

The Standard

The Road Travelled and Still Ahead

From the Desk of the Head

In October 2025, I took up the mantle of Chair for the AEJMC Commission on the Status of Minorities. Two years earlier, I was invited to serve as Newsletter Editor, a role I thoroughly enjoyed, while working under the leadership of Dr. Kathleen McElroy and later becoming her Vice-Head. Kudos to the current Newsletter Editor, Silvia DalBen Furtado, for doing an excellent job. It is an absolute pleasure working with Kathleen and the entire CSMN executive. In this edition, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on our key accomplishments in 2025, while highlighting some upcoming activities.

My transition to the leadership of the Commission coincided with significant shifts in the political landscape, which created a ripple effect across the academy. As the Commission continues to advocate for minority voices, we acknowledge the turbulent times we are living in, but we remain resolute in teaching, scholarship, and service that centers the experiences of our multifaceted faculty and students, and illustrates access, equity and inclusion beyond the halls of our campuses.

We were particularly happy to host student research presentations at the AEJMC Convention held in San Francisco, California in August, and anticipate another fruitful collaboration in Louisiana in August 2026. AEJMC conventions provide a space for us to reconnect, rest and mentor students as they navigate the job market.

The Commission is also thrilled by the ongoing work of our members, including



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

Dorothy Bland and Mia Moody-Ramirez, who continue to blaze the trail through their scholarship and service.

As we enter the spring semester, I wish everyone a productive New Year, and hope to see some of you at the Southeast Colloquium in Tampa, Florida. Please make plans to attend this year's convention from August 5-8 in New Orleans, where we expect everyone to have both academic and culturally stimulating experiences. We also welcome your expertise as reviewers for this year's convention in New Orleans, and ask that you submit your name to our Vice-Head and Research Chair, Dr. Maria De Moya at mdemoya@utk.edu.

Here's to a safe and healthy 2026.

Recapping AEJMC 2025

Advancing Equity, Representation, and Professional Freedom

By Dr. Carolyn Walcott, Clayton State University
Head, Commission on the Status of Minorities

In alignment with its mission to promote equity, inclusion, and the professional advancement of historically marginalized scholars and practitioners, the Commission on the Status of Minorities (CSMN) played a substantive and visible role at the 2025 AEJMC Annual Conference in San Francisco. Through a coordinated slate of research, professional freedom and responsibility, and professional development sessions, CSMN advanced its strategic goals of amplifying marginalized voices, fostering inclusive scholarship, and addressing structural inequities within media industries and academic institutions.

CSMN-sponsored and co-sponsored research programming reflected the **Commission's commitment to scholarship** that interrogates power, representation, and access. Panels centered intersectional and global perspectives, including analyses of algorithmic bias and artificial intelligence in media systems, mediated representations of race, gender, caste, dis/ability, and immigrant identities, and Global South and diasporic communication practices. These sessions advanced CSMN's goal of supporting research that challenges dominant paradigms and contributes to more equitable and ethical media scholarship.

Consistent with CSMN's mandate to uphold professional freedom and responsibility, the Commission supported several PF&R sessions addressing the contemporary realities faced by scholars, educators, and journalists—particularly those from marginalized communities. Sessions such as Joy as Resistance: Finding Happiness and Purpose in Academia When DEI Is Under Fire and Representation Matters: Strategies for Elevating Authentic Voices in News Media directly engaged questions of academic freedom,



Rafael Matos, Kathleen McElroy, Carolyn Walcott, Uche Onyebadi, and Vera Walker Hawkins

institutional accountability, and ethical media practice, reinforcing CSMN's advocacy role within AEJMC.

CSMN programming at AEJMC 2025 also advanced the Commission's strategic priority of mentorship, leadership development, and career sustainability. Panels including Leaving Leadership: Why, When and How and Positionality, Authenticity, and Visibility in Academia: Owning Your Research Agenda as a Minority Scholar centered the lived experiences of minority scholars and women of color in leadership, addressing barriers to advancement, the importance of agency, and the value of intergenerational mentorship and collaboration.

Through its 2025 conference activities, CSMN reaffirmed its role as a critical institutional advocate within AEJMC, providing intellectual leadership, community-building spaces, and policy-relevant dialogue that advance the status of minorities in journalism and mass communication. The Commission's work at AEJMC 2025 reflects its ongoing commitment to **equity-centered research, professional freedom, inclusive leadership, and sustained advocacy** in service of a more just and representative field.

Recapping AEJMC 2025



AEJMC Board of Directors



Dr. Bey-Ling Sha and Dr. Teresa Mastin



Dr. George Daniels



Dr. Paula Poindexter and Dr. Lillie Fears



Dr. Teresa Mastin and Dr. Jessica Retis

Recapping AEJMC 2025



Dr. Jessica Retis, recipient of the 2025 Lionel C. Barrow Jr. Award



Dr. Mia Moody-Ramirez, Dr. Kathleen McElroy, and Dr. Bey-Ling Sha



Vera Walker Hawkins, Rafael Matos, Kathleen McElroy, Carolyn Walcott, David Kurpius, Earnest Perry, Uche Onyebadi



Emilia Edwards, Jennifer Castillo Cortes, Alejandro Hernandez, and Rui Li



Recipients of paper awards presented by the Minorities and Communication Division



Dr. Gina Massulo, Dr. Paula Poindexter, and Silvia DalBen Furtado

Applications are now open

For The 2026 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.



Dr. Lionel C. Barrow Jr.

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.

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 2026 AEJMC annual conference in New Orleans.

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 Friday, May 1, 2026

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).

Entries should be emailed to Dr. Rafael Matos, head of the Minorities in Communication (MAC) Division, at rafael.matos@northwestern.edu by 11:59 p.m. EDT on May 1, 2026. Please make sure to reference the Barrow Award in your subject line.

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 2026 conference "Jazz & Jambalaya: Nurturing Harmony and Health in Higher Education," which will take place on August 5-9 at the New Orleans Marriott.

If you are interested, please email Dr. Maria de Moya [mdemoyat@utk.edu] by **March 25, 2026**. As your Vice Head, along with the CSMN Head, we thoroughly enjoyed seeing you in San Francisco, and look forward to meeting you again in New Orleans this Summer.

Call for Papers

Preparing for AEJMC Conference in New Orleans

The Commission on the Status of Minorities (CSMN) invites submissions for the 2026 AEJMC conference aligned with the commission's mission 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, with an emphasis on communities in the United States.

We are especially interested in work that is interdisciplinary; has an intersectional focus; explores the experiences of differently abled mass communications students, practitioners, scholars or communities; investigates efforts led by minoritized groups; and/or researchers advocacy on social issues affecting these groups.

Authors can submit up to two papers or research in progress to the commission, as lead or coauthor. If an author submits more than two papers, all their submitted works will be excluded from consideration. The CSMN welcomes submissions in two formats:

Full Papers: Original, unpublished research related to CSMN's focus. All methodological approaches are welcome. Your work should not be under review in any other AEJMC division or commission, academic conference or publication.

Full Paper Format: Papers cannot exceed 25 pages (doublespaced) in length, excluding abstract, tables and references.

Research-in-Progress: To support scholars who research minoritized groups and are seeking guidance for their work, we invite submissions of research in progress in that reflect the commission's mission. Submissions should be developed enough to allow peers to provide feedback on the purpose, methodology and theoretical grounding on the research-in-progress. The expectation for research-in-progress is that if accepted, you will be able to present findings (even if partial or preliminary) at the AEJMC conference.

Your research-in-progress submission must include: a brief literature review (including your theoretical framework); research questions, hypothesis or purpose statement; methods section; expected or preliminary findings; timeline for data collection and analysis; references.

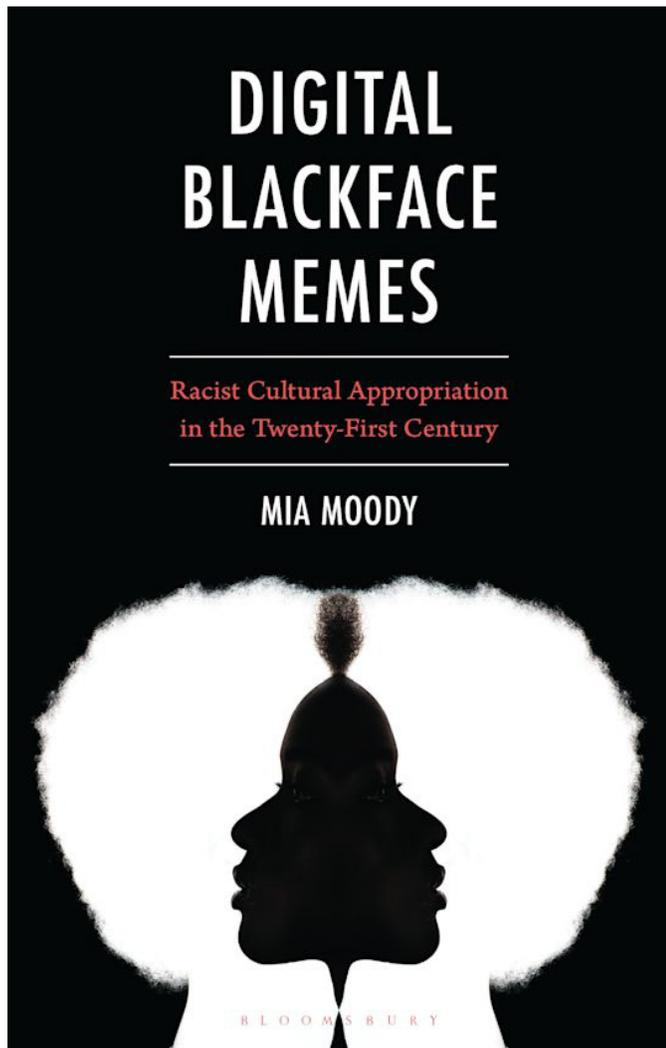
Research-in-Progress Format: Papers should be between 3-5 pages long, excluding abstract, tables and references.

Both full papers and research-in-progress are expected to follow all the submission guidelines of the AEJMC uniform paper call. You must use Arial or Times New Roman font, 12-point, double-spaced and one-inch margins. Manuscripts must follow APA Style for in-text citations and references.

Questions? Please contact the CSMN Vice Head, Dr. Maria De Moya, at mdemoyat@utk.edu or Head, Carolyn Walcott, at carolynwalcott@clayton.edu.

Digital Blackface Memes

Racist Cultural Appropriation in the Twenty-First Century



Assuming Black identities online, a growing number of non-Black individuals have embraced memes, AI imagery, and social media to spread racial stereotyping and cultural appropriation.

In her new book, Mia Moody investigates the persistence and evolution of digital blackface and the commodification of Black identity in online spaces, offering insights through Critical Technocultural Discourse Analysis (CTDA), intersectionality, and framing theory.

Drawing on historical contexts steeped in the tradition of Frederick Douglass, W. E. B. Du Bois, Zora Neale Hurston, and Stuart Hall, Moody examines the evolution of blackface representations from minstrel shows and children's media to TikTok trends, AI-generated personas, and political memes. The book reveals how race, gender, class, and sexuality intersect in the performance and perception of Blackness in the digital age.

Published by Bloomsbury Publishing, the book will be released in November 2026, and it is already available for [pre-order](#).

Congratulations, Dorothy!

The [Dow Jones News Fund](#) announced in November Dr. Dorothy M. Bland as the recipient of the 2025 Richard J. Levine Journalism Champion Award.

Shirley Carswell, executive director of the News Fund, said, "We are proud to recognize Dorothy, who is a prime example of the huge impact one person can have." Laura J. Downey, a former colleague of Bland's who is now executive editor at WebMD Magazine, said: "Her efforts have strengthened the pathway for students from historically underrepresented groups to enter the profession."



AEJMC

2026 CONFERENCE



AUG

5-8

**AUGUST 5-8 | NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
(PRE-CONFERENCE DAY IS AUGUST 4)**

**JAZZ & JAMBALAYA: NURTURING HARMONY
AND HEALTH IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

Early Conference Registration Begins April 22

- Regular, Associate Rate: \$295.00
- Student, Retiree Rate: \$185.00

New Orleans Marriott Hotel

555 Canal Street | New Orleans, LA 70130

Paper Competition Deadline: April 1, at 11:59 p.m. CDT.

www.aejmc.org/aejmc-events/conference

