

AEJMC 2026 Annual Conference

What Attendees Can Expect: Program & Session Experience

August 5–8, 2026 | New Orleans, Louisiana

The AEJMC 2026 Annual Conference offers an immersive, four-day professional and scholarly experience designed to support **research excellence, teaching innovation, professional growth, and community impact**. With hundreds of sessions across journalism, communication, media studies, public relations, visual communication, law and policy, ethics, technology, and global media, attendees will find rich opportunities to learn, connect, and recharge their work at every career stage.

Whether you are a faculty member, graduate student, administrator, practitioner, or emerging scholar, the 2026 program is intentionally designed to provide **practical takeaways, fresh research insights, and meaningful professional connections**.

What You'll Experience at AEJMC 2026

Cutting-Edge Conversations on AI, Technology & Media Futures

Attendees will engage in timely, thought-provoking sessions exploring how artificial intelligence and digital technologies are reshaping journalism, strategic communication, visual storytelling, teaching, research methods, and newsroom practice. Panels and workshops address real classroom dilemmas (How do we teach with AI? How do we assess student work in the age of generative tools?), professional ethics (Where should boundaries be drawn in AI-assisted journalism?), and research frontiers (How algorithms affect truth, trust, and public discourse). These sessions offer practical frameworks, teaching models, case studies, and policy perspectives—equipping attendees with tools they can immediately apply in classrooms, research agendas, and professional settings.

Research That Advances the Field

The conference features hundreds of **refereed research paper sessions, high-density panels, and poster sessions**, allowing attendees to stay current with emerging scholarship across journalism and mass communication. Sessions span political communication, media management, ethics, law and policy, visual communication, sports communication, health and risk communication, international communication, and more.

Attendees can expect:

- Exposure to new theories, methods, and findings
- Opportunities to receive feedback on work-in-progress
- Lively scholarly dialogue with peers and senior scholars
- Inspiration for future research collaborations

For graduate students and early-career faculty, these sessions also serve as a vital professional development space—demystifying the research process and offering models for strong, impactful scholarship.

Teaching Innovation You Can Take Back to the Classroom

AEJMC 2026 places strong emphasis on **pedagogy and curriculum development**, with numerous teaching panels focused on improving learning outcomes, updating curricula for digital and AI-driven environments, and supporting diverse student populations.

Sessions address:

- Teaching AI and teaching *with* AI
- Data analytics and visualization in communication curricula
- Magazine, advertising, and creative production course revitalization
- Science communication and practitioner partnerships
- Teaching media law and ethics in polarized, high-pressure contexts
- Supporting international, neurodivergent, and marginalized students

Attendees will leave with **concrete assignment ideas, course models, assessment strategies, and classroom practices**—making these sessions especially valuable for instructors looking to refresh courses or respond to rapidly changing student and industry needs.

Ethics, Professional Responsibility & Real-World Challenges

Professional Freedom & Responsibility (PF&R) panels and ethics-focused sessions provide space for candid discussion about some of the most pressing challenges facing the field today, including:

- Academic freedom and social media controversies
- Journalist safety and mental health
- Ethical challenges in AI-assisted reporting
- Crisis communication during school violence
- Equity and accountability in platform governance
- Transparency, FOIA, and access to information

These sessions blend research with lived professional experience, offering attendees practical guidance, ethical frameworks, and shared reflection on how to navigate high-stakes professional environments with integrity and care.

Community, Local Journalism & Place-Based Learning

Hosting the conference in New Orleans brings powerful, place-based conversations into the program. Attendees will participate in sessions reflecting on community journalism, disaster coverage, local news sustainability, and news-academic partnerships—drawing lessons from Hurricane Katrina’s legacy and ongoing challenges in local media ecosystems. These sessions invite attendees to think deeply about **journalism’s role in communities**, the responsibilities of educators and scholars to local publics, and how partnerships can strengthen both newsrooms and classrooms.

Mentorship, Networking & Career Development

Beyond sessions, the conference experience is intentionally structured to foster connection and professional growth. Attendees can take part in:

- Mentorship and networking panels for graduate students and early-career scholars
- Award sessions recognizing excellence in research, teaching, and service
- Division, interest group, and committee meetings that build scholarly community
- Informal networking and collaborative conversations throughout the conference

For many attendees, AEJMC is where professional relationships begin—leading to co-authored research, teaching collaborations, leadership pathways, and long-term mentorship.

Why Attend AEJMC 2026

AEJMC 2026 is more than a conference — it is a **professional homecoming and future-facing learning space**.

Attendees leave with:

- Fresh ideas for research, teaching, and service
- Practical tools for navigating AI, ethics, and evolving media systems
- Renewed motivation and connection to the field
- Expanded professional networks across institutions and countries

Set against the cultural richness of New Orleans, the 2026 conference creates space for **rigorous scholarship, honest dialogue, and meaningful connection**—all grounded in the shared mission of nurturing harmony and health in higher education.