

Hidden Curriculum

AEJMC Commission on Graduate Education

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Shaping Future Scholars



Jodi McFarland Friedman presenting her research in a poster session at 2023 AEJMC conference in Washington, D.C.

Graduate Student Instructors Spotlight Lesson Plans, Teaching Strategies

Several AEJMC groups will honor and highlight educators ahead of the 2024 AEJMC Conference and during conference sessions in Philadelphia. On February 6, AEJMC held “Bring Your Classroom to #AEJMC24: How to Submit Pedagogy Research, Teaching Briefs, and GIFTS” - a virtual panel on submitting proposals to these sessions. The panel featured leaders from several AEJMC groups: AEJMC Standing Committee on Teaching, Commission on Graduate Education (CSGE), History Division, Public Relations Division, Scholastic Journalism Division, and the Small Programs Interest Group.

Dr. Tiffany Gallicano, from the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, represented the AEJMC Standing Committee on Teaching. She said these teaching competitions and panels benefit members and their classrooms.

“It really reflects your commitment to your students and this is a really fun way to engage with your colleagues and we all get to help each other out,” Gallicano said.

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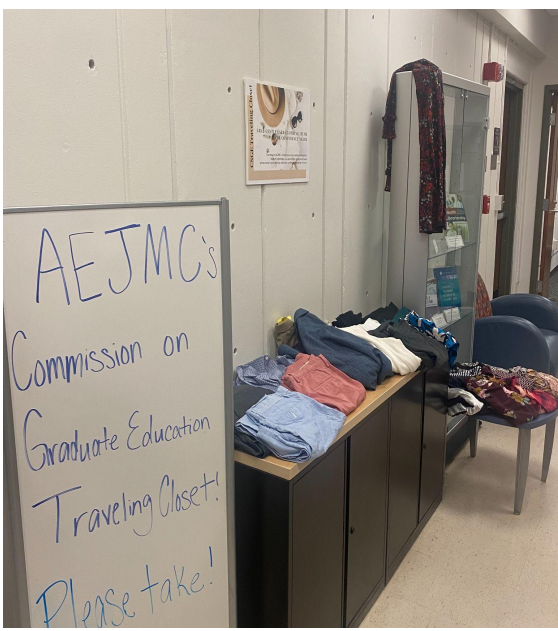
Navigating Academic Conferences: From Paper to Poster Presentation Success

By Jodi McFarland Friedman, CSGE Communications Co-Chair

So you’ve been invited to present your research paper as part of a poster session at an academic conference like the 2024 AEJMC Conference in Philadelphia. That’s great, but now what? Here are some tips to help you prepare to share your work in an eye-catching way.

- Pay close attention to size guidelines. You want your poster to fit the board to which you’ll be affixing it. No need to fill the board, but getting about 75% of the way there is a good choice — visually and for your budget.
- Use the design tool that’s most comfortable for you. A PowerPoint slide, a Canva page ... no one knows what tool you used, so now is not the time to stress yourself out and try something unfamiliar. What matters is the results!
- Speaking of design... don’t crowd the poster with too much to read. Bold title, a tight abstract, a few key findings, and some visuals and color. White space is a design choice!

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The CSGE Traveling Closet at the 2024 AEJMC Southeast Colloquium at University of Kentucky and the 2024 AEJMC Midwinter Conference at Oklahoma University, where members can pick up professional clothing items for free.

CSGE Chair Patrick Johnson serving on an AEJMC methods panel with Lindsey Sherrill, Mary Bock, Ingrid Bachmann, and Dinfin Mulupi on Aug. 9, 2023. Photo Credit: Lindsey Sherrill (X/Twitter)

The Art of Not Apologizing

By Dr. Patrick R. Johnson, CSGE Chair

I've spent a lot of time the past four years apologizing.

Sometimes my apology is couched in gratitude, hoping a scholar I've contacted isn't too busy for a quick chat. Other times, my apology is linked to time – fearing I just couldn't get to something as immediate as I assume someone needs it. My apologies are tied to feeling like I didn't understand a question correctly that was posed to me on a panel or in a presentation. I apologize for not knowing.

Yet, I've noticed many others, especially those more established than me, who are not apologizing.

I don't mean this as a negative either. I see it as an act of confidence. They don't feel the need to apologize because, ultimately, there isn't anything to apologize for; the things I felt the need to apologize for weren't wrongs.

Thus, I've learned the art of not apologizing, and I hope other graduate students who read this not do as well. Because apologizing for being present, apologizing for trying, or apologizing for not knowing aren't reasons to feel at fault. They're reasons to feel empowered. To apologize limits our space and place. To apologize takes away our advocacy. To apologize rids us of our personal acceptance.

The art of not apologizing is recognizing that we are valid, our questions are purposeful, our time is valuable, and our inquiry is necessary. When we learn to accept these things, pushing back on the notion that we do not belong (pesky imposter syndrome) or that our presence is not worthy.

The more we accept that these types of apologies – the ones linked to our personhood – are unnecessary, the more we can provide ourselves with the space to grow. And then, we can find ways to make space for us to chart our paths in academia.

As we enter into the spring, when conference and class papers are due, please be sure to take time for yourself and make space not to apologize. It is so worth it.

About the Author

Dr. Patrick R. Johnson is an assistant professor of journalism and director of student media at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. His work focuses on the intersection of news literacy, journalism practice and education, and ethics. Patrick also spends much of his time exploring the knowledge production and representation of LGBTQ people in journalism and mass communication.

Navigating Academic Conferences: From Paper to Poster Presentation Success

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- Hey — include your name on there and your instructional affiliation! You want it to be an ad for you even if you step away. If you are comfortable with sharing, let people know how to get in touch with you - e-mail, LinkedIn, social media accounts, etc.
- The point of a poster is threefold: one, to lure passersby into great conversations with you about your work; two, to tell them enough to foreground those chats; and three, maybe, to hang in your office someday.
- Speaking of great chats... prepare to exchange contact information with your new scholarly friends —



- have business cards if you like that tangibility, bring paper and pen to go super-old school, or look at business card apps to make them digital. Other posters have QR codes that link back to the presenter's professional website and CV.
- Are you flying to the conference? You can order a poster that is folded, is cloth (lightweight and easy to pack), or rolled.
- Spring for a tube with a strap if you're planning to carry a rolled-up poster on — know the tube is the most awkward option when navigating overhead bins. And hey, maybe this is not the last time you will present a poster. That tube and handle are reusable!

- You can ask the flight attendant to stow it at the front of the plane.
- Shop around: Some university printing centers may be a great choice for producing your poster, but don't assume they are the cheapest. Office supply stores are another choice, and online options abound. I used PosterNerd and was satisfied.
- And lastly, don't dally. The faster you need this shipped, the more you will pay! Hop on it and have this checked off your to-do list.

About the Author

Jodi McFarland Friedman is a practical/applied skills journalism educator and scholar of media, gender and race, focusing on gaze, voice, and power. She is a fourth-year doctoral candidate at the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism.

Graduate Student Instructors Spotlight Lesson Plans, Teaching Strategies

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Dr. Bailey Dick from Bowling Green State University, represented the History Division. She talked about how she finds inspiration from teaching panels at the conference.

“The panel is always a hoot, usually it's towards the end of the conference and everybody's like having a good time by then,” said Dick. “And I have stolen shamelessly lots of ideas from this (panel). Just little bits and pieces here and there. So super fun.”

Even though the deadline has passed for teaching proposals for other divisions and groups, the Commission on Graduate Education is still accepting teaching abstracts for its inaugural Graduate Teaching Showcase. This event will spotlight the innovation and creativity of graduate student instructors, offering a platform to share classic and unconventional teaching methods and strategies not typically found in traditional college classrooms.

The deadline is May 1.

CSGE recognizes that there is no universal approach to teaching and learning. The goal of this teaching showcase is to highlight novel and inclusive teaching approaches that cater to students from diverse backgrounds and experiences. Briana Trifiro serves as the CSGE Teaching Chair. During last February's virtual panel, she pointed out that the teaching showcase is an opportunity to get constructive feedback on ideas that have not been tested in a classroom.

“One of the goals of the Graduate Student Showcase is collaborative in nature, seeking feedback and ideas. So absolutely this can be something you've tried and it didn't really work incredibly well and you're looking for feedback on how to approve. Or it can be something completely brand new,” said Trifiro during the panel.

Accepted applicants will have the opportunity to showcase their lesson plans and assignments at the 2024 AEJMC Conference. Presentations will be interactive, engaging the audience and allowing ample time for Q&A. We welcome a wide range of demo submissions, from lab assignments to experiential learning activities—let your creativity shine!

Whether you're a seasoned instructor or just starting, this showcase is a valuable chance to learn from your peers and share your teaching experiences. For those anticipating entering the job market, this is a golden opportunity to showcase your teaching skills to potential employers. Think of it as a dress rehearsal for future teaching demos—plus, you'll receive invaluable feedback from fellow educators.



Bring Your Classroom to #AEJMC24: How to Submit Pedagogy Research, Teaching Briefs, and GIFTs on Feb. 6, 2024: (left to right) Tiffany Gallicano, Bailey Dick, and Briana Trifiro.

Ready to submit? Here is what we need to see for your 400-word teaching showcase proposal:

- Demonstrate the relevance to teaching and learning in higher education
- Identify clear learning outcomes and goals
- Appeal to an interdisciplinary audience (subject areas may include news writing, content production, digital journalism, media literacy, research methods, media ethics/law, artificial intelligence, big data, computational methods, and more).

Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated on the following criteria:

- Clarity of the proposal abstract, including key takeaways and audience interaction component
- Topic relevancy that can appeal to instructors of all experience levels

“One of the goals of the Graduate Student Showcase is collaborative in nature, seeking feedback and ideas.”

- Briana Trifiro, CSGE Teaching Chair

- Presents practical methods and techniques that others can use and apply
- Provides evidence of successful outcomes or lessons learned

Please submit proposals to CSGE teaching chair Briana Trifiro via email by May 1, 2024.

If you have questions or would like to discuss your ideas before submitting, please contact Briana Trifiro, Teaching Chair for the Graduate Education Commission (btrifiro@bu.edu)

Authors will be notified of their acceptance into the Graduate Teaching Showcase by May 20.

Notification will come from the CSGE Teaching Chair.



Now Presenting: Your Research Study at Conference

By Nisha Sridharan, CSGE Research Chair

Presenting a research study at an academic conference is a pivotal moment in the study's lifecycle. Now that you have submitted your great research work to the AEJMC conference, it is now time to think about how to effectively communicate over 20 pages of research in less than 20 minutes. The presentation is an opportunity to share your findings, connect with other scholars, and engage in stimulating discussions. Here's a step-by-step guide to help you prepare and deliver a successful presentation.

Understand the Purpose and Audience
Every presentation should be tailored to its audience and the conference's theme. Whether it's a full paper or a poster presentation, understanding what your audience expects and what the conference aims to achieve is crucial. Remember to tailor your presentation to the division the research was accepted to and highlight your research findings that align with them.

Draft and Condense Your Presentation
Distill your research into key points. Most presentations are time-bound, with up to 15 minutes available to you. Therefore, it is prudent that you focus on the core findings, methodologies, and implications. Remember, what reads well on paper might only sometimes translate effectively into spoken words.

Visuals Matter
While PowerPoint and slides are common in research presentations, use visual aids that captivate your audience. Start by picking an engaging presentation template that aligns well with your topic. As long as it is relevant to the study, you can make this as fun as you want. Always remember to make it easily accessible, visually appealing, and not cluttered with too much information. Visuals should reinforce your spoken word, not replace it.

Engage with the Audience
A memorable presentation is interactive. Ask questions, invite opinions, and instigate knowledge. However, it is all in the balance. A research presentation is focused on showcasing your work and findings. Use interesting anecdotes and thought-provoking questions that help your audience better engage with your research findings.

Handling Q&A Sessions
Prepare for potential questions by anticipating what your audience might ask. This is not something to stress out too much, though. You are the primary expert of your research paper. Make sure you have a clear understanding of your methods, theory, and findings. Being well-prepared for this section can significantly enhance the credibility of your research.

Networking Opportunities
Conferences are not just about presenting; they're also about building connections. Engage with other researchers, exchange ideas, and explore collaborative opportunities. Keep your contact information handy to connect with researchers who have questions after your presentation. Follow up with them after the conference to maintain your network, if possible.

Reflect and Act on Feedback
Conferences are the best arena to present research and receive feedback from a myriad of scholars with varying expertise. Take detailed notes on your presentation's feedback and reflect on them afterward. Use it constructively to refine your research or presentation skills for future opportunities.

Lastly, remember to enjoy the process. Presenting at a conference is a significant achievement and a step forward in your academic journey. The goal is to engage with the research community, and by embracing the experience, you can deliver a presentation that stands out and sparks meaningful conversations.

About the Author

Kris Vera-Phillips is a Ph.D. candidate at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University, where she teaches news producing and multimedia skills classes. Her research agenda explores identity, representation, and power in news media and popular culture.

CSGE: News Roundup

By Kris Vera-Phillips,
CSGE Communications Co-Chair

AEJMC members answered this year's call for papers with a record-breaking number of submissions. The national organization shared on X/Twitter that it received 2,252 submissions. Last year, AEJMC saw 1,976 submissions.

Here's the 2023 breakdown:

- Total Extended Abstracts Submitted — 684
- Total Full Papers Submitted — 1,295
- Total Submissions Accepted — 980
- Faculty/Student Submissions — 545
- Student Only Submissions — 435
- Competition Acceptance Rate — 49.51%

As we wait for the decisions on our AEJMC paper and abstract submissions, I wanted to share a couple of articles that are relevant to graduate students who are doing research and teaching classes.

[Student Journalists Saving Local News](#)
Student journalists from Iowa made headlines by purchasing two local newspapers, rescuing them from closure. The acquisition not only saved jobs but also preserved vital community journalism. With this unique move, the student-led group is now at the helm of two newspapers, demonstrating the power of grassroots efforts in sustaining local news. How many student news organizations and universities can follow in their footsteps?

[Out of the Box: When Memes Can Teach](#)
In this episode of "Course Stories," students explore the intersection of writing and digital platforms, navigating the principles and techniques essential for effective online communication. From crafting compelling narratives to mastering the art of SEO optimization, Arizona State multimedia instructor Bonnie Chapman explains how her students gain practical skills tailored to the digital landscape.

[Good Idea? Bad Idea? Teacher uses AI to Plant "Trojan Horse"](#)
On TikTok, an English language teacher from Toronto shares her strategy for finding essays produced by artificial intelligence (AI). By using the smallest script possible and white font, the teacher plants a hidden prompt into her writing assignments. When students copy and paste the prompt into something like ChatGPT, they end up with an assignment that includes the hidden prompts. "Since no plagiarism detector is 100% accurate, this method is one of the few ways we can locate concrete evidence and extend our help to students who need guidance with AI," said the educator in her video. So, would you do this with writing assignments in your class?

About the Author

Nisha Sridharan is a Ph.D. candidate at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University. Her research focuses on the role of media and journalism in society, including areas of community journalism, diversity and inclusion of marginalized groups, and organizational communication.



2024 CSGE CALL FOR REVIEWERS

REVIEWERS WANTED

- Give back to your peers!
- Share and grow your knowledge
- Review unto others as you would have them review unto you (looking at you #2)
- Add a line to your CV

The manuscript addresses a timely and important topic ...

Reviewer 1

What if you started over, except this time you surveyed dogs?

Reviewer 2

Nicely structured. Here are some suggestions

Reviewer 3

Best paper ever!

Calling all graduate students passionate about shaping the future of academic discourse!

As part of our ongoing commitment to fostering collaboration and excellence in research, we invite you to join us as a reviewer for CSGE paper submissions for the AEJMC 2024 Conference.

By signing up to be a reviewer, you'll have the opportunity to contribute to the advancement of knowledge in our field while gaining valuable experience that will enhance your academic portfolio. Your insights and feedback will directly impact the scholarly community and help shape the trajectory of research in your area of interest.

To get started, simply fill out this [form](#). Then, we will match you with papers that align with your interests and expertise. Your commitment to this important task is deeply appreciated, and we thank you in advance for your service to the Commission on Graduate Education Commission.

Thank you for your time, dedication, and invaluable feedback.

To strengthen our CSGE community and tailor our resources and events to your preferences, your input is invaluable. We're eager to showcase your accomplishments across our social media channels and newsletters. By participating in our CSGE survey, you'll help us gain insights into your backgrounds, endeavors, and methodologies, including your research strategies and self-care practices. Additionally, we encourage you to share your thoughts on how we can enhance our support and programming to better serve you and our student community. Have ideas for future CSGE initiatives? We're all ears!

Access the [survey](#) by scanning the QR code below. Thank you for your contribution!

We look forward to hearing from you!



CSGE Survey

you're invited: get involved with the

Commission on Graduate Education

VOLUNTEER ON COMMITTEES

Make your CV look even better!

RUB SHOULDERS AT CONFERENCES

Make contacts who become collaborators

LOG INTO VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Boost your savvy and gain inspo

USE CONFERENCE AMENITIES

"Shop" the Traveling Closet, eat/hang in our grad lounge

WANT TO KNOW MORE? EMAIL [KIMI.CONRO@COLOSTATE.EDU](mailto:kimi.conro@colostate.edu)

