

**Saturday, August 8, 2026**

**7:30 to 9 a.m. / Sa000**

**Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication**

Business Session

**2025-26 Council of Divisions Meeting**

Moderating/Presiding

**Avery Holton**, Utah, 2025-26 chair, Council of Divisions  
and **Lindita Camaj**, Florida, 2025-26 vice chair, Council of Divisions

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**7:30 to 9 a.m. / Sa000**

**Taylor and Francis Journal Editors**

**Business Session**

Moderating/Presiding

**Ashley Domingo Hendricks**, Publisher, Taylor and Francis

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**9:30 to 10:45 a.m. / Sa000**

**Advertising and Communication Technology Divisions**

Teaching Panel Session

**From Literacy to Practice: Teaching AI and Teaching with AI in the Core Advertising Curriculum**

Moderating/Presiding

**Yanyun (Mia) Wang**, Colorado

Panelists

**Eunjin (Anna) Kim**, Southern California

**Stephen McConnell**, North Carolina

**Marthinus van Loggerenberg**, San Francisco

A strong submission once meant “well done.” Now it triggers a question: was AI behind it? Students already use AI. Industry expects it. Programs must move beyond “is it allowed” to “how do we teach it well.” This panel moves from whether to how and shows concrete ways to integrate AI across research, creative, and strategy courses without diluting rigor. We will begin with focused presentations of about ~8 minutes from each panelist. The panelists from academia and industry will showcase current approaches to teaching AI—literacy, ethics, limits, and learning outcomes—and to teaching with AI through research and creative workflows, prompt planning, the integration of qualitative and quantitative analysis, and reproducible pipelines. Panelists will share practice-based experience, including tool demonstrations, assignment designs, industry expectations, and example artifacts from courses and professional practice, while avoiding vendor-style training. Next, a moderated roundtable will address program-level decisions. When should students systematically engage AI: in introductory courses, in methods or studio classes, or in the capstone? Should AI be embedded across core courses, offered as a dedicated course, or both? How do we prevent overreliance, protect motivation, and preserve independent judgment and voice? How do we adapt these practices for research, creative, and strategy without three different playbooks? What counts as credible

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process evidence, and how do students document it efficiently? How do we align our training with realistic hiring expectations?

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**9:30 to 10:45 a.m. / Sa000**

### **Communicating Science, Health, Environment and Risk Division**

Refereed Research Paper Session

**Title**

Moderating/Presiding

**name**, affiliation

Discussant

**name**, affiliation

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

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**9:30 to 10:45 a.m. / Sa000**

### **Cultural and Critical Studies Division**

Refereed Research Paper Session

**Title**

Moderating/Presiding

**name**, affiliation

Discussant

**name**, affiliation

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

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**9:30 to 10:45 a.m. / Sa000**

### **International Communication Division**

Refereed Research Paper Session

**Title**

Moderating/Presiding

**name**, affiliation

Discussant

**name**, affiliation

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

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## Saturday, August 8, 2026

9:30 to 10:45 a.m. / Sa000

### Law and Policy and Media Management, Economics and Entrepreneurship Divisions

PFR Panel Session

#### What the FOIA?!? Is Freedom of Information Truly Freedom for All?

Moderating/Presiding

**David Cuillier**, Florida

Panelists

**Jane Kirtley**, Minnesota

**A.Jay Wagner**, Marquette

**Loi Ameera Almeron**, co-producer of Black Mothers Love & Resist

On the 60th anniversary of the signing of FOIA (July 4, 1966), we find that the goal of empowering the average person in their right to know has fallen far short. Recent research indicates that public records requesters are skewed heavily toward the white, male, affluent, and educated. For example, surveys of public record requesters found that they 88% are white (76% of U.S. is white), 62% male, 88% bachelor's degree or higher (32% of U.S.), 60% liberal (25% Gallup 2020), and only 6% Hispanic (18.5% U.S.). The concept of public record laws is to create an informed citizenry where anyone can learn what their government is up to. Is that really the case, or are these laws empowering those already in power – enabling those of means/education to get more information, and those without to remain left behind? Information is power – so how do we ensure it is distributed equitably, particularly among those who could use it the most? What ethical imperatives challenge the FOI community – including its scholars and teachers – to diversify and build an informed and just society? What persuasive messages can improve public support for government transparency? What can we all do to change this?

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9:30 to 10:45 a.m. / Sa000

### Magazine Media Division

Refereed Research Paper Session

**Title**

Moderating/Presiding

**name**, affiliation

Discussant

**name**, affiliation

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9:30 to 10:45 a.m. / Sa000

### Mass Communication and Society and Political Communication Divisions

Teaching Panel Session

#### Generative Classrooms: Teaching Design and Storytelling in the Age of AI

Moderating/Presiding

## Saturday, August 8, 2026

**Terri N. Hernandez**, Mississippi State

### Panelists

**Matthew E. Martin**, Southern Mississippi

**Tara Mortensen**, South Carolina

**Alec Tefertiller**, Baylor

This panel will explore how faculty in higher education are integrating artificial intelligence into creative-based communication courses, where students engage in hands-on learning through design projects, media production, and applied creative work. Each panelist will focus on a specific area of creative production in the mass media landscape, such as audio/video, design, photography, and storytelling, highlighting how AI intersects with their teaching practice. Panelists will share classroom approaches that incorporate AI tools for design, content creation, and visual storytelling while critically examining ethical implications, accessibility, and issues of authorship. Subtopics will include strategies for blending traditional creative production principles with AI-assisted creativity, teaching students to navigate AI as both a technical tool and a cultural force and assessing learning outcomes in environments where generative technologies are rapidly reshaping professional practice.

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**9:30 to 10:45 a.m. / Sa000**

### Scholastic Journalism Division

Refereed Research Paper Session

#### Title

Moderating/Presiding

**name**, affiliation

Discussant

**name**, affiliation

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**9:30 to 10:45 a.m. / Sa000**

### Commission on the Status of Women and Broadcast and Mobile Journalism Division

Research Panel Session

**Disrespected and Derailed: Women of Color Journalists Covering the Trump Administration**

Moderating/Presiding

**name**, affiliation

Panelists

**Sherri Williams**, American

**Whitney Harris Christopher**, American

This panel will explore Trump's hostility toward journalists who are women of color. Trump, who has publicly aligned himself with white supremacist groups including the Proud Boys, fuses patriarchy with racism for an insidious type of bullying toward these journalists to silence them, crush their voices and avoid accountability. In society all things domestic are constructed as the private sphere, duties that are the responsibility of women to relegate them to the

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home while the public sphere is framed as public affairs outside the home that are more valuable and should only be the concerns of men (Macdonald, 1995). Moreover, heteropatriarchy is a societal system of power that places men at the top of the gender hierarchy, denigrates women and invisibilizes queer people (Smith, 2006). Patriarchy also extends to the professional world including journalism which has a macho culture embedded into it (Allan 2010). Misogynoir is “anti-Black racist misogyny that Black women experience, particularly in U.S. visual and digital culture” (Bailey, 2021). Black women who are journalists have experienced misogynoir in their interactions with President Trump. These traditional social ideas about gender and race that feminist fought against for decades are reemerging in policy and practice, including Trump’s interactions with women of color in journalism. This research panel will explicate the challenges that journalists who are women of color face while attempting to cover both Trump administrations.

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**9:30 to 11:15 a.m. / Sa000**

### **Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication**

Business Session

#### **Incoming AEJMC Board of Directors Meeting**

Moderating/Presiding

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

By invitation only.

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**9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. / Sa000**

### **Democracy Now Documentary**

Film Session

#### **Stealthistory.org**

Moderating/Presiding

**Amy Goodman**, founder, Democracy Now

Amy Goodman, the host and founder of the independent news program, Democracy Now is also the subject of the new documentary, Stealthistory.org, together with the film’s directors will host a panel where first show the film will be shown (101 min) and then lead an interactive discussion about the state of the media today, why independent media is essential to a democracy and discuss examples of grassroots based models that exist for journalists today to get their work out.

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**11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. / Sa000**

### **Broadcast and Mobile Journalism Division**

Refereed Research Paper Session

**Title**

Moderating/Presiding

**name**, affiliation

## Saturday, August 8, 2026

Discussant

**name**, affiliation

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**11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. / Sa000**

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

Research Panel Session

**Challenges to Theorizing in Current Information Environments and Pathways for Overcoming Them**

Moderating/Presiding

**Isabelle Freiling**, Utah

Panelists

**Florian Primig**, LMU Munich

**Dietram A. Scheufele**, Arizona State

**Isabel I. Villanueva**, Miami

Rapidly changing information environments – from social media ecologies to AI content platforms like Sora 2 – challenge traditional notions of what communication effects look like and how we can study them. Algorithmic curation and microtargeting of content based on users’ digital trace data pose conceptual as well as methodological challenges for our understanding of communication effects. Combined with unreliable or industry-controlled access to relevant platform data, these challenges introduce significant distortions to our field’s current ability to transparently and systematically iterate between theory and empirical testing. Panelists will discuss challenges and roadmaps for robust theory-building to guide future communication effects research.

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**11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. / Sa000**

**History Division**

Refereed Research Paper Session

**Title**

Moderating/Presiding

**name**, affiliation

Discussant

**name**, affiliation

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**11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. / Sa000**

**Minorities and Communication Division and Small Program Interest Group**

Teaching Panel Session

**Saturday, August 8, 2026**

**Jazz(ing) Up Student Success: News-academic Partnerships and Affinity Groups**

Moderating/Presiding

**Christina Smith**, Georgia College

Panelists

**Vincent Peña**, DePaul

**Lara Salahi**, Endicott College

News-academic partnerships have grown into a national movement to strengthen local journalism and provide students with experiential learning opportunities. Additionally, affinity-based journalism groups such as student chapters of NAHJ, NABJ, AAJA, and others play a vital role in fostering belonging, representation, mentorship, and professional development for students from historically underrepresented backgrounds. Questions remain about long-term impact: How do news-academic partnerships and affinity-based student organizations collectively shape students' career trajectories? Do students who participate in these collaborations and communities pursue journalism after graduation? How do these initiatives influence students' sense of belonging, professional identity, and confidence in navigating the industry? And when students choose alternative career paths, what transferable skills, civic values and professional competencies do they gain? This session brings together educators, researchers, advisors, and students to consider questions concerned with how success is defined and measured across both news partnerships and affinity organizations. The discussion will explore how community-building, mentorship, and representation intersect with experiential learning to support sustainable career pathways. The conversation will also address structural challenges — including instability in local news ecosystems, budgetary pressures, and sociopolitical tensions surrounding diversity initiatives — and consider how institutions can build resilient infrastructures that support both professional development and building inclusive communities.

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**11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. / Sa000**

**Newspaper and Online News and Media Ethics Divisions**

Research Panel Session

**Covering Life Beyond Humans: Challenges in News Reporting**

Moderating/Presiding

**Michelle Rossi**, Loyola University New Orleans

Panelists

**Michelle Rossi**, Loyola University New Orleans

**Cristina Mislán**, Missouri

**Steve Bien-Aimé**, Kansas

**Joseph Jones**, West Virginia

This panel explores how journalism represents perspectives beyond the human. It asks whether journalism is solely responsible for telling stories from a human point of view and examines how other species are portrayed in news coverage, including the extent to which these representations are accurate and ethical. The discussion also considers how journalistic standards, such as accuracy and fairness, function when stories are told primarily from a human-centered perspective.

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**11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. / Sa000**

**Public Relations Division**

**Saturday, August 8, 2026**

Refereed Research Paper Session

**Title**

Moderating/Presiding

**name**, affiliation

Discussant

**name**, affiliation

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

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**11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. / Sa000**

**Visual Communications Division**

Research Panel Session

**The Power Conundrum: News Research and Methodological Challenges Inside the Beltway**

Moderating/Presiding

**Lisa Krantz**, Montana

Panelists

**Mary Angela Bock**, Texas at Austin

**Erin Coyle**, Arizona State

**Christopher Assaf**, North Texas

**Michael Martinez**, Tennessee-Knoxville

This panel explores the theoretical, methodological, and ethical challenges of conducting news media and communication research within the corridors of power in Washington, D.C.—commonly referred to as "inside the Beltway." Scholars investigating political institutions, actors, media systems, and journalistic practices—both visual and written—often face organizational and individual barriers to access, institutional opacity, and the need to navigate politically charged and increasingly hostile environments. Politicians label journalists as the "enemies of the people," restrict access, and launch attacks targeting the academic sphere. These challenges are particularly relevant to researchers working at the intersection of political and visual communication, where understanding how power is constructed, maintained, and represented through news media—often functioning as an ideological apparatus—is essential. For members of the Visual Communication Division, this panel offers insights into how visual journalism—such as news photographers' mediated representations of political figures and institutions seeking to curate their public image through constraints on journalistic practice, and negotiations for embodied access and presence—plays a critical role in shaping public discourse, perceptions of authority, and the democratic process. The panel addresses a key gap by advocating for interdisciplinary approaches that explore the often-overlooked visual dimensions and performative aspects of political communication. It encourages research that considers the symbolic, structural, and cultural dynamics of power in political communication and its visual representations. Additionally, it examines how individual and organizational routines, along with cultural norms, influence the production and interpretation of visual political imagery that impacts the public.

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**11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. / Sa000**

**Commission on LGBTQIA+ Communities and Internships and Careers Interest Group**

**Saturday, August 8, 2026**

Teaching Panel Session

**A Guide to Navigating Burnout in an Academic Hellscape**

Moderating/Presiding

**name**, affiliation

Panelists

**name**, affiliation

Often, Queer faculty serve as advisers for LGBTQIA+ students and campus groups. The careful blend of scholarship and activism expected of Queer scholars can place them at higher rates of burnout. Especially across the American South, states have moved to erase Queer identities from campuses, including mandates from university presidents to restrict gender identifications, and the defunding of research centered on sexuality and gender. The goal of this panel is to consider how to address student and personal burnout best when faced with an increasingly hostile work environment. It draws from the expertise of how burnout is discussed (or not discussed) across media professions, academia, and for students. Hopefully, there will be some pragmatic and practical tips for dealing with burnout. Maybe a selection of resources.

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