



# HIDDEN CURRICULUM

AEJMC COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF GRADUATE EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 3

*in this issue*

- LETTER FROM HEAD ... 01
- INITIATIVES UPDATE ... 02
- ETHICS 101 ... 03
- GUIDE TO DC ... 04
- RESEARCH NOTE ... 05
- AEJMC23 PANELS ... 06

DO YOU HAVE A STORY YOU WANT TOLD, AN IDEA THAT YOU WANT TO EXPLORE, OR ARE CURIOUS ABOUT SOMETHING IN ACADEMIA OR AEJMC THAT JUST DOESN'T SEEM TO BE FULLY EXPLAINED? IF SO, PLEASE REACH OUT TO OUR COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR TO EITHER SUGGEST AN ARTICLE FOR THE NEWSLETTER OR VOLUNTEER TO WRITE ONE YOURSELF. WE WOULD LOVE TO FEATURE MORE VOICES.  
KATE STEWART:  
KATESTEWARTPR@GMAIL.COM

*leadership*

- HEAD | PATRICK R. JOHNSON
- VICE-HEAD | BOBBIE FOSTER
- RESEARCH | NISHA SRIDHARAN
- TEACHING | BRIANA TRIFIRO
- PF&R | KIMI CONRO
- COMMS | KATE STEWART



The Commission on Graduate Education (CSGE) wants to make an impact at our debut AEJMC conference. While we've spent years as an interest group, the shift to a commission affords us so many new opportunities that we can't help but say that this is our new beginning. And we're coming in hot.

This newsletter issue will serve multiple purposes: let you know about the summer virtual content we've got coming, highlight the programming we're offering at the conference, and reflect on teaching and PF&R programs the CSGE has hosted since our last newsletter. I will also use this note to explain how we intend to make our impact.

We see our role as a commission to be advocates for the student membership of AEJMC. In this first year of establishing the CSGE, we believed what we were doing was about equality. We felt we wanted nothing more than to be seen on par with our established colleagues; we saw ourselves as being outside the fishbowl looking in. To quote my female embodiment, Elle Woods: "We did it!" This year, we are equal thanks to an organizational vote and the building of new bylaws. But that's not enough, and that's not what we've seen our mission as being.

The CSGE is here to achieve equity.

As you'll see in vice-head Bobbie Foster's article, we are working to find places to elevate students in a way that achieves equitable outcomes, not just equal representation. This includes our new Travel Closet, the Student Lounge, and the Graduate Student Luncheon. We also are introducing the Graduate Student Research Showcase, which will bring

together top student work from all DIGs into one place to highlight strengths in topic, method, and means.

Moving forward, you will see equity and inclusion at the core of our virtual programs and conference planning. We intend to move away from what we traditionally did as an interest group and move toward workshops and programs that give students a greater leg up on their futures. Expect to see significant changes to our research programming in particular.

Some inside baseball: when you are an interest group, you have fewer capabilities to schedule programming at the conference. As a commission, we nearly tripled our capacity. This means, and you'll see it in this newsletter, more panels and research paper programs attached to our name.

*Continued on page 3*



*Patrick R. Johnson, Iowa*

# EXCITING INITIATIVES COMING FOR OUR AEJMC 2023 CONFERENCE PROGRAMMING

The semester has ended, and we now look to preparations for the August 2023 AEJMC conference in Washington, D.C. I am excited to announce some new initiatives developed by the Commission on the Status of Graduate Education (CSGE) that will debut in D.C. Many of these initiatives started as “Could we possibly next year” pitches, but thanks to the support CSGE has received from both its members and AEJMC leadership, we were able to establish these programs for the upcoming conference.

First, the conference will feature a Student Lounge, similar to the space provided in Detroit during the 2022 conference; CSGE has secured a location on the 2nd floor of the hotel that does not require a keycard to enter. That space will be set up for students to relax, practice presentations, and socialize during the conference.

In addition to the Student Lounge, I am proud to announce the creation of the CSGE Traveling Closet. The Traveling Closet is where students can grab gently-used clothing for conference needs. Conferencing is expensive, and so we wanted a way to help supplement the cost and stress of purchasing conference-only clothing. It will be located in the Student Lounge, and donations will be accepted at the registration desk.

For those interested in donating, we seek clothing items that can be worn at conference programs (including those for Midwinter and Southeast Colloquium). This could include but is not limited to, button-up shirts, blouses, blazers, pants, dresses, and ties. A form will be provided to sign up for proof of donation.

Initiatives like the CSGE Traveling Closet are vital to our new role as a commission centered on advocacy for students at AEJMC.

In our new capacity as a commission rather than an interest group, we have made room in our programming to highlight excellent student work submitted across DIGs and Commissions for AEJMC.

I can not tell you how excited we were to see an increase in student submissions across the board, and we did not want the hard work of many to go unnoticed. Our poster session will therefore feature student-only papers from all DIGs and Commissions this August, not just our submissions.

Finally, graduate students are better served by attending socials other DIGs, Commissions, and schools hold. So rather than hold a competing social, we have created a graduate student luncheon. We will honor student award winners during the luncheon and highlight student accomplishments. The luncheon will help kick off the conference. It will also provide a great space to find a conference buddy for anyone attending solo or seeking other student collaborators. The cost to attend the luncheon is \$5.

We are very excited about the changes we have made in preparation for Washington, D.C. We can develop initiatives like the ones listed here because of the feedback and support our members provide. Keep an eye on upcoming newsletters and programming during the summer to help students prep for the conference.



*Gobbie Foster, Maryland*



**REGISTER TO ATTEND OUR FIRST LUNCHEON. IT COSTS \$5 AND  
WILL BE A PLACE TO CONNECT AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS.  
MONDAY, AUGUST 7!**

*Don't Forget!*



*Chair message, continued from page 1*

Research chair Nisha Sridharan will share in this newsletter what our three research paper panels look like and highlights what's included in our top paper session during #AEJMC23.

We see this elevation to a commission meaning we get to provide more advocacy, which is why we've put on four virtual programs since January.

Beyond the teaching and PF&R panels chairs Briana Trifiro and Kimi Conro will review in the newsletter, we also hosted a joint-panel session with the AEJMC Standing Committee on Research on mentorship and our first "Sip &" event. The "Sip &" series is meant to be a place where grad students can socialize comfortably while learning about different elements of the academic process—true to our Hidden Curriculum newsletter name. The first "Sip &" event focused on submitting for the AEJMC conference. The upcoming summer "Sip &" event will workshop conference presentations and posters.

This issue also includes a Guide to DC, written by our communication chair Kate Stewart. I want to also congratulate her on her new job as a tenure-track assistant professor of Public Relations at Jacksonville State University in Alabama! She's been so critical in establishing the branding strategy of the CSGE; JSU is getting exceptional talent!

Lastly, if you are interested in becoming a leader in CSGE for next year (23/24), please reach out to me. We want to further build our research, teaching, PF&R, and comms teams. At a minimum, we will search for new communication and PF&R chairs.

Cheers, PRJ

## ETHICS 101 VIRTUAL PANEL AND Q&A

TEACHING

[CLICK HERE TO  
WATCH THE PANEL  
RECORDING.](#)



PANELIST  
KATE STEWART, USC



PANELIST  
RYAN THOMAS, WSU



PANELIST  
AZETA HATEF,  
EMERSON COLLEGE



PANELIST  
JULIANNE NEWTON,  
OREGON

## ETHICS 101: HOW ETHICS MEETS PEDAGOGY

Ethical decision-making happens every day, in small and big ways. When we are tasked as instructors to either teach a full semester-long class about media ethics or we know we need to implement ethical thinking training into our other course subjects, that goal can feel daunting to build into the classroom.

At our March CSGE/MED Zoom panel about pedagogical approaches to teaching ethics, our wise panelists from across the nation offered diverse perspectives, each drawing on differing backgrounds in media.

One of my biggest takeaways from the panel was to be real: be my human honest self and show my students how I have personally worked through ethical dilemmas in my everyday career. I need to do this by showing not just my big moments but my smaller decisions as well.

In journalism, ethical decision-making emerges not just as "Did I take a bribe for a story" or "Did I make up a quote." Ethical decision-making begins the moment I

receive a story assignment, and I need to consider how to include diverse voices in my stories and also in trying to discern the power structures at play above me and around me as I report.

As far as classroom practice goes, my biggest takeaway came from several panelists who suggested having each class co-create with me each semester a class manifesto where we work together to define how we will all show up for and honor each other in conversation. Then when these conversations become heated, and there are too many dominant voices in the room, we can pull that manifesto out and remind each other how we should support each other through these important yet emotionally charged conversations.

We want to thank our fabulous panelists for sharing their time and insight during our March CSGE/MED panel: Kate Stewart (USC), Ryan Thomas (WSU), Azeta Hatef (Emerson), and Julianne Newton (Oregon).



*Rhema Zetter, Colorado Mesa University*



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# HEADED TO AEJMC23? HERE'S OUR GUIDE TO WASHINGTON D.C.

Welcome to the Capital of the United States of America!

Washington D.C. is filled with historical, famous monuments and museums but there are so many fun facts about the nation's capital that you might not know! DC's metro is the second busiest subway system in the US and DC gets more rain than Seattle. Also, all roads in the city lead to the Capitol Building, and the Library of Congress is the largest library in the world. I could go on and on with fun facts but if fun facts interest you, we suggest taking a [Old Town Trolley Tour](#).

## MUSEUMS, MONUMENTS, AND SIGHTS:

- \* [Old Post Office Tower](#), Intersection of 12 Ave and Pennsylvania Ave NW - open daily 9am-4pm (free)
- \* [Capitol Hill Books](#), 657 C Street SE - a cozy, bilevel shop featuring floor-to-ceiling stacks of secondhand books, including first editions.
- \* [The National Mall](#), Between Constitution & Independence Ave. SW - The long, grassy National Mall is home to iconic monuments including the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. At the eastern end is the domed U.S. Capitol, and the White House is to the north. The National Mall is also home to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, National World War II Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, FDR Memorial, and more so we hope you take some time to walk around.
- \* [Smithsonian Museums](#) - History, science, art, and culture come alive at these free DC museums.

## GRAB A QUICK BITE:

- \* [Bar Pilar](#), 1833 14th St NW - This Hemingway-themed bar and restaurant is a great place for brunch, lunch, or dinner with cocktails inspired by Hemingway's travels. We suggest the hangover cure for brunch and the nitro espresso martinis with truffle beef tartare for an afternoon pick-me-up.
- \* [District Chophouse](#), 509 7th Street - Perfect place for steakhouse classics and house-brewed ales.
- \* [Dolce Vita](#), 1610 14th Street NW - Mediterranean cuisine concept highlighting Spain, Morocco, Italy & Greece.
- \* [St. Anselm DC](#), 1250 5th Street, N.E - Grilled fare, great ingredients, funky wines, and cocktails great for dinner any night of the week.
- \* [South Block](#), Many locations and close to the conference hotel - Handcrafted acai bowls, smoothies, and cold pressed juices.



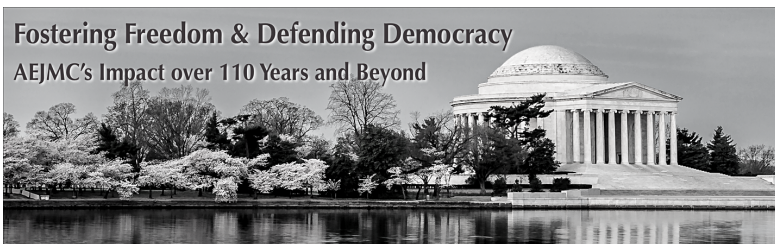
- \* [Pearl's Bagels](#), 1017 7th St NW - THE bagel place before starting your conference day, daily fresh bagels, bagel sandwiches, various spreads, sides and espresso that is 1 block from the Marriott.
- \* [Petite Cerise](#), 1027 7th ST NW - 1 block from the conference hotel where you can get the most delicious food and drinks for breakfast, brunch, lunch, happy hour, dinner or dessert!
- \* [Opal](#), 5534 Connecticut Avenue NW - open for lunch and dinner all week and weekend long serving up fresh, seasonal coastal cuisine source sustainably.

## HELPFUL INFO:

- \* Conference Hotel - Marriott Marquis Washington, D.C.  
901 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC, USA, 20001 • 855-821-4281
- \* Washington D.C. Weather - <https://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lat=38.89690017700195&lon=-77.02584075927734>
- \* Washington D.C. Tourism Website - <https://washington.org/>
- \* AEJMC23 Program - <https://community.aejmc.org/conference/schedule/program>

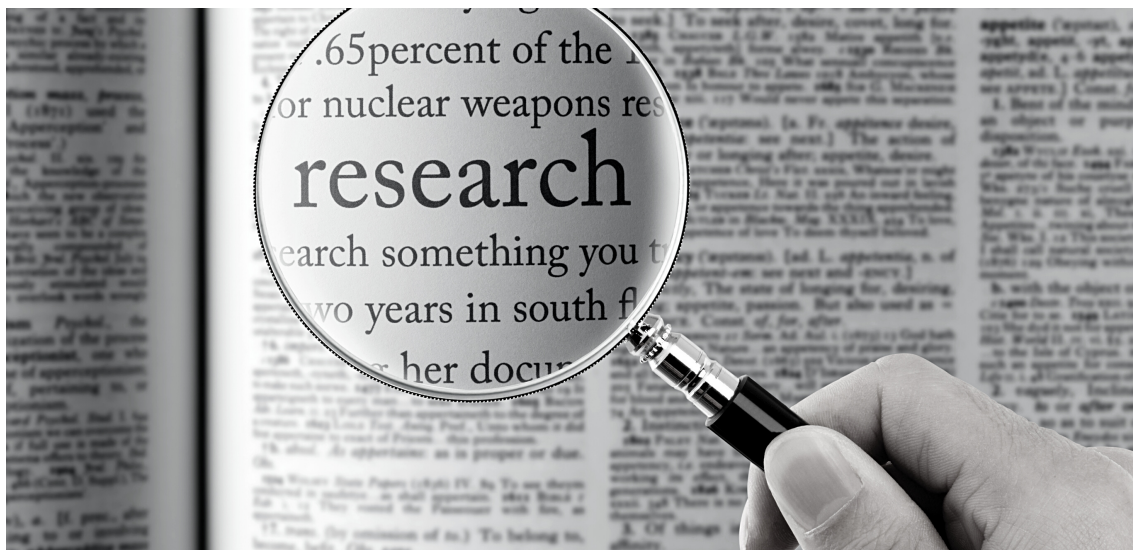
We can't wait to see you at the 106th Annual Conference in Washington D.C., August 7-10, 2023! #AEJMC23

Fostering Freedom & Defending Democracy  
AEJMC's Impact over 110 Years and Beyond



Kate Stewart  
University of South Carolina





## CSGE RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE CONFERENCE

As we approach the 2023 AEJMC Conference in Washington, D.C., we are excited for our first showcase as a commission. We have a 46% acceptance rate on our submissions this year, with eight full papers and four extended abstracts to be presented over three panels.

Our Top Paper Panel presentation will take place on Wednesday, August 9, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The panel will showcase four brilliant papers, including our Guido Stempel top student paper award-winning paper on “They Leave Out All the Side Effects”: Gracie Gold and Coverage of Athlete Mental Health” by Carolina Velloso and Shannon Scovel from the University of Maryland. The University of Florida Ph.D. student Chris DeFelice bagged the second top paper award for his paper, “Expanding the Borders of Escapism: A Conceptual Framework for Escapism in Mass Communication and Beyond Turn on screen reader support.”

Our first research panel for the conference will be on Tuesday, August 8, from 10:30 a.m. to Noon featuring four papers on Digital Media and Effects. The presentation includes various topics, including How Nonprofit Beneficiaries Elicit Empathy in Program Videos, Media effects of online and news games, and knowledge acquisition from Media. Our final research panel of the conference will include four papers inquiring about the Global Media Landscape, featuring studies about media in China, Egypt, and the U.S.

Along with these wonderful research panels, the Commission on Graduate Education is introducing The Graduate Student Research Showcase. The Graduate Student Research Showcase is a poster session that will celebrate the top work of graduate students across the divisions, interest groups, and commissions of AEJMC. Over 250 student papers were submitted to the graduate-student-only paper competitions across the conference. We wanted to ensure that graduate student work gets highlighted and promoted as much as possible. The brand new Graduate Student Research Showcase will be a poster session with over 30 research studies presented on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, from 8:30 to 10 a.m.

We are excited about our debut as a commission this year in Washington, D.C.! We will also host a “Sip&” event to workshop presentations and posters before the conference!

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge our amazing reviewers for presenting timely and sound reviews. Our research committee efforts would be impossible without them! As a commission, we look forward to all the amazing graduate student presentations and panels. We will be cheering you all on!



*Nisha Gadhara, Arizona State*

## CONFERENCE RESEARCH PANEL

Conducting International Research: Experiences from African and Latin American  
Ph.D. Students and Professors

**Co-sponsor:** INTC

This panel will explore the opportunities and challenges of conducting international research, focusing on the experiences of professors and doctoral students conducting research in Africa and Latin America.

Panelists will discuss a variety of questions including, but not limited to, possibilities for decolonizing media studies through international research, potential challenges of comparative and cross-cultural research, tips on how to handle time and financial constraints, as well as procedural and situational ethical concerns for those interested in studying African and Latin American contexts. The goal is also to create a space for dialogue and collaboration among students and professors interested in international research.

**Moderator:** Raiana Soraia De Carvalho, Syracuse University

**Panelists:** Marialina Antolini, Michigan State  
Maria Celeste Wagner, University of Florida  
Benjamin Tetteh, Syracuse University  
Nana Kwame Osei Fordjour, University of Maryland

## CONFERENCE TEACHING AND PF&R PANELS

### Graduate Student and Early Career Professional Development and Network Building Panel

**Co-sponsor:** Advertising

This interactive panel aims to bring together graduate students and early career scholars and to provide them with the professional skills needed for their academic careers. The panel allows graduate students and early career scholars to learn from senior scholars' and their peers' insights and experiences in their field of study. Topics may include managing your advisors, dealing with imposter syndrome, writing research proposals, preparing for prelims, navigating the job market (industry and academia), teaching (your first) class, advising students, and creating an online presence, to name a few. The idea is to create a safe, interactive space that will allow graduate students and early career scholars to gain hands-on tips they could apply immediately.

**Moderator:** Eunjin (Anna) Kim, University of Southern California

**Panelists:**

Linwan Wu, University of South Carolina  
Weilu Zhang, University of Kentucky  
Mohammed Ademo, University of Maryland, College Park  
Vy Luong, University of Missouri  
Nisha Sridharan, Arizona State University

### Teaching for Social Justice: Theory & Practice

**Co-sponsor:** LGBT

This interactive panel will equip attendees with theoretical and practical foundations for teaching social justice. Panelists will center knowledge production from within and in collaboration with social movements and organizations. Engaging a critical lens, the panelists will address the intersections of race, gender, class, and sexual orientation. They will cover approaches to course design, lesson plans, and mentorship with a social-justice mindset.

**Moderator:** Marisa Holmes, Rutgers University

**Panelists:**

Bobbie Foster, University of Maryland, College Park  
Sohana Nasrin, University of Tampa  
Meredith Clark, Northeastern University  
Minjie Li, University of Tennessee, Knoxville



Conference  
August 7-10  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
#AEJMC23

### Now, I'm #viral – Examining Safety, Privacy, and Professionalization for Graduate Students on the Front Lines of Media.

**Co-sponsor:** Media Ethics

In our contemporary media society, graduate students go #viral while in residence. Their voices are finding the global, daily news cycle through social media, podcasts, op-eds, and talk radio. With newfound notoriety comes unexpected, harsh realities. However, few are prepared for the intense media scrutiny and its accompanying life intrusion. This panel convenes a cross-sectional group of public-facing, renowned faculty – well-versed in the blessing and burden of the spotlight. Through dialogue and Q&A, they will unpack the modern landscape of safety, privacy, and professionalization for Grad students emerging as public personas. Attendees will hear first-person accounts, discuss proactive strategies, and receive of-the-moment tips to navigate the chaos better – personally and professionally.

**Moderator:** Raegan L. Burden, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

**Panelists:**

Daniel Kreiss, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
E. Ciszek, University of Texas, Austin  
Jasmine McNealy, University of Florida  
Moni Basu, University of Georgia

### What I Wish I'd Known: Maximizing Your Time as a Graduate Research/Teaching Assistant

Whether your graduate assistant position is based on research, teaching, or something else, this panel offers "hidden curriculum" tips and guidance for graduate students at all stages of their program and assistantship positions. This panel of incoming faculty fresh off the job market, early career scholars, and industry PhDs will provide an experienced take on best practices for navigating these various graduate positions, including topics related to work/life balance during grad school, maximizing mentorship and networking through your position(s), advocating for the professional development and work/research experience you need, and translating and leveraging your assistantship work experience into both academic and non-academic job markets. Panelists will also offer their top pieces of advice for graduate students who are new to these positions.

**Moderator:** Kimi Conro, Colorado State University

**Panelists:**

Nicholas Eng, University of Georgia  
Christen Buckley, University of Florida  
Kelsey Prena, Boston University  
Samuel M. Tham, Colorado State University  
Meredith Drosback, Deputy Director for Science, SciLine (American Association for the Advancement of Science)  
Carlina DiRusso, Research Manager, Ketchum