000

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Elected Standing Committee on Research

Award Panel Session

Nafziger-White-Salwen Dissertation, Senior and Emerging Scholar Awards

Moderating/Presiding

name, affiliation

2026 Nafziger-White-Salwen Dissertation Award

name, affiliation

Panelists

name, affiliation

The award is named for Ralph O. Nafziger and David Manning White, authors of Introduction to Mass Communication Research, and Michael Salwen, coauthor of An Integrated Approach to Communication Theory and Research.

9:45 to 11a.m. / F000

Center for Community News and Knight Foundation

Panel Session

Why Student Reporting Matters

Moderating/Presiding

Richard Watts, director, Center for Community News, Vermont

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Duc Luu, director of Sustainability Initiatives, Knight Journalism Program

In this session Duc Luu, Journalism Director at the Knight Foundation explains the importance of news/academic partnerships, how they are a key part of the Knight Foundation's commitment to ensuring communities have trusted sources of local information and plans to continue to grow the network of schools. Richard will discuss funding opportunities, resources and detailed plans to grow the network to 500 schools by the end of 2027.

9:45 to 11a.m. / F000

South Asia Communication Association (SACA)

Research Panel Session II

Title

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

This interactive peer-reviewed research paper session is organized by the South Asia Communication Association (SACA). With over one-fourth of the world's population, South Asia has emerged as an important region for politics, security, health, culture, media and other relevant issues across the repertoire of our field.

9:45 to 11a.m. / F000

University of Kentucky

Teaching Panel Session
Title

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

Description

9:45 to 11a.m. / F000

Texas Tech University

Teaching Panel Session
Title

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

Description

11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. / F000

Mass Communication and Society Division

Friday, August 7, 2026

Awards Luncheon

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

The MCSD Awards Luncheon celebrates the outstanding achievements of scholars, educators, and students within the division. This special invite-only luncheon honors the recipients of MCSD's prestigious awards presented throughout the year.

11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. / F000

Kappa Tau Alpha and Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication

Awards Luncheon

Moderating/Presiding
Beverly Horvit, Missouri, executive director, Kappa Tau Alpha
and **Bey-Ling Sha**, Texas Tech, President, AEJMC, 2025-26

The ceremony recognizes both associations' award winners and divisions' student paper winners. A Kappa Tau Alpha business meeting will follow the ceremony. Kappa Tau Alpha remains committed to its guiding principles of Knowledge, Truth and Accuracy. Pre-registration is required.

11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. / F000

Universidad Panamericana (UP) and Thomas Jay Harris Institute for Hispanic and International Communication (HIHIC)

LATAM Research Mixer

Hosting
Gabriel Dominguez Partida, Dean, School of Communication, Universidad Panamericana, Guadalajara
Mariano Navarro, Dean, School of Communication, Universidad Panamericana, Mexico City
Lucinda Holt, Assistant Director for External Engagement a

A networking event designed to connect scholars interested in communication research within and regarding Latin America. The event is an opportunity to exchange ideas, explore potential collaborations, and strengthen research networks.

1:15 to 2:30 p.m. / F000

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication

[00-0800] — Scholar-to-Scholar (Poster) Refereed Research Paper Session

Media Ethics Division
Public Relations Division – [20]

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Discussant

name, affiliation

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1:15 to 2:30 p.m. / F000

Advertising Division and Commission on Graduate Education

PFR Panel Session

Fuel Your Academic Journey: Networking and Mentorship for Graduate Students and Early Career Scholars

Moderating/Presiding

name, affiliation

Panelists

name, affiliation

This panel session aims to connect graduate students and early-career researchers with experienced mentors, providing essential opportunities for professional development and networking throughout their academic careers. The session employs an engaging and interactive format featuring roundtable discussions designed for speed networking. Each panelist will lead a table, providing brief introductions and sharing expertise on topics ranging from advisor management, overcoming imposter syndrome, crafting research proposals, exam preparation, navigating the academic and industry job market, effective teaching strategies, student advising, to online presence development. Following the initial presentations, participants can choose a table presided over by a panelist who shares their interests and goals. This will encourage more in-depth discussions, Q&As, and the formation of meaningful connections. To ensure a dynamic networking experience, the moderator will prompt attendees to rotate to a new table every few minutes, allowing for diverse interactions with various scholars and peers. After the panel, a contact list will be distributed to allow for ongoing discussions and exchanges. Our goal is to create an engaged and supportive environment in which graduate students and early-career researchers can apply practical skills to advance their academic and professional careers.

1:15 to 2:30 p.m. / F000

Communicating Science, Health, Environment and Risk and Communication Theory and Methodology Divisions

Teaching Panel Session

From Classroom to Community: Teaching Science Communication for Practitioner Collaboration and Civic Impact

Moderating/Presiding

Kaiping Chen, Wisconsin-Madison

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Panelists

Patrick R. Johnson, Marquette
Kelli S. Boling, Nebraska-Lincoln
Isabel Iruani Villanueva, Miami
Andrea Lopez, Wisconsin-Madison

The panel introduces a range of pedagogical models that incorporate practitioner engagement in science communication education. Panelists will provide practical tools to help students pursue civic-minded, practice-oriented careers in the field.

1:15 to 2:30 p.m. / F000

Cultural and Critical Studies and Magazine Media Divisions

Research Panel Session

Taste Structures: Lifestyle, Promotion, and Practice

Moderating/Presiding

Rebecca Kern-Stone, Fashion Institute of Technology

Panelists

Larry Durst, Fashion Institute of Technology
Myles Ethan Lascity, Southern Methodist
Lisa D. Lenoir, Indiana University Bloomington
Suman Mishra, Southern Illinois, Edwardsville

The presentation of lifestyle and construction of lifestyles in the media takes many forms such as journalism, magazines, branding, television, and online influencers. Comparatively, advertising utilizes lifestyle and taste cultures to speak to audiences and to tell narratives. We will discuss journalism and mass communication scholars and put them in conversation with cultural/critical studies' voices to address not only aesthetic judgments but also the cultural meanings of advertisements and audience reception. Further, we will address lifestyle media pedagogy and practice and its value in the academy. The panel looks to explore both sides of these taste structures shaping lifestyle media today.

1:15 to 2:30 p.m. / F000

History and Communication Technology Division

Research Panel Session

Historical Perspectives on Environmental and Climate Communication: Lessons for the Present

Moderating/Presiding

Cristina Mislan, Missouri

Panelists

Kate Rose, Missouri
Suzannah Evans Comfort, Indiana
Phillip J. Hutchison, Kentucky
H. Bødker, Aarhus
Haiyan Jia, Lehigh

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Discussant

Cristina Mislan, Missouri

Since 2025, rollbacks of environmental policy have intensified debates over climate science. This panel examines historical patterns in science communication to illuminate climate discourse and the role of media in shaping public understanding.

1:15 to 2:30 p.m. / F000

Newspaper and Online News and International Communication Divisions

Teaching Panel Session

Teaching Multimedia Reporting in Age of AI

Moderating/Presiding

Xu "James" Zhang, Austin Peay

Panelists

Mirjana Pantic, Pace

Dani Madrid-Morales, Houston

This panel will address various topics on teaching multimedia news reporting for college students at the time when AI is advancing. Specifically, it will discuss how a reporting class should be structured to fit into different levels of students, what essential skills that should be taught, and how course instructors can enhance the practical learning of students.

1:15 to 2:30 p.m. / F000

Visual Communication Division

PFR Panel Session

Ethics of Care in the Aftermath of Covering Trauma - What Responsibility Do We Have?

Moderating/Presiding

Ross Taylor, Colorado, Boulder

Panelists

Lisa Krantz, Montana

Deb Pastner, Texas at Austin

Tara Pixley, Temple

Dinfin Mulupi, Colorado, Boulder

Visual journalists are often on the front lines of some of the most traumatic events in their communities. These traumatic events can often define key moments in a community. Additionally, they can be part of the framing in national debates around issues such as mental health, gun violence or even federal and local disaster response in events such as Hurricane Katrina, which decimated New Orleans (the site of this year's AEJMC conference) twenty years ago. During these traumatic events, journalists are often called to visually document some of the most horrific moments in a person's, or a community's, life. As journalists routinely move onto the next news story, it's worth considering – what about the aftermath and the ethics of care - not just for those who they cover, but for journalists

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themselves? Historically speaking there have been gap in resources and coverage for journalists who covered trauma and too often, it was just considered “part of the job.” And yet, covering trauma can have a significant impact on a journalist’s well-being, which in turn may affect how journalists cover traumatic events. This panel will address this critical gap of ethics of care - not just for coverage of communities, but journalists themselves. The panelists will represent a diverse background, from academic to practice, ensuring a wider range of expertise. They would also include academic journalists who covered Hurricane Katrina, adding a local angle to this national conference while providing an emic perspective from visual journalists, along with ethic scholars.

1:15 to 2:30 p.m. / F000

Commission on the Status of Women

Refereed Research Paper Session

Title

Moderating/Presiding

name, affiliation

Discussant

name, affiliation

[RP] = Denotes a Research-in-Progress submission.

1:15 to 2:30 p.m. / F000

Participatory Journalism Interest Group

Research Panel Session

University-led Newsroom Collaborations

Moderating/Presiding

Letrell Crittenden, Temple

Panelists

Andrew Conte, Point Park

Eugene Sonn, Temple

As the movement to develop journalism collaboratives gains momentum, more universities are stepping up to lead these efforts. This includes Point Park University, which has led the Pittsburgh Media Partnership for the past several years, and Temple University, which recently took control of the heralded Philadelphia Journalism Collaborative. In this session, you will learn how universities manage these partnerships, how they can use the resources of the university to advantage the newsrooms they serve, and how such partnerships benefit students. Audience members will learn how these efforts are benefiting both newsrooms and communities, and how they can potentially develop or take on their own collaborative efforts.

1:15 to 2:30 p.m. / F000

Sports Communication Interest Group

Friday, August 7, 2026

Refereed Research Paper Session

Title

Moderating/Presiding

name, affiliation

Discussant

name, affiliation

[RP] = Denotes a Research-in-Progress submission.

1:15 to 2:30 p.m. / F000

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Elected Standing Committee on Publications

Panel Session

Part One - Title

Moderating/Presiding

name, affiliation

Panelists

name, affiliation

Description

1:15 to 2:30 p.m. / F000

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Elected Standing Committee on Teaching

Teaching Panel Session

Teaching Best Practices: Title

Moderating/Presiding

Amanda Weed, Kennesaw State and **Gabriel B. Tait**, Ball State

First Place

Title

[Description]

name, affiliation

Second Place

Title

[Description]

name, affiliation

Third Place

Title

[Description]

name, affiliation

Friday, August 7, 2026

Discussant
name, affiliation

Panel Description

1:15 to 2:30 p.m. / F000

World Journalism Education Congress

Panel Session
Title

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

Panelists
name, affiliation

Description

3 to 4:15 p.m. / F000

Communicating Science, Health, Environment and Risk Division

High-Density Refereed Research Paper Session
Title

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

Discussant
name, affiliation

[RP] = Denotes a Research-in-Progress submission.

3 to 4:15 p.m. / F000

Communication Theory and Methodology Division

Refereed Research Paper Session
Title

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

Discussant
name, affiliation

Friday, August 7, 2026

[RP] = Denotes a Research-in-Progress submission.

3 to 4:15 p.m. / F000

Cultural and Critical Studies Division

PFR Panel Session

The Spectacle of the “Crip” in Script: Dis/Ability Justice and Media Representation

Moderating/Presiding

Brittany Potter, affiliation

Panelists

Hanne Murray, affiliation

Mary Ortega, affiliation

Jessica McGaha, affiliation

The mediated re-presentation of dis/ability narratives persistently cloaks impairment, dis/ability, chronic illness, and neurodivergence within narrative spaces of inspiration, sexual sterilization, and cautionary tale—oftentimes simultaneously advocating for the destigmatization of dis/ability while essentializing able-bodied daily realities. While claims that presence may translate to possibility within mediated worlds operate within the guise of progress, symbolic annihilation —both the erasure and gross misappropriation of individual identities and cultural groups—continually reproduces ideological hegemony applied to corporeal, cognitive, and mental wellbeing. Exploring the relationship between media and lived reality necessitates acknowledgement of media as pedagogical tools that embed naturalized hierarchical re-presentations of what it means to be desirable, and inversely what it means to be undesirable. Guided by feminist, sociological, and critical critique, this panel explores the nuanced complexity of the contemporary symbol of disability within popular culture media texts and its implications for the lived daily reality of existing as the “other” within social spaces. Combining interdisciplinary approaches, this panel features scholars whose work examines dis/ability narratives and societal realities in conversation with race, ethnicity, socioeconomic class, and social justice. Acknowledging the necessity for research pedagogies that incorporate intersectionality, conceptual understanding, and praxis, this panel addresses both the interrogation of power embedded into mediated texts and the lived social reality of dis/ability. Marrying diverse perspectives, this panel aspires to connect critical discourse analysis with ethnographic and autoethnographic applications.

3 to 4:15 p.m. / F000

Newspaper and Online News and Scholastic Journalism Divisions

Teaching Panel Session

Champions of Editing

Moderating/Presiding

Mitch McKenney, Kent State

Panelists

name, affiliation

We always focus this panel on something connected to editing... this one might have a good nonprofit news focus, as longtime (former) Lens publisher Steve Beatty lives in New Orleans and now does nonprofit news org consulting.

3 to 4:15 p.m. / F000

Political Communication Division

Refereed Research Paper Session
Title

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

Discussant
name, affiliation

[RP] = Denotes a Research-in-Progress submission.

3 to 4:15 p.m. / F000

Commission on Graduate Education

Refereed Research Paper Session
Research-In-Progress

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

Discussant
name, affiliation

[RP] = Denotes a Research-in-Progress submission.

3 to 4:15 p.m. / F000

Commission on LGBTQIA+ Communities and Media Ethics Division

PFR Panel Session
Are We Still Welcome? The Shifting Politics of LGBTQ Inclusion in New Orleans and Louisiana

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

Panelists
name, affiliation

In 2023, New Orleans & Company and the New Orleans LGBTQ Hospitality Alliance relaunched the “Everyone’s Welcome Here” campaign, encouraging businesses across the city to display visible signs of inclusion and complete training designed to make LGBTQ friendliness part of everyday practice. The effort built on the city’s long-standing reputation for hospitality, positioning inclusivity as a civic and economic strength at a moment when much of the South retreated from it. Around the same time, Louisiana’s legislature considered laws restricting transgender youth

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participation in sports and enacted a ban on most gender-affirming medical care for minors. Public higher-education institutions in the state have faced growing pressure to scale back or eliminate DEI programs. This changing political environment has heightened the stakes for civic and business leaders who continue to promote inclusion as a defining part of the city's brand. Two years after the campaign's relaunch, this panel examines how those involved in New Orleans' inclusivity marketing now view the effort. Have they faced resistance or backlash from customers, politicians, or community members? Have they maintained or even strengthened their commitment, or has the broader state climate made open advocacy harder to sustain? Panelists could include members of the New Orleans & Company and the New Orleans LGBTQ Hospitality Alliance, local business owners, and/or educators who study place branding, corporate advocacy, etc. When does inclusive branding cross into activism? How can educators prepare students to think about courage, risk, and authenticity in marketing decisions that play out against political headwinds?

3 to 4:15 p.m. / F000

Commission on the Status of Women, Media Management, Economics and Entrepreneurship and Visual Communication Divisions

[00-0800] — Scholar-to-Scholar (Poster) Refereed Research Paper Session

Commission on the Status of Women [20]

Media Management, Economics and Entrepreneurship Division [20]

Visual Communication Division [40]

Discussant

name, affiliation

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3 to 4:15 p.m. / F000

Internships and Careers Interest Group and Public Relations Division

Teaching Panel Session

Business Basics for Career Success

Moderating/Presiding

name, affiliation

Panelists

Matt Ragas, DePaul

Debbie Davis, Texas Tech

Charles Lubbers, South Dakota

Melita Garza, Illinois

Adrienne Wallace, Grand Valley State

Friday, August 7, 2026

This session provides the rationale for increasing the business acumen of communication students and explores concrete ways communication educators can weave core business concepts—such as integrated marketing strategy, pricing, consumer decision-making, and promotional excellence—throughout syllabi, assignments, and course sequences. The panel will feature models, instructional practices, and reflective activities that help students speak the language of business, recognize gaps in their business acumen, and step more confidently into roles as strategic organizational partners.

3 to 4:15 p.m. / F000

Religion and Media Interest Group and Law and Policy Division

Research Panel Session

Compelling Faith: The Growing Tensions between the Free Speech, Free Exercise, and Establishment Clauses of the First Amendment

Moderating/Presiding

Kathryn Montalbano, Kentucky

Panelists

Israel Balderas, Elon

Susan Keith, Rutgers

Will Mari, Texas A&M

Rick Clifton Moore, Boise State

Recent Supreme Court decisions in the United States have highlighted growing tensions between the free speech, free exercise, and establishment clauses of the First Amendment. In addition, these clauses sometimes conflict with the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and public accommodation clause of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Landmark rulings in *Masterpiece* and *303 Creative* demonstrate that SCOTUS is increasingly favoring the protection of religious expression over the expression and rights of those whose viewpoints or identities conflict with these ideologies. At the same time, the battle over what “compelled speech” should mean resides at the heart of this tension and at the heart of other tensions in educational spheres, such as whether K-12 public schools can allow prayer or whether DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) programs compel speech and engage in discrimination in public universities. Panelists will draw from legal, religious, and historical frameworks to grapple with these multiple tensions, while considering two sets of underpinning questions: how do recent SCOTUS and lower-court decisions dictate who gets to speak, on what terms, and in what spaces? Are individuals being compelled to speak in recent rulings, can they be forced to do so, and what, in fact, counts as speech?

3 to 4:15 p.m. / F000

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Elected Standing Committee on Professional Freedom and Responsibility

Award Panel Session

First Amendment Award

Moderating/Presiding

Meg Heckman, Northeastern

2026 First Amendment Award Recipients

Friday, August 7, 2026

name, affiliation

Panelist

name, affiliation

The First Amendment Award, created in 2006, recognizes individuals or organizations who demonstrate strong commitment to freedom of the press and who practice or support courageous journalism. Previous recipients include Errin Haines and the Staff of The 19th (2024); Margaret Sullivan, The Guardian (2023); Steven Waldman of Report for America (2022); Omar Jimenez of CNN (2021); Shane Bauer of Mother Jones (2020); Nikole Hannah-Jones of the New York Times Magazine (2019); Ronan Farrow of the New Yorker and Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey of the New York Times (2018); The Pulitzer Prizes (2017); Reporters Without Borders (2016); Floyd Abrams (2015); Joel Simon of the Committee to Protect Journalists (2014); the First Amendment Center (2013); Carole Simpson (2012); Michael Kirk of Frontline (2011); Nat Hentoff (2010); Seymour Hersh of the New Yorker (2009); Clarence Page of the Chicago Tribune (2008); Helen Thomas of UPI and Hearst (2007); and Molly Ivins (2006).

3 to 4:15 p.m. / F000

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication

AEJMC President Leadership Session

Future Forward: Strategic Planning for AEJMC's Next Chapter Insights from Task Force Leaders on Branding, Partnerships, Diversity, and Tech Innovation

Moderating/Presiding

Mia Moody, Baylor, AEJMC President-Elect, 2025-26

Panelists

Branding & Sustainability

Enhancing AEJMC's visibility and member experience through social media strategies, retention efforts, and sustainable revenue models.

Prashanth Bhat, Houston

Industry & Academy

Building stronger connections between academia and industry, developing micro-credential programs, and exploring AI integration in scholarly publishing

Pallavi Guha, Towson

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Advancing belonging and inclusion within AEJMC through surveys, achievements review, and collaborative initiatives

Rey Rosales, MacEwan University

Technology & Innovation

Leading AEJMC's role in AI policy and curriculum development, expanding tech initiatives, and improving hybrid participation.

Haiyan Jia, Lehigh

Discussant

Bey-Ling Sha, Texas Tech, AEJMC President, 2025-26

Join AEJMC's Strategic Planning Task Force for an overview of ideas to help shape the association's future. Subcommittee chairs will share progress and priorities in branding, industry partnerships, diversity, and technology innovation, offering opportunities for member engagement and feedback.

Friday, August 7, 2026

3 to 4:15 p.m. / F000

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Elected Standing Committee on Publications

Panel Session

Part Two - Title

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

Panelists
name, affiliation

Description

4:45 to 6 p.m. / F000

Advertising Division

Top Refereed Research Paper Session

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

Discussant
name, affiliation

Paper Award Winners

4:45 to 6 p.m. / F000

Broadcast and Mobile Journalism Division

Top Refereed Research Paper Session

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

Discussant
name, affiliation

Paper Award Winners

4:45 to 6 p.m. / F000

Communication Technology Division

Top Refereed Research Paper Session

Friday, August 7, 2026

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

Discussant
name, affiliation

Paper Award Winners

4:45 to 6 p.m. / F000

Cultural and Critical Studies Division

Top Refereed Research Paper Session

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

Discussant
name, affiliation

Paper Award Winners

4:45 to 6 p.m. / F000

International Communication Division

Top Refereed Research Paper Session

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

Discussant
name, affiliation

Paper Award Winners

4:45 to 6 p.m. / F000

Magazine Media Division

Top Refereed Research Paper Session

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

Discussant
name, affiliation

Friday, August 7, 2026

Paper Award Winners

4:45 to 6 p.m. / F000

Mass Communication and Society Division

Top Refereed Research Paper Session

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

Discussant
name, affiliation

Paper Award Winners

4:45 to 6 p.m. / F000

Minorities and Communication Division

Top Refereed Research Paper Session

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

Discussant
name, affiliation

Paper Award Winners

4:45 to 6 p.m. / F000

Political Communication Division

Top Refereed Research Paper Session

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

Discussant
name, affiliation

Paper Award Winners

4:45 to 6 p.m. / F000

Public Relations Division

Friday, August 7, 2026

Top Refereed Research Paper Session

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

Discussant
name, affiliation

Paper Award Winners

4:45 to 6 p.m. / F000

Scholastic Journalism Division

Top Refereed Research Paper Session

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

Discussant
name, affiliation

Paper Award Winners

4:45 to 6 p.m. / F000

Commission on LGBTQIA+ Communities

Top Refereed Research Paper Session

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

Discussant
name, affiliation

Paper Award Winners

4:45 to 6 p.m. / F000

Community Journalism Interest Group

Top Refereed Research Paper Session

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

Discussant

Friday, August 7, 2026

name, affiliation

Paper Award Winners

4:45 to 6 p.m. / F000

Entertainment Studies Interest Group

Top Refereed Research Paper Session

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

Discussant
name, affiliation

Paper Award Winners

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. / F000

Advertising Division

Business Session
Members' Meeting

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. / F000

Broadcast and Mobile Journalism Division

Business Session
Members' Meeting

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. / F000

Communication Technology Division

Business Session
Members' Meeting

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

Friday, August 7, 2026

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. / F000

Cultural and Critical Studies Division

Business Session

Members' Meeting

Moderating/Presiding

name, affiliation

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. / F000

International Communication Division

Business Session

Members' Meeting

Moderating/Presiding

name, affiliation

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. / F000

Magazine Media Division

Business Session

Members' Meeting

Moderating/Presiding

name, affiliation

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. / F000

Mass Communication and Society Division

Business Session

Members' Meeting

Moderating/Presiding

name, affiliation

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. / F000

Minorities and Communication Division

Business Session

Friday, August 7, 2026

Members' Meeting

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. / F000

Political Communication Division

Business Session
Members' Meeting

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. / F000

Public Relations Division

Business Session
Members' Meeting

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. / F000

Scholastic Journalism Division

Business Session
Members' Meeting

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. / F000

Commission on LGBTQIA+ Communities

Business Session
Members' Meeting

Moderating/Presiding
name, affiliation

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. / F000

Friday, August 7, 2026

Community Journalism Interest Group

Business Session

Members' Meeting

Moderating/Presiding

name, affiliation

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. / F000

Entertainment Studies Interest Group

Business Session

Members' Meeting

Moderating/Presiding

name, affiliation

7:45 to 9:30 p.m. / F000

Advertising Division

Social

Hosting

name, affiliation

7:45 to 9:30 p.m. / F000

Broadcast and Mobile Journalism Division

Offsite- Social

Hosting

name, affiliation

7:45 to 9:30 p.m. / F000

Communication Technology Division

Offsite- Social

Hosting

name, affiliation

Friday, August 7, 2026

7:45 to 9:30 p.m. / F000

International Communication Division and Texas Tech University

Social

Hosting

name, affiliation

7:45 to 9:30 p.m. / F000

Mass Communication and Society Division and Commission on LGBTQIA+ Communities

Offsite- Joint Social

The Cornet, 700 Bourbon Street

Hosting

Terri N. Hernandez, Mississippi State

Chelsea J. Reynolds, Arizona State

Affiliates of the Mass Communication and Society Division and the Commission on LGBTQIA+ Communities are warmly invited to this joint social, featuring an authentic Bourbon Street balcony experience! The Cornet features the largest balcony overlooking Bourbon. Enjoy entertainment from a live jazz trio band, light hors d'oeuvres and refreshments while mingling with colleagues, alums, and other scholars. Don't miss this opportunity to reconnect, network, and soak in the fun!

7:45 to 9:30 p.m. / F000

Public Relations Division

Off-site Social

Hosting

name, affiliation

7:45 to 9:30 p.m. / F000

Commission on the Status of Women

Social

Hosting

name, affiliation
