

AEJMC 2026: *Jazz & Jambalaya: Nurturing Harmony and Health in Higher Education*

August 5-8, 2026 | #aejmc2026

7:30 to 9 a.m. / Sa001 / Studio 7&8 (2nd Floor)

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

9:30 to 10:45 a.m. / Sa002 / Salon A (3rd Floor)

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
Kimberly Kelling, Latitude Research
Sonali Kudva, Methodist University
Samuel M. Tham, Colorado State

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.

9:30 to 10:45 a.m. / Sa003 / Salon B (3rd Floor)

Communicating Science, Health, Environment and Risk Division

Refereed Research Paper Session

Narratives, Norms and Climate Action

Moderating/Presiding

Soobin Choi, Ewha Womans University

Communicating Generative AI and its Energy Footprints: Effects of Emphasis and Equity Frames on Public Opinions

Soobin Choi, Ewha Womans University,
Natasha Strydhorst, Morgridge Institute
for Research,

and **Dominique Brossard**, Wisconsin-Madison

A Concept Mapping Approach to the Effects of Climate Narratives: Moral Reconfiguration in Climate Mental Models and Climate Action Intentions

Junghyun Moon,

Jessica Eise

and **Danielle Headley**, Indiana Bloomington

Communicating Norms: Message Effects and Processes of Normative Appeals for Pro-Environmental Behavior

Youzhen Su, Pennsylvania State

Politicization vs. Pragmatism: Divergent Climate

Narratives in U.S. National and Regional Newspapers

Wenzhu Li, **Zepeng Tong**, Indiana Bloomington,

Yingcui Liu, Henan University,

and **James Shanahan**, Indiana Bloomington

Message Format and Influencer Roles in Sustainability

Persuasion: Evidence for Format–Source Alignment in Climate Communication on Social Media

Vaibhav Diwanji, Kansas,

Hong Vu, Colorado Boulder,

Nhung Nguyen, South Alabama,

and **Nazra Izhar**, Kansas

Discussant

Amanda Sams, Mississippi

9:30 to 10:45 a.m. / Sa004 / Studio 7&8 (2nd Floor)

Cultural and Critical Studies Division

Refereed Research Paper Session

Marginalized Identities and Displaced Voices

Moderating/Presiding

Rachel Reynolds, Drexel

Exiled from Within: Marginalization, Multidimensional Exilic Standpoints, and Solidarity

Huong Nguyen, Texas at Austin

Journalism at the Crossroads of Culture and Climate:

Journalists and Indigenous Perspectives

on Environmental Reporting

Shitemi Khamadi, Indiana,

and **Dinfin Mulufi**, Colorado-Boulder

Explicating Disability Narratives in the Media to Shape Public Attitudes, Reinforce and Dismantle Stereotypes

Muhammad Arslan Khan, **Chelsea Rose**,

Alexandria Oliver, **Lauren Simpkins**,

and **Aimee Hart**, Oklahoma

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Palestinian Nationhood: Building Collective Identity Through Poetic Love

Musab Chummun, Pennsylvania

#RomaLivesMatter: Translating Black Lives Matter Activism in Europe

Adina Schneeweis, Oakland

Discussant

Janice Marie Collins, Ohio

9:30 to 10:45 a.m. / Sa005 / Balcony J (4th Floor)

International Communication Division

Refereed Research Paper Session

Media Power and the Dynamics of Global Media Flows

Moderating/Presiding

Yara Mabrouk, Maryland

Drivers of Global Webtoon Success: A Comparative Predictive Analysis Across Five Linguistic Regions

Yunjeong Kim

and **Byung-Hee Chang**, Sungkyunkwan University

[RP] Imagining Futures from the Margins: Global South Animation and Transnational Media Circulation

Zihe Wang

and **Dai Wan**, Communication University of China

What Stories Get Seen? The Political Economy of Netflix Nigeria, Platform Imperialism, and the Transnational Flow of Nigerian Stories

Zainab Jagun, Oregon

[RP] From Rebellious Destiny to Global Dialogue: Cultural Translation and Transnational Circulation of Contemporary Chinese Mythological Ips

Xueyi Wu, Communication University of China

[RP] Controlled Aesthetic Multiculturalism: A Critical Discourse Analysis of BTS's "Asianness" in The New York Times (2017–2026)

Zimu Luo, Communication University of China

Discussant

Maha Bashri, The Africa Institute, Global Studies University, Sharjah, UAE

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

9:30 to 10:45 a.m. / Sa006 / Salon C (3rd Floor)

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

Peggy Watt, Western Washington

Panelists

Jane Kirtley, Minnesota

A. Jay Wagner, Marquette

Asma Khanom, Idaho

FOIA's 60th anniversary highlights inequities in who uses public records laws, with requesters disproportionately white, male, affluent, and educated. This panel examines why access skews toward the empowered, how information inequity undermines FOIA's mission, and what ethical, educational, and persuasive strategies can broaden equitable transparency.

9:30 to 10:45 a.m. / Sa007 / Studio 3&4 (2nd Floor)

Mass Communication and Society and Political Communication Divisions

Teaching Panel Session

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

Moderating/Presiding

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.

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9:30 to 10:45 a.m. / Sa008 / Studio 9 (2nd Floor)

Scholastic Journalism Division

Refereed Research Paper Session

Moderating/Presiding

TBA

Student Journalists: Watchdogs or Loyal-Facilitators?
A Quantitative Content Analysis of Role Performance
in Scholastic News Coverage

Leslie Klein,

and **Betsy Emmons,** Nebraska - Lincoln

Rapunzel, Rapunzel, Let Down Your Golden Hair:
Using Study-to-Story to Bring Environmental Research
Out of the Ivory Tower

Eric Freedman, Julia Belden,

Victoria Witke,

and **Isbella Figueroa Nogueira,** Michigan State

Where is the Gap? Comparative Analysis of Journalism
Education Ideals, Industry Expectations, and University
Curricula in Nigeria*

Kemi Busari, Maryland

Assessing and Predicting News-Related Activities in
America's Secondary Classrooms

Doron Taussig, Ursinus College

and **R. Lance Holbert, Brandon Harrison,**

and **Huma Rasheed,** Pennsylvania

[RP] Peer Corrections of Misinformation: Exploring Folk
Theories

Tamar Wilner and **Judith E. Rosenbaum,** Kansas,

Ahmer Arif, Barnard College,

Samuel A. Muzhingi,

and **K. Macy Burkett,** Kansas

Discussant

TBA

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

* First Place Student Paper Award

9:30 to 10:45 a.m. / Sa009 / Balcony I (4th Floor)

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

J. Israel Balderas, Elon

Panelists

Sherri Williams, American

Whitney Harris Christopher, American

Dorothy Bland, North Texas

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. This research panel will explicate the challenges that journalists who are women of color face while attempting to cover both Trump administrations.

9:30 to 11:15 a.m. / Sa010 / Balcony L (4th Floor)

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.

9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. / Sa011 / Balcony K (4th Floor)

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. / Sa012 / Studio 9 (2nd Floor)

**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, Morgridge Institute
for Research

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.

11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. / Sa013 / Salon A (3rd Floor)

History Division

Refereed Research Paper Session

Top Student Papers

Moderating/Presiding

Christina Littlefield, Pepperdine

China in the Phonograph: The Record Industry, Transnational Networks, and the Auditory Construction of "Chinese Music," 1920s–1970s***

Xiyue Wu, University of Chinese Academy
of Social Sciences,

Xiaoping Zhu, Communication University of China,
and **Junyi Ge**, Southern California

Gray Markets, Piracy, Importation, and Licensing:
A Social History of Japanese Nintendo Consoles
in China**

George Ran Zhao, Temple

Airing Science: How Radio Liberty and Radio Moscow
Used Scientific Communication for Persuasion Between
1960 and 1969**

Roman Kolgushev, Missouri

Recorded Realities, Silenced Stories: Africans in East
Germany Between Racialized Newspaper Fantasy and
Everyday Encounters, 1960-1969*

Sheila Lalwani, Texas at Austin

Discussant

Jason Lee Guthrie, Clayton State

* First Place Student Paper

** Second Place Student Paper

*** Third Place Student Paper

11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. / Sa014 / Salon C (3rd Floor)

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

Teaching Panel Session

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

Moderating/Presiding

Christina Smith, Georgia College

Panelists

Shenise Bickham, Loyola, New Orleans

Robin Hoecker, DePaul

Lisa Page, Louisiana State

Lara Salahi, Endicott College

Vincent Peña, DePaul

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.

11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. / Sa015 / Salon B (3rd Floor)

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

Research Panel Session

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

Moderating/Presiding

Michelle Rossi, Loyola, New Orleans

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Panelists

Michelle Rossi, Loyola, 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.

11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. / Sa016 / Studio 7&8 (2nd Floor)

Public Relations Division

Refereed Research Paper Session
Top Student Papers

Moderating/Presiding
Chris McCollough, Kennesaw State

Top Student Papers

Reconstructing Legitimacy: The Mechanisms of Cultural CSR Narrative Strategies*

Yijie Ye, Boya Han,
and **Fangyuan Wan**, Hong Kong Baptist University
Control or Escape? Examining Workplace Mental Health Issues by Integrating STOPS and Coping Theory**

Dongya Wang, Hongzhu Jin, and **Hui Shi**, Miami
How Motive Disclosure Attenuates the Backfire Effect of High-Fit Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives in Sin Industries***

Giha Shin and **Haram Myong**, Yonsei University
AI Chatbot Message Framing in Healthcare Crisis Communication: Effects on Attitude, Perceived Behavioral Control, and Subjective Norm

Yoosun Ham, Priscilla Aboagyewaa Boateng,
and **Yue Zhang**, Indiana
When AI Meets the C-Suite: Senior Communication Leaders' Perspectives on Ethics, Professional Identity, and Governance in the GenAI Era

Anne Perera, Sihao Zhou, and **Yi Zhao**, Georgia

Discussant

James Ndone, Coastal Carolina

- * First Place Paper, Student Paper Competition
- ** Second Place Paper, Student Paper Competition
- *** Third Place Paper, Student Paper Competition

11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. / Sa017 / Studio 1 (2nd Floor)

Visual Communications Division

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

Moderating/Presiding
Lisa Krantz, Missouri

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.

11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. / Sa018 / Studio 3&4 (2nd Floor)

Commission on LGBTQIA+ Communities and Internships and Careers Interest Group

Teaching Panel Session
A Guide to Navigating Burnout in an Academic Hellscape

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.