

The Standard

From the Desk of the Head

How do we teach our students to engage in media – specifically news media – when we ourselves often feel overwhelmed and traumatized by today’s headlines and sound bites?

Even if we are primarily administrators or researchers, we all feel a responsibility to guide young people, especially those who have chosen to go into the communication field often against the wishes of their family and friends.

Being positive about giving news quizzes might seem inauthentic. Or we might constantly be surrounded by students who gravitate toward us because we are their only instructors who look like them.

Please reach out to fellow CSMN members so you are not doing this emotional, extracurricular work in isolation. Log on to AEJMC’s Community to find folks with whom you can share your frustrations and fears, and sometimes joys and little triumphs.

Connect to people outside your faculty or graduate program. Reach out to the old and new faces you saw in Philly. We are all grappling with the professional and personal turmoil of 2025 – including, or especially, your students.

So back to my original question – how do we teach news media consumption in an era of chaos? Well, this is no time to put our heads in the sand. While the airlines have retired the phrase “put your oxygen mask on first,” that now-clichéd guidance is one answer. If you’ve found an equilibrium – at least, harmony – between consuming and avoiding news, be open about it and explain your behavior to your



Kathleen McElroy, Ph.D.
CSMN Head | University of Texas at Austin

students. Let’s explore alternative ways they can learn craft, stay informed and not fear professions that desperately need them in their pipeline.

Maybe you’d like to join some CSMN members in contributing to this critical line of research through the lens of higher education.

But let’s acknowledge, this ain’t easy. Maybe that’s why I still read the comics every day.



Carolyn Walcott, Ph.D.
CSMN Vice Head
Clayton State University

Recapping 2024 Philly

By Kathleen McElroy, Ph.D., UT Austin
Head, Commission on the Status of Minorities



Participants in CSMN's first abstract panels

The 2024 AEJMC Conference in Philadelphia was full of rain as well as fountains of insight as the Commission on the Status of Minorities helped sponsor nine panels, including its first research call for faculty and student abstracts. The conference was spread out over the Philadelphia Downtown Marriott, which, in addition to its restaurants and gathering spaces, is right across the street from the vast Reading Terminal Market.

The Commission held two abstract sessions during one research panel: "Empowering the Silent: Effective Communication in the 21st Century" and "Documenting the challenges marginalized communities face using various platforms," the second featuring top paper winners among faculty and students. Members and participants deemed the inaugural sessions a success because of the instant feedback, plus the commitment to stay in touch with researchers.

The eight other sessions were divided between teaching and PF&R, and all focused on the commission's advocacy for underrepresented communities.

Two sessions were co-sponsored with the Commission on the Status of Women and another two were with the LGBTQ Interest Group. CSMN also worked with the Minorities and Communication Division (MAC), with whom it has a long-standing relationship, as well as the Public Relations Division, Scholastic Division and History Division. The topics ranged from "Lest We Forget: History and Inclusivity Are Fundamental" to "Teaching with Intersectional Inclusivity in an AI Age."

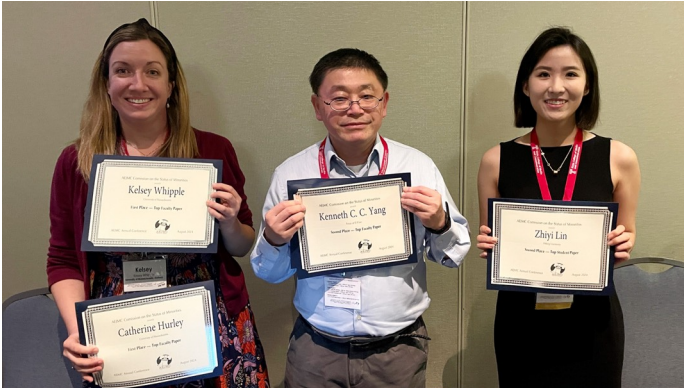
Of course, we bonded with CSMN members at other panels and sessions and turned restaurant meals into impromptu research brainstorms, appropriately enough. Also we celebrated our members who received honors, including Dr. Dorothy Bland, the AEJMC-wide 2024 Lionel C. Barrow Award recipient.

The rain in Philly never dampened our spirits but fueled our sense of community.



**Dorothy Bland receiving Barrow Award from
AEJMC President Linda Aldoory**

Recapping 2024 Philly



Applications are now open

For The 2025 Lionel C. Barrow Jr. Award for Distinguished Achievement in Diversity Research and Education

The Lionel C. Barrow Jr. Award for Distinguished Achievement in Diversity Research and Education recognizes outstanding individual accomplishment and leadership in diversity efforts for underrepresented groups by race and ethnicity in Journalism and Mass Communication.

One of the prestigious honors within the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC), the Barrow Award for Distinguished Achievement is jointly supported by the Commission on the Status of Minorities (CSMN) and the Minorities and Communication (MAC) Division.

The late Dr. Lionel (Lee) C. Barrow Jr. was a longtime AEJMC member who provided leadership and guidance during his many years of service. In 1968, Dr. Barrow founded the Ad Hoc Committee on Minority Education in an effort to recruit, train and place minorities in communications. In 1970, he founded and became the acting head of the Minorities and Communication Division. The Communication Theory and Methodology Division renamed its diversity scholarship for him in 1997, the same year he received the AEJMC Presidential Award for his contributions. In 2005, he was recognized with one of AEJMC's highest honors, the Distinguished Service Award, for his outstanding service in promoting diversity within the association and the discipline.

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Dr. Lionel C. Barrow Jr.

jointly supported by the Commission on the Status of Minorities (CSMN) and the Minorities and Communication (MAC) Division.

This award honors Dr. Barrow's lasting impact and recognizes others who are making their mark in diversifying Journalism and Mass Communication education. The Lionel C. Barrow Jr. Award will be presented during the 2025 AEJMC annual conference in San Francisco.

Judging Criteria

Barrow finalists are judged by their outstanding contributions in two of the three following areas: (1) a sustained record over time of publication on racial and ethnic minorities in journalism and mass communication; and/or (2) a sustained record over time of contribution to teaching and service of racial and ethnic minorities in journalism and mass communication; and/or (3) the publication of an impactful book on racial and ethnic minorities in journalism and mass communication.

Lionel C. Barrow Jr. Award

Applications are due Thursday, April 15 2025

Application packets should contain the following:

1. Applicant's personal statement of no more than 350 words describing the "big picture" of their research or of their teaching/service, including personal philosophies and/or outcomes. A nomination based on an impactful book should briefly share the story behind the book and how it came to be.

2. A three-page CV outlining specific information pertinent to the application.

3. Two letters of support from AEJMC members, with at least one explicitly naming the applicant's specific area of contributions.

4. Additional materials, which might include (but are not limited to) abstracts of research findings; professional papers and published

articles (no more than five total); text of a speech delivered or prepared for delivery; course outlines, innovative teaching tools or teaching evaluations; or other recognition pertaining to the applicant.

The entire application packet should be combined into **one .pdf file** and be no longer than **15 pages** (including additional materials).

Applications should be emailed to kathleen.mcelroy@austin.utexas.edu by **April 15, 2025**. Questions can be directed to Dr. Kathleen McElroy, chair of the Commission on the Status of Minorities.

Applicants do NOT have to wait to be nominated by an AEJMC member to apply but must include two letters of support from AEJMC members in their packets.

Call for Reviewers

The Commission on the Status of Minorities is seeking reviewers to evaluate research paper abstracts for the AEJMC 2025 conference "Leading in Times of Momentous Change," which will take place on August 7-10 at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis.

If you are interested, please email CarolynWalcott@clayton.edu by **March 10, 2025**. As your Vice Head, along with the CSM Head, we thoroughly enjoyed seeing you all last summer in Philly, and look forward to meeting again in San Francisco this August.

AEJMC Midwinter Conference

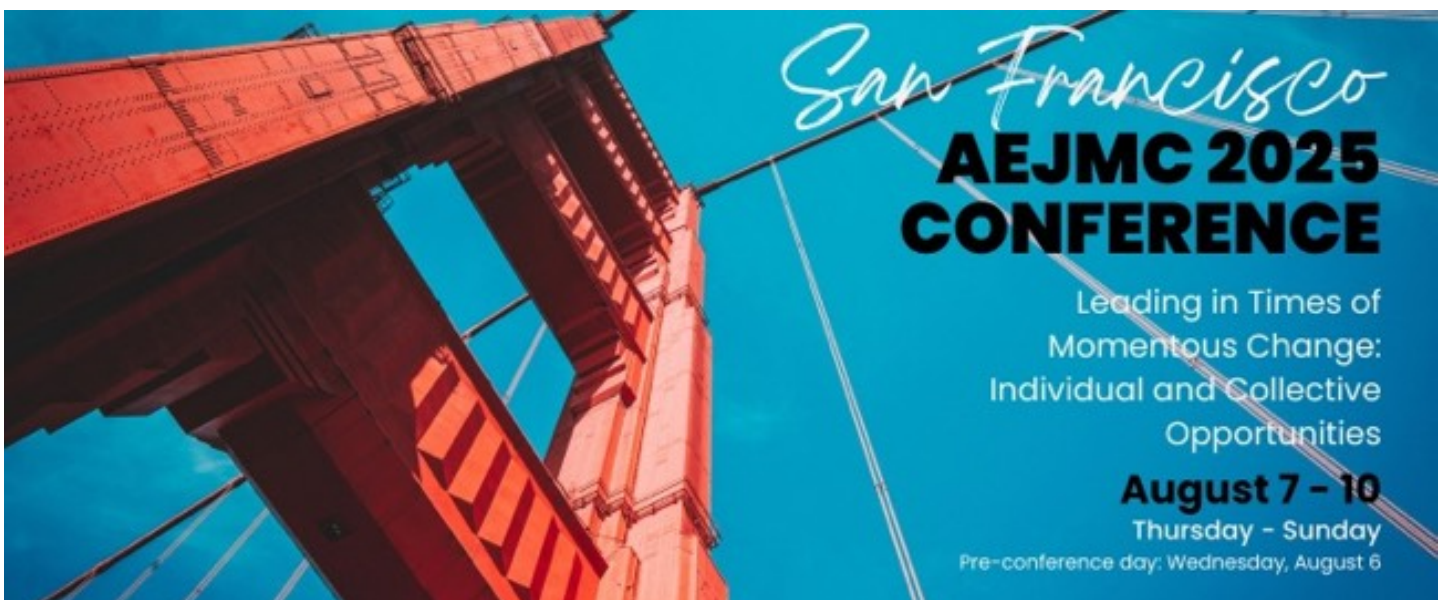
By Carolyn Walcott, Ph.D., Clayton State University
Vice Head, Commission on the Status of Minorities

CMSN's Carolyn Walcott, along with Professors Dorothy Bland, Uche Onyebadi, and grad student Eiman Elsayy, will present at this year's midwinter conference at the University of Oklahoma. The panel, Understanding How to Navigate the US University System: What International Students Need to Know, is aimed at engaging undergraduate and graduate international students, and providing them with tools to traverse the university system where they pursue their educational goals. The panel comes at a critical juncture when many international students find themselves in an uncharted political dispensation that requires awareness of salient undercurrent issues including the maintenance of their immigration status, academic committee formation, course/degree requirements, and the role of advisors.



Professor Dorothy Bland will also present the abstract "Celebrity Influencers and Young Adult Perceptions of the 'One Pill Kills' Anti-Fentanyl Campaign," in produced in collaboration with Professors Gwen Nisbett and Mia Moody, plus the grad students Eiman Elsayy and Harmony Thomas.

AEJMC Midwinter Conference will be held March 7-8 at the University of Oklahoma.



Preparing For San Francisco

CSMN Panels: AEJMC 2025 in brief

By Carolyn Walcott, Ph.D., Clayton State University
Vice Head, Commission on the Status of Minorities

The CSMN will sponsor and co-sponsor over 6 panels at the 2025 AEJMC convention in San Francisco, California. Sponsored panels include *Positionality, Authenticity, and Visibility in Academia: Owning your Research Agenda as a Minority Scholar* and *¿Quiénes somos ahora? (Who are we now?): Latino Representation in U.S. Mainstream Media*. The Commission will also sponsor the 2025 HBCU Educators Roundtable.

The sponsored panel on positionality will highlight the significance of research that is intentional, authentic, and collaborative, while centering visibility in the discourse on the current state and future of media and communication scholarship.

This year, the Commission will also co-sponsor a breaking panel, *Finding the Calm (in Yourself) at the Center of the Storm (in the World)* as an important platform to help faculty navigate the current tumultuous political environment. The panel will be moderated by Dr. Bey-Ling Sha of Texas Tech University. Featured panelists include Dr. Mia Moody, Professor in the College of Communication at Baylor University, and Vice President of AEJMC.

The Commission will also team up with Divisional Interest Groups and other Commissions to cosponsor panels, including *Feminist manifestos and critical transformations for media and journalism and*



Leadership, Identity, and Representation: The Kamala Harris Phenomenon in the context of the 2024 elections.

Other panels scheduled for AEJMC 2025 are *Rewriting Artificial Intelligence to address deficiencies in media coverage of violence against women*; *Joy as Resistance: Finding Happiness and Purpose in Academia When DEI is Under Fire*; *Intersections of Race, Gender, Caste, Dis/Ability and Immigrant Identities in Mediated Discourses: Representations of Minoritized Newsmakers in National and International Scenarios*; *Representation Matters: Strategies for Elevating Authentic Voices in News Media*; *Leaving Leadership: Why, When and How*; *Feminist manifestos and critical transformations for media and journalism.*

Preparing For San Francisco

CSMN Call for Extended Abstracts

The purpose of the Commission on the Status of Minorities is to advocate for the improvement of the status of minorities in journalism and mass communication. We define minorities as members of historically marginalized and/or underrepresented groups.

In this research competition for the Commission, we seek to advance scholars who research minorities yet need additional publication mentorship. We invite **extended abstracts** of original research on two topics that reflect the commission's mission: (1) advocating for and communicating social issues and (2) intersectionality and/or the theoretical and practical evolution of the term.

Research in these two areas might include but are not limited to the news industry's coverage of antitransgender and antiDEI legislation; Covid19 and mis/disinformation on members of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, the evolution of the term "intersectionality" in journals and trade publications; and media representations of racial diversity and current sociopolitical issues. The CSMN also welcomes papers on teaching or pedagogy related to communicating social issues and intersectionality.

Papers should include appropriate introductions, literature reviews, methodologies, findings and discussions. Only one paper per primary (first) author will be sent out for review. Papers must only be submitted to one interest group, commission or division.

The selected extended abstracts on communicating social issues will be presented in scholar to scholar format. The selected extended abstracts on intersectionality will be presented in poster form.

Formatting: The extended abstracts must be at least 750 words long, but no more than **1,500 words**, excluding any references, tables, or figures. They must include a reference list. The reference list and summary are not included in the word count.

Authors must include the words "Extended Abstract" at the start of their paper title (e.g., "Extended Abstract: [Your paper title]"). Authors should clearly indicate the same on the title page of their submission.

Extended abstracts should follow the most recent Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, have 1 inch margins, and use 12 point Times New Roman font. The extended abstract must include an abstract/summary of no more than 75 words. The title should be on the first page, with page numbers and running heads on each page of text. All papers must be submitted in PDF format through the AEJMC's ALL ACADEMIC website to the Commission of the Status of Minorities by **April 1, 2025**.

Questions? Please contact the CSMN Vice Head, Carolyn Walcott, at carolynwalcott@clayton.edu or Head, Kathleen McElroy, Ph.D., at kathleen.mcelroy@austin.utexas.edu.

Tips for Tenure-Track AEJMC Scholars in the Current Socio-Political Climate

By Mia Moody, Ph.D., Baylor University
AEJMC Vice President

As the chair of a department and vice president of AEJMC, I have recently been asked for advice about navigating the current political climate when seeking tenure as a faculty member who writes about DEI topics. Based on these meetings, I thought it might be worthwhile to write an article sharing some of the tips and ideas I have shared with them.

First, be proactive rather than reactive. Actively look for solutions, and don't let fear consume you. Use your knowledge and experience to create a plan for achieving work-life balance. If you are in leadership, try to help others figure out what these changes mean for them.

The first item on the agenda should be to talk to your dean, director, and chair (direct report) to determine what the current sociopolitical climate might mean for your career. Will you still be able to "earn" tenure if your research emphasizes DEI? If you believe the answer is no, think about how you can reframe your topic to still write about it and get published.

You may also talk with your tenure committee about publishing in journals outside the scope of your tenure guidelines that focus specifically on race and ethnicity. Journals like these are found in Ethnic Studies, American Studies, and other disciplines.

Seek mentorship within and outside the university: Identify mentors with expertise in

DEI and tenure processes. They can help you navigate challenges and emphasize your DEI contributions in tenure applications. Build a professional network outside your university. Attend conferences and professional Meetings to engage with colleagues who specialize in can, foster collaboration, and provide support in navigating tenure processes.

Remember, you are more than you research.

Evaluate your service to the department, university, and discipline. Don't be afraid to highlight your research, teaching, and service contributions. Document all contributions and regularly update your vitae. Emphasize these achievements in your tenure dossier, demonstrating how they align with the university's objectives.

Remain marketable. Your research skills can be utilized in other capacities and careers. Have a backup plan and be willing and able to pivot.

Lastly, continue to advocate for change and help find solutions with faculty members: Participate in university committees or initiatives that promote DEI to seek solutions. Engaging within your institution can elevate the importance of DEI work and influence tenure policies.

Please plan to attend to get more information on how to stay calm during this storm.

Finding the Calm (in Yourself) at the Center of the Storm (in the World)

CSMN Research Panel. Possible co-sponsors: PRD, MAC, CSW, CSM, CLGBT, CGE.

Session Description: As environmental contexts shift rapidly, scholarly endeavors once deemed an expected source of stress for tenure-seeking faculty now take on additional dimensions that challenge the research enterprise, creating new uncertainties and provoking more profound anxieties. From the loss of access to research spaces caused by climate change and loss of funding sources due to shifting government priorities to AI impacts on internal validity and participants' fear of research participation undercutting external validity — communication scholars from all backgrounds and using all methods of inquiry must re-interrogate how to accomplish their research agendas while staying true to themselves. This panel of administrative leaders will offer suggestions for keeping calm, staying focused, earning tenure, and smoothing pathways for each other even as we plan career alternatives for ourselves.

Updates and Accomplishments from our community

- **Dr. Dorothy Bland**, a journalism professor at the University of North Texas, earned the Southwest Education Council for Journalism and Mass Communication Top Faculty Paper Award for her paper titled, "Leveraging Transformative Experiences from the Online News Association Women's Leadership Accelerator Program." She presented the paper at the SWECJMC Conference in October 2024 at Texas State University in Round Rock.
- Professors **Suman Mishra**, **Mia Moody**, and **Rosalynn Vasquez** published the article "*Black-owned business and passionate brand publics: A netnography of The Honey Pot Company PR crisis*" in the Public Relations Review journal, first issue of 2025.

This study provides a deeper understanding of why brand publics engage in passionate discourse on social media by analyzing 2463 comments posted in response to an Instagram video statement shared by the Black founder and CEO of the Honey Pot Company during a 2022 crisis. Findings reveal four drivers of passion: product-based, identity-based, historical trauma-based, and accountability-based.

- The Department of Strategic Communication at the Texas Christian University (TCU) invites applications for two full-time tenure-track assistant professor positions in strategic communication to begin in August 2025. Send an email to **Dr. Penny Kwon** e.kwon@tcu.edu for more information.

Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Studies

Special Issue: Knowledges of Emancipation: Narratives of Resistance and the Amplification of Global Majority Voices

We are excited to announce the publication of the special issue "Knowledges of Emancipation: Narratives of Resistance and the Amplification of Global Majority Voices" in the Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Studies (Q1).

This issue brings together scholars whose work explores the intersections of colonial power, resistance, and healing, introducing the concept of tectonic intimacies, a framework that captures the dynamics of violence, survival, and transformation in knowledge production.

This special issue was guest edited by Maha Bashri (United Arab Emirates University) and Youmna Deiri (Texas A&M International University).

Read the full issue here:

<https://www.ejecs.org/index.php/JECS/issue/view/44>

Why This Issue Matters

At a time when the voices of the Global Majority are often marginalized, this special issue centers the lived experiences, epistemologies, and narratives of resistance that challenge colonial structures of knowledge production.

We invite our community to engage with these vital contributions and help amplify the critical conversations they foster.



Featured Scholars

This special issue includes contributions from:

- Tanja Burkhard (Georgia State University)
- Kasun Gajasinghe (Michigan State University)
- Rimun Murad (Temple University)
- Noha Mellor (University of Sharjah)
- Shaima Muhammad Shehneh (Independent Scholar)
- Nimo Mohamed Abdi, Dinorah Sánchez Izoa, and Kalia Vue, Ph.D. (The Ohio State University)
- Thais Council, LeAnna Luney, Amica Snow, Haley Brents, and Tiffany Clark (University of Kentucky)
- Robin Brandehoff (University of Colorado, Denver)
- Carolyn Walcott, Ph.D. (Clayton State University)
- Sherita Flake and Rebecca Lubin, Ed.D., CSM® (American University)
- Lorenzo Dalvit (Rhodes University)
- Elizabeth Mendoza, Adria Padilla-Chávez, Beatriz Salazar Medina, and A. Susan Jurow (University of Colorado, Boulder)

San Francisco AEJMC 2025 CONFERENCE

Leading in Times of
Momentous Change:
Individual and Collective
Opportunities

Also joining AEJMC



Details: <https://wjec.info/>



August 7 - 10

Thursday - Sunday

Pre-conference day: Wednesday, August 6

Paper Call

Submission deadline: April 1

convention2.allacademic.com/one/aejmc/aejmc25

Early Registration Rates (until July 15)

\$285 (Regular, Associate) • \$175 (Student, Retiree)

Hotel

San Francisco Marriott Marquis

780 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 15

community.aejmc.org/conference/home

San Francisco Marriott Marquis