

Saturday, August 8, 2026

7:30 to 9 a.m. / Sa001

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

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

9:30 to 10:45 a.m. / Sa003

Communicating Science, Health, Environment and Risk Division

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Refereed Research Paper Session

Narratives, Norms and Climate Action

Moderating/Presiding

name, affiliation

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

Soobin Choi; Soobin Choi; Natasha Strydorst; Dominique Brossard

A Concept Mapping Approach to the Effects of Climate Narratives:

Moral Reconfiguration in Climate Mental Models

and Climate Action Intentions

Junghyun Moon; Jessica Eise; Danielle Headley

Communicating Norms: Message Effects and Processes of Normative

Appeals for Pro-Environmental Behavior

Youzhen Su, affiliation

Politicization vs. Pragmatism: Divergent Climate Narratives in U.S. National

and Regional Newspapers

Wenzhu Li; Zepeng Tong; Yingcui Liu;

James Shanahan

Message Format and Influencer Roles in Sustainability Persuasion: Evidence

for Format–Source Alignment in Climate Communication on Social Media

Vaibhav Diwanji; Hong Vu; Nhung Nguyen; Nazra Izhar

Discussant

Amanda Sams, affiliation

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

9:30 to 10:45 a.m. / Sa004

Cultural and Critical Studies Division

Refereed Research Paper Session

Marginalized Identities and Displaced Voices

Moderating/Presiding

name, affiliation

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**, University of Oklahoma

Palestinian Nationhood: Building Collective Identity Through Poetic Love

Musab Chummun, Pennsylvania

#RomaLivesMatter: Translating Black Lives Matter Activism in Europe

Adina Schneeweis, Oakland

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Discussant

name, affiliation

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

9:30 to 10:45 a.m. / Sa005

International Communication Division

Refereed Research Paper Session

Title

Moderating/Presiding

name, affiliation

Discussant

name, affiliation

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

9:30 to 10:45 a.m. / Sa006

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

Mass Communication and Society and Political Communication Divisions

Teaching Panel Session

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

Moderating/Presiding

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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.

9:30 to 10:45 a.m. / Sa008

Scholastic Journalism Division

Refereed Research Paper Session

Moderating/Presiding

name, affiliation

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

name, affiliation

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

* First Place Student Paper Award

9:30 to 10:45 a.m. / Sa009

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 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.

9:30 to 11:15 a.m. / Sa010

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

Democracy Now Documentary

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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.

11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. / Sa012

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.

11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. / Sa013

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,

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and **Junyi Ge**, Southern California

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

George Ran Zhao, Renmin University of China

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

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 Salah, 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. 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.

11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. / Sa015

Newspaper and Online News and Media Ethics Divisions

Research Panel Session

Covering Life Beyond Humans: Challenges in News Reporting

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Moderating/Presiding

Michelle Rossi, Loyola, New Orleans

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. The discussion also considers how journalistic standards, such as accuracy and fairness, function when stories are told primarily from a human-centered perspective.

11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. / Sa016

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

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11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. / Sa017

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. 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.

11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. / Sa018

Commission on LGBTQIA+ Communities and Internships and Careers Interest Group

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

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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.
