



AEJMC International Communication Division

November 2025 Newsletter

Manifestation in Copacabana,
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil ©Marina Petric



Update from the Division Head

Dear ICD Members,

Now that fall is well underway in the Northern Hemisphere, I am happy to welcome you to a new year of leadership and programming with the International Communication Division. I have taken over the helm from our fantastic outgoing leader, Vanessa de Macedo Higgins Joyce.

I and the rest of this year's leadership team are already working hard on the 2026 conference, finalizing panel programming over the next few weeks and preparing a call for papers for the 2026 paper competition. As chair, I want to highlight some of the team's work to cultivate community among ICD members and generate a sustainable and resilient future. First, we have an ICD at home team that is planning some great online programs to bring us together between now and August. Second, you will soon see a call for participation in the Midwinter Conference, which



is a great place to present and get feedback on works in progress, especially if you are a graduate student or early-career scholar. Third, I am creating a steering committee to shape the future of the division journal – the International Communication Research Journal. This journal has a long, rich history that many of our members have contributed toward and we need a thoughtful committee to steer its next steps. This will be a two-year commitment and you can read more below about the committee and the nomination process.

I am grateful to all of our great members for your contributions to ICD over the years and look forward to serving you in the year ahead!

Sincerely,



Ruth





Meet a few members of our leadership team

Maha Bashri is Vice Chair of the International Communication Division (AEJMC). She is Associate Professor of Media and Communication at The Africa Institute, Global Studies University in Sharjah, UAE. Her work centers on media, conflict, gender, and digital politics in the global south, with an emphasis on Sudan. She is particularly interested in how marginalized communities produce narrative authority through journalism, activism, and grassroots knowledge. Her recent publication with Carolyn Walcott and Hala Guta, “You’re on your own, baby”: Sudanese women bridging conflict, journalism, j’activism, and media (in)visibility (Media, War & Conflict, 2025 <https://doi.org/10.1177/17506352251344034>), introduces j’activism, a framework that counters the notion of journalistic objectivity as a west-defined norm, especially in conflict reporting. The research traces how Sudanese women blend reporting and activism to confront global media erasure, document violence, and sustain public visibility amidst ongoing conflict.





Tomas Dodds is the Director of the Public Tech Media Lab and an Assistant Professor in Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is also an Affiliated Faculty member at the UW Center for Journalism Ethics and the UW Holtz Center for Science & Technology Studies, as well as a Faculty Associate at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University.

He is also a Research Fellow at the AI, Media & Democracy Lab in the Netherlands. Previously, he was a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) at the University of Amsterdam. His research examines the evolving relationship between journalism and technology, with a focus on how journalists and media organizations can develop open-source tools and artificial intelligence systems that serve the public interest.

As a Teaching Standards Chair for AEJMC's International Division, his work this year will focus on identifying best practices for teaching journalism in the age of AI, and believes that we will soon be engaging with AEJMC members to map how they are fostering innovation in their classrooms and share best practices and case studies that could help us all address urgent pedagogical questions.

His latest publication is "The AI turn in journalism: Disruption, adaptation, and democratic futures," together with Rodrigo Zamith and Seth Lewis. Drawing on four orienting ideas—adoption and hype, power and dependency, audiences and democratic implications, and education and empowerment—we unpack the implications of this AI turn in journalism and the consequences for the future of the journalistic field.





Yiping Xia is an assistant professor at the Department of Communication and Journalism, Texas A&M University. As this year's Research Chair, I will be in charge of programming ICD panels for the 2026 AEJMC conference (together with the Student Competition Chair, Dr. Meagan Doll).

He consider myself a media sociologist interested in the sociotechnical study of journalism and digital media. Using primarily qualitative, interpretive methodologies, he has published research on topics including everyday news engagement, shifting journalistic norms in the digital era, and online political disinformation. Currently he has been working on a book project, tentatively titled "Becoming Audiences: How Everyday Life Shapes News Engagement" based on his fieldwork in the Chinese community in Toronto, Canada.

Born and raised in Shanghai, China, he received his PhD in Mass Communication from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with minors in Sociology and Science and Technology Studies (STS). Prior to joining Texas A&M, I was a postdoctoral research associate at the Center for Information, Technology, and Public Life (CITAP), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Together with a stellar team of colleagues, he recently published an article in Annals of the International Communication Association titled "Unpacking credibility evaluation on digital media: A case for interpretive qualitative approaches." He is proud of this one because not only did they advocate for more attention to qualitative methodologies, but they did so through drawing upon our own research conducted in four different geographical regions across multiple continents (US, Canada, Brazil, UK + Indian & Chinese diasporas) as well. The article can be found at: <https://academic.oup.com/anncom/article/49/3/177/8196286>



Danford Zirugo is an Assistant Professor in the Journalism and Creative Media Department at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. He is also a member of the Journalistic Role Performance Project. His research explores journalistic cultures in the Global South. This involves examining how journalists define their journalistic ideals, conceptualize and perform their roles within post-colonial contexts. As AEJMC's International Communication Division Multimedia Competition Chair, he is responsible for promoting a multimedia contest, mainly by undergraduate students on projects focusing on international coverage. His goal is to help bridge the gap between discipline and the profession. Here is one of his latest publications: **Reconceptualizing Journalists as a Fractured Interpretive Community: Updating the Journalistic Interpretive Community Framework for the 21st Century**. The paper unpacks how journalistic interpretive communities are shaped by cultural context, including factors such as polarization and political structures.



Weile (Wendy) Zhou is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Digital Technology for Democracy Lab, the University of Virginia. As a critical-cultural scholar, she researches the reconfigurations of the digital public sphere and transnational journalism industries in the age of AI and geopolitical turbulence, with a focus on Chinese and American contexts. She is currently developing a book on the community of Chinese transnational journalists, examining their news practices, labor conditions, and career paths amid evolving local-global media hybridity.

Wendy's research has appeared in *The China Journal*, *Asian Journal of Communication*, *Canadian Review of Sociology*, and other journals and edited volumes in communication, journalism, and China studies. Also, she has contributed to nonprofits and media outlets including, but not limited to, *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Financial Times*, *Al Jazeera*, *Foreign Policy*, *Quartz*, the *Global Investi-*



gative Journalism Network, the *Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting*, *Caixin Media*, and others.

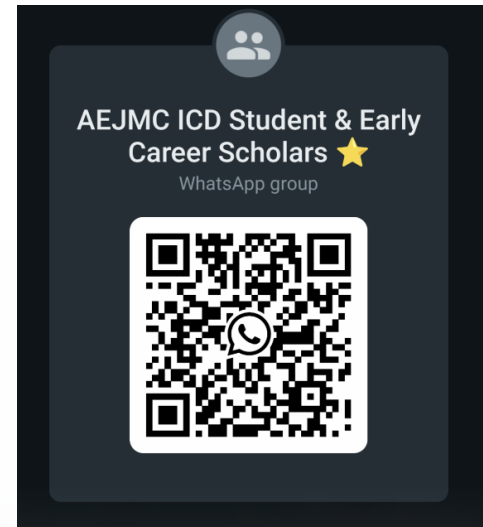
As part of the ICD-at-Home team, Wendy develops and coordinates events and discussions that support the community of international communication scholars on topics such as publishing, job hunting, and community building, with a vision to foster transnational collaboration and inclusive practices in research and teaching.



Students and Early Career Scholars: Join Our WhatsApp Group!

Want to stay up-to-date with the latest ICD GSIC events and news? Join our WhatsApp group! The group is open to junior and early-career scholars. You may join the WhatsApp group by clicking on the link below or scanning the QR code. All announcements will continue to be distributed via ICD social media and list-serv emails.

**Click Here to Join AEJMC ICD Student
& Early Career Scholar Group on WhatsApp**



Announcements

Call for Members: Journal Steering Committee

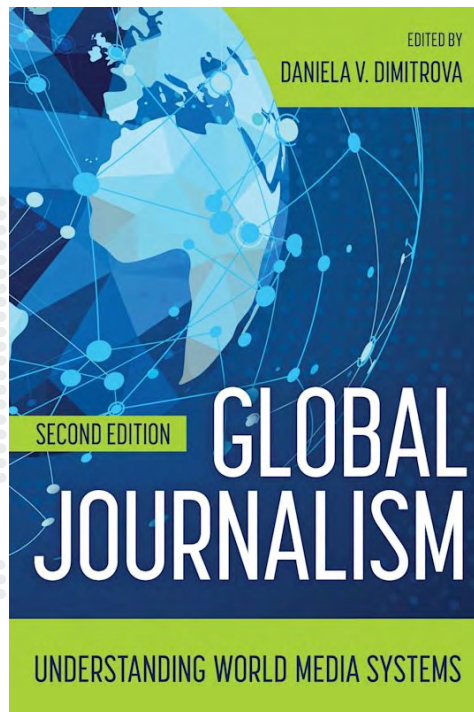
We are creating a steering committee to shape the future of our journal, the International Communication Research Journal. The journal has a long, rich history that many of our members have contributed toward and we need a thoughtful committee to steer its next steps. This will be a two-year commitment to convene and attend ad hoc meetings to identify challenges facing the journal and generate solutions in conversation with the ICD leadership team. First tasks will include formulating and issuing a call for editor candidates. If you are interested, please email Ruth at rmoonmaril@lsu.edu by December 1.

Books

Dimitrova, D. V. (Ed.). (2025).
**Global Journalism: Understanding
world media systems.** Rowman &
Littlefield

Now in its second edition, **Global Journalism: Understanding World Media Systems** provides a comprehensive overview of media developments in all world regions, capturing their unique political, cultural and economic context as well as the role of journalistic factors and technological change

across media industries. With timely case studies, a new chapter on AI, and expanded contributions from leading experts, the book offers a cosmopolitan exploration of media systems presented in an accessible and engaging style. This makes the second edition of **Global Journalism** a valuable resource for students learning about the



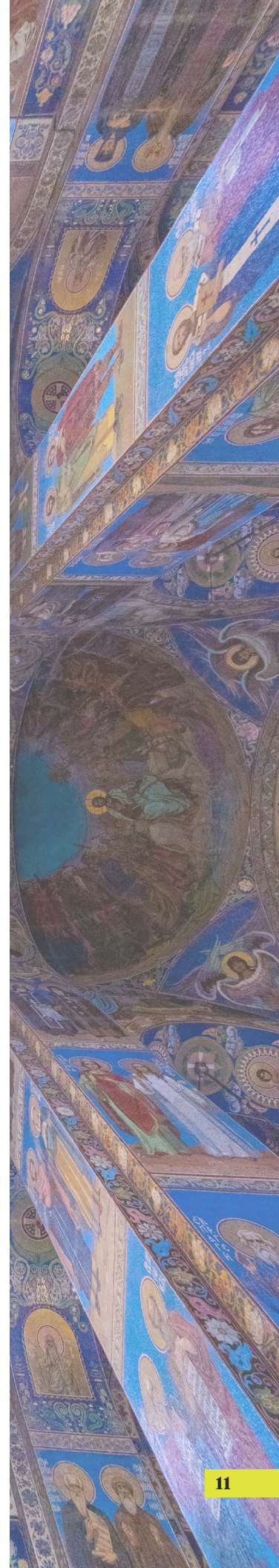
practice, growth and impact of global media. The book is available for adoption now in either print copy or as an e-book. The editor is working on developing a podcast to go along with the key chapters. There is also a dedicated website with instructor resources such as documentaries and in-class activities.

Straubhaar, J., Rai, S., Santillana, M., & Dalben, S. (2025). *Transnational Streaming Television: Reshaping Global Flows and Power*. Taylor & Francis.

Examining the impact of streaming on the global production and flow of television and film, this book provides an innovative theoretical framework to understand how asymmetric dynamics of power play out in the era of streaming. This book analyses Netflix and Amazon Prime Video, two tech-based digital native streamers, and compares them to Disney+ and HBO Max (Warner Bros. Discovery), two legacy Hollywood studios with cable TV and broadcasting operations, now pursuing global streaming. The book compares their different models of operation and specifically explores how these four streamers are co-producing and commissioning television programs and films in an increasing number of countries. It also examines how this trend is creating new opportunities for independent producers and soft power for the producing nations. This book further considers the direct algorithmic targeting of individuals by their genre preferences

across boundaries of culture, language, and nation, boundaries that previously protected national and regional television markets, creating a new flow of data colonialism. At a more local level, the book also examines some of the national and regional streaming platforms emerging in some of the key players in the Global South: Brazil, India, and Mexico.

An essential reading for students, researchers, and academics interested in media, film, and television studies.





Call for Papers

AEJMC Midwinter Conference Call for Paper Abstracts and Panel Proposals

The International Communication Division is delighted to announce that the AEJMC Midwinter Conference Call for Paper Abstracts and Panel Proposals is out! Graduate students and early career scholars are especially encouraged to submit. Please see the attached for more information.

The upcoming 2026 AEJMC Midwinter Conference will be held March 6-7, 2026 at the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma.

Submit an abstract! Paper abstracts should be 600-800 words, excluding author details and references, and submitted to the International Communication Division or one of the other participating divisions or interest groups. Abstracts should give a clear sense of relevant literature, research objectives, methodological approach, stage of research project (conceptual, data gathering, data interpreting), findings and conclusions. Submissions should be submitted online by December 15, 2025, 11:59p Central Time.

ICD submission link: <https://aejmc2.wufoo.com/forms/26-midwinter-conference-intc-research-competition>

Research papers for ICD should be related to international communication, broadly defined. Relevant topics include, but are not limited to, transnational media flows and knowledge production; media landscapes in underrepresented regions or for diasporic populations; media's role in addressing pressing global issues; and crisis communication and conflict reporting.





Please note that all abstracts should be submitted to only one interest group or division. Submitting the same paper abstract to more than one group will result in disqualification and withdrawal from the review process. Abstracts presented at the midwinter conference are also eligible for presentation at the AEJMC national convention in August.

Submit a panel proposal!

We also invite you to submit panel proposals! Please do not submit your panel proposals through the online abstract submission system but send them directly to ICD's 2025/26 Midwinter Chair, Dr. Meagan Doll (dollm@umn.edu). The deadline for panel submissions is also December 15, 2025, 11:59p Central Time.

Panel submissions should include the panel title, a description of the session's focus, the issues to be discussed, and a list of panelists (potential and confirmed), including affiliations. Proposals should not exceed two double-spaced pages.



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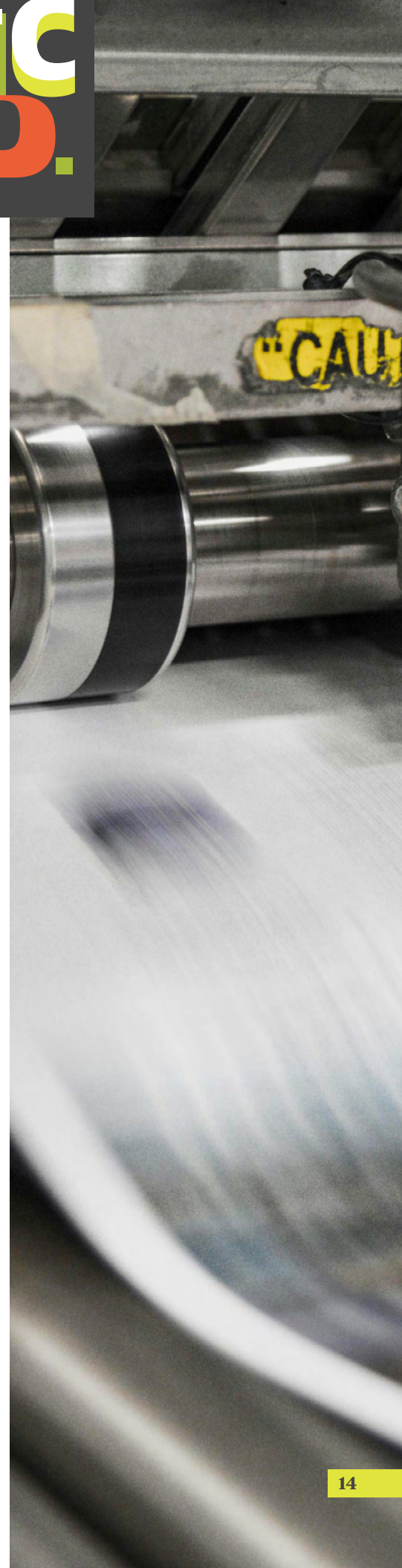
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