

Participatory Journalism

(FALL 2022)



Message from our chair

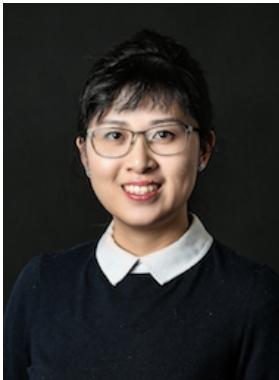
Dear Members,

Welcome to the Participatory Journalism Interest Group. We are a group of scholars and educators who are dedicated to growing the engagement and participation of the public in the production, distribution, consumption, and evaluation of journalism. The public has participated in journalism through various practices, such as participatory or engaged journalism, citizen journalism, community-centered journalism, direct service journalism, social media engagement, crowdsourcing, and collaborations between journalists and community organizations or influencers. Those forms of participation are further intertwined with and complicated by technological advancements, diversity representation, and legal and ethical concerns, which deserve multidisciplinary attention and examination.

We strive to build a community where you share, learn, and assess the latest trends and issues concerning participatory journalism through regular newsletters, panel discussions, research competitions, pre-conference workshops, professional development opportunities, and award recognitions. To stay in touch with the community news, you may engage with our social media posts, read and respond to our email listserv inquiries, subscribe to the newsletters, and check in periodically on the AEJMC community platform. To grow the community, we count on your contribution—announcing your latest publication and teaching innovations in our newsletters, proposing panel ideas, volunteering to review research papers, and voting on critical matters at our annual meetings. As a community, we make every effort to build a more reciprocal, equitable, and accountable relationship between journalism and diverse publics, and for the future of journalism and journalism education.

You Li, Ph.D.
Head of PJIG
Associate Professor of Journalism
Eastern Michigan University

Meet Our Officers

**Head**

You Li

Eastern Michigan U

You Li is an associate professor of journalism at Eastern Michigan University. Her research focuses on the integration of new editorial and business practices in journalism, such as the rise of native advertising and participatory culture, and their impact on journalistic autonomy and boundaries. Her recent research examines the roles of journalism and journalists in covering the COVID-19 pandemic and the integration of journalistic storytelling into data science in undergraduate education. She received her master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Missouri. Before joining academia, she worked in the newsrooms of Shanghai, Columbia, and New York City.

Andrea Wenzel is an assistant professor at Temple University. She is the author of *Community-Centered Journalism: Engaging People, Exploring Solutions, and Building Trust* (University of Illinois Press, 2020). She co-founded the Germantown Info Hub and has been a fellow with Columbia University's Tow Center. Her research focuses on initiatives to create more connected and equitable communities and newsrooms through community-centered and antiracist journalism. Prior to completing her PhD at USC Annenberg, she spent 15 years as a radio producer at WBEZ and WAMU, and as a trainer/project manager for organizations including BBC Media Action and Internews in Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Iraq, and Ghana.

**Vice Head**Andrea Wenzel
Temple University**Communication Chair**Paromita Pain,
U of Nevada Reno

Paromita Pain is an assistant professor, Global Media Studies, & Cybersecurity Center Affiliate Faculty at University of Nevada, Reno. Her research focuses on alternate media and global journalism practices from feminist perspectives. International communication and newsroom norms are an abiding area of interest. She has researched journalism and news practices in India, Taiwan, the United States, and Venezuela. A former journalist with The Hindu Newspaper, India's most respected broadsheet, she has published various book chapters on the intersection of gender and social media besides exploring areas of online commenting and uncivil behavior and its impact on journalistic praxis.

Carrie Brown is the founding director of the Engagement Journalism Master's program at the Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY. Launched in 2015, this program prepares students for careers in engagement journalism, with an emphasis on learning how to understand community information needs, build relationships, and produce tangible impact.

Her research and recent book, *Transforming Newsrooms*, co-authored with Jonathan Groves, centers on how news organizations can change their cultures and adapt to the changing media landscape. Brown was previously an associate professor of journalism at the University of Memphis, where she also served as the director of the city-wide high school journalism program and founded a graduate certificate program in entrepreneurial journalism.

She has also worked as a daily newspaper reporter and editor and served as the traveling curriculum manager for the Committee of Concerned Journalists before receiving her Ph.D. in journalism at the University of Missouri in 2008. She has a master's degree in communication from the Annenberg School at Penn and an undergraduate degree in journalism and conservation biology from the University of Wisconsin.



Co-Research Chair
Carrie Brown
City U of New York



Co-Research Chair
Jacob L. Nelson
U of Utah

Jacob L. Nelson is an assistant professor in the College of Humanities at the University of Utah, and a fellow with the Tow Center for Digital Journalism at Columbia University. He is the author of *Imagined Audiences: How Journalists Perceive and Pursue the Public* (Oxford University Press, 2021). He researches issues in news production and consumption. Before earning his doctorate from Northwestern University's Media, Technology, and Society program, he worked as a journalist covering a suburb outside of Chicago for a digital hyperlocal news organization.

Jillian Bauer-Reese is an Associate Professor of Practice in the Department of Journalism at Temple University's Klein College of Media and Communication. Bauer-Reese co-founded and continues to work as the program manager for Kensington Voice, a community hub and newsroom serving North Philly's Fairhill, Harrowgate, Kensington and Norris Square neighborhoods. She is also a founding board member of the Tiny News Collective, and her recent work has been published in Slate, the Columbia Journalism Review, Poynter, MediaShift, The Philadelphia Inquirer, Billy Penn, Philly Weekly, and the Philadelphia Citizen. Her current creative and research interests include the intersection of journalism, public health, and social welfare.



Teaching Chair
Jillian Bauer-Reese
Temple University



PF&R Chair
Ori Tenenboim
University of British Columbia

Ori Tenenboim (PhD, The University of Texas at Austin) is an Assistant Professor in the School of Journalism, Writing, and Media at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. His main areas of interest include digital journalism, political communication, and media economics. He investigates how journalists and news organizations blend older and newer norms, behaviors, and forms on different platforms; and what elicits user engagement with the news. His work has been published in New Media & Society, Digital Journalism, Journalism, Journalism Studies, Social Media + Society, Journalism Practice, International Journal of Communication, as well as in edited books.

Antoine Haywood is a Ph.D. candidate and Penn Presidential Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School for Communication. Before Annenberg, Antoine spent 15 years facilitating community engagement programs at public access cable channels in Atlanta, Georgia, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His research broadly evaluates the relevance of public, educational, and government (PEG) access channel infrastructure in the digital age. Antoine's autoethnographic dissertation research evaluates the social resonance of African American community participation in public access television. In addition to being a community media advocate and scholar, he is also a filmmaker, guitar player, deejay, and vinyl record collector. Antoine is a proud Morehouse College alumni and Palm Beach County, Florida native.



Graduate Student Liaison
Antoine Haywood
U of Pennsylvania

2023 AEJMC Annual Convention

PJIG Paper Call

The Participatory Journalism Interest Group, PJIG, invites research paper submissions for the 2023 AEJMC Conference, August 7-10 in Washington, DC. **The deadline for paper submissions is April 1, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. (CDT).**

Scope: We are interested in research exploring participatory journalism and engaged journalism. Broadly, we are interested in journalism that involves members of the public in the selection, production, dissemination, and sharing of news and information. Participatory journalism may involve professional journalism outlets or community newsrooms, but what distinguishes it is the role “citizens,” “users,” “audiences,” or “participants” play in creating content or otherwise collaborating in the journalistic process. This may include a range of practices—for example, social media commenting and sharing, crowdsourcing story ideas or reporting, public newsrooms, citizen journalism initiatives, and more. While digital tools and platforms have made many of these practices more common, we are interested in both online and offline approaches to participation in journalism and efforts to build more reciprocal relationships between journalism and the public.

Research topics may include, but are not restricted to, the following areas. Quantitative and qualitative methods are respected equally.

- Participatory journalism in political campaigns (crowdsourcing ideas, coverage, etc.)
- Efforts to build trust through participatory and engaged journalism practices
- The use of user-generated content, polls, focus groups and other methods to report news
- Citizen media, civic mapping, community conversations, user comments, community organizing practices in journalism
- Entrepreneurial journalism with collaborative elements
- History/philosophy of participatory media
- The mission and meaning of “participatory” and/or “engaged” media
- Legal and ethical issues in participatory journalism
- Journalism boundaries and norms such as “objectivity” and participatory/engaged journalism
- Crowdsourcing versus traditional “gatekeeping” models of journalism practice
- News sharing and social media distribution
- Participatory journalism in a multicultural and/or multinational environment
- Participatory journalism and mobile/wearable/immersive technologies
- Economic elements of traditional media and their relationship to participatory journalism movements
- Teaching journalism and media production in participatory contexts

Awards:

Papers submitted will be eligible for four separate awards: first- and second-place faculty paper awards and first- and second-place student paper awards (both \$150 and \$75 respectively). The poster award will be given after the poster session and is based on the combined quality of the research and poster presentation. Students should clearly identify their papers as "student papers" in the submission process. Papers co-authored with faculty members do not qualify for the student competition.

Submission guidelines:

Papers must be submitted in accordance with all requirements of AEJMC and its uniform paper call and electronic submission process. The full paper length is limited to 25 pages, not including references, tables, figures or appendices. Font size should be 12 pt. Times New Roman with margins at least 1 inch on all sides. A COVER SHEET or a sheet with the 75-word ABSTRACT is required but EXCLUDED from the page number limits. We accept papers in any academic formatting style. Papers should not have been published or under review by another conference.

Please direct questions to PJIG Research Co-Chairs, Jacob Nelson (jacob.l.nelson@utah.edu) and/or Carrie Brown, (carrie.brown@journalism.cuny.edu).

Author Identification: All submissions undergo a blind review process. Authors should ensure that their papers do not contain any self-identifying references of any kind including self-citations or the properties section of the pdf document or it will be **disqualified from the conference**. For a detailed explanation, please see "submitting a clean paper" under the uniform paper call on the AEJMC website. **We urge you to submit at least two days before the deadline so you can check your uploaded**

Member News

Melissa Wall of California State University - Northridge and Los Angeles-based artist/zinemaker Bronwyn Mauldin created CoCoLo (COVID Conspiracy Loteria), a variation of the Mexican game, intended to generate discussions about pandemic misinformation in a non-threatening setting. The categories used in this version were based on interviews students carried out with ethnic media journalists in California about the types of pandemic misinformation their audiences were sharing.

The game was developed for the Institute for Conspiracy Theory Analysis, a journalistic-social art project. Currently, it is available in analog form only. Anyone who would like a copy to play with their students or community can contact melissawall@gmail.com.



Mary Angela Bock, member of the PJIG, published her book which includes never-before interviews with pioneering journalists who've covered spectacular cases and individuals involved with cases that made headlines in social media. The book, [Seeing Justice: Witnessing Crime and Punishment in Visual Media](#), (OUP, 2021) has won the Diane S. Hope Book of the Year award from the National Communication Association's Visual Communication Division. Here is the link to the book: <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/seeing-justice-9780190926977?cc=us&lang=en&>



Feature Writing and Reporting: Journalism in the Digital Age

By Dr. Jennifer Brannock Cox,
Associate Professor/Associate Chair
Department of Communication
Salisbury University

“Feature Writing and Reporting: Journalism in the Digital Age” (SAGE) published in 2021 and is the culmination of my journalism work as a feature writer/multimedia producer and professor designing classes aimed at teaching innovative reporting and storytelling methods.

This book offers journalism students and practitioners a thorough examination of both writing and reporting beyond the basics. It covers the crucial elements of feature storytelling but also explores ways for journalists to adapt their skills to the Digital Age using hundreds of recent examples.

I am most excited about the reporting chapters focused on immersion, community, and solutions journalism. These chapters feature new and exciting ways to tell stories, including Harken's community journalism strategies and the Community Journalism Playbook from The Listening Post; opportunities for reporters to get involved in their stories from renowned immersion journalist Ted Conover; and a guide to solutions-focused storytelling from The Solutions Journalism Network and experts in the field.

A textbook examining journalism's evolution in the Digital Age would not be complete without chapters exploring multimedia feature storytelling. The book covers useful techniques for alternative storytelling formats, photojournalism, audio, and video, as well as new apps and tools reporters can use to enhance their stories.

Inaugural News Desert Conference

Inaugural News Desert Conference Hosted at University of Kansas

Friday and Saturday, October 21-22, dozens of scholars gathered in Lawrence, Kansas and online for the first News Desert U conference, hosted at KU's William Allen White School of Journalism.

A committee of scholars including Teri Finneman, PhD, Pamela Walck, PhD, Amanda Bright, PhD, and Meg Heckman, PhD, organized the events.

The conference addressed the problem of the rising number of news deserts in the US and around the world and provided suggestions for pedagogical solutions.

A news desert is defined as an area with little to no dedicated local news coverage.

Where there is no local news coverage, according to Penny Muse Abernathy of the Medill School of Journalism, author of "News Deserts and Ghost Newspapers: Will Local News Survive?" declining voter participation, corruption, and misinformation may dominate.

Since 2004, the number of local newspapers in the United States has dropped from fewer than 8,900 to just under 6,400, and this leaves nearly 20 percent of the U.S. population in counties that are in danger of becoming news deserts.

Conference attendees discussed how to map, model, and minimize the encroachment of news deserts.

Michelle Ferrier, creator of the Media Deserts Project, developed a model of analysis that goes deeper than the binary of newspaper/no newspaper. It borrows from Lawrence Lessig to incorporate measures of Content (news & information), Code (algorithms, policy, & law), and Conduit (platforms and access) to build more holistic pictures incorporating policy and access to news into the mix.



Abernathy noted 90 percent of digital news sites are located in major metropolitan areas, and most non-profit news funds go to state/regional news outlets. Thus, the spread of local news deserts may not be addressed adequately by increases in digital news and non-profit foundation funding.

This leaves participatory journalism scholars with several problems to address through research and pedagogy.

Finneman's own Eudora Times covers a small community that had gone without regular local news coverage for almost 20 years. Funding the effort and guiding the student newsroom tasked with covering Eudora makes for a packed schedule, according to Finneman.

Other student media advisors and operators of local news outlets repeated the sentiment that they had roughly two full time jobs—one as journalist/advisor, one as ad salesperson and/or fundraiser.

But Finneman and other professors and professionals noted how rewarding it can be to combat the spread of news deserts in ways that empower student journalists.

Finneman, quoted in the *Gateway News Journal* said, "We are the ones who should have been leading the research, working with the industry, to avoid this mess that we are in right now. It is time for the ivory tower to step up and support our counterparts in the industry."

The News Desert U event ended with discussions on future collaborations, sharing of syllabi, and plans for making this an annual conference.

Faculty interested in researching news deserts or in starting their own student publication are encouraged to check out the News Desert University Media Facebook group. They may also wish to follow the Twitter hashtag #NewsDesertU22 to connect with attendees and to look for information about future events, should this become an annual conference.

Mark Poepsel
Journalism and Mass Communication educator,
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Highlights from our past conference



Creating Community Collaborations: A recap of Engaged Journalism Exchange pre-conference:

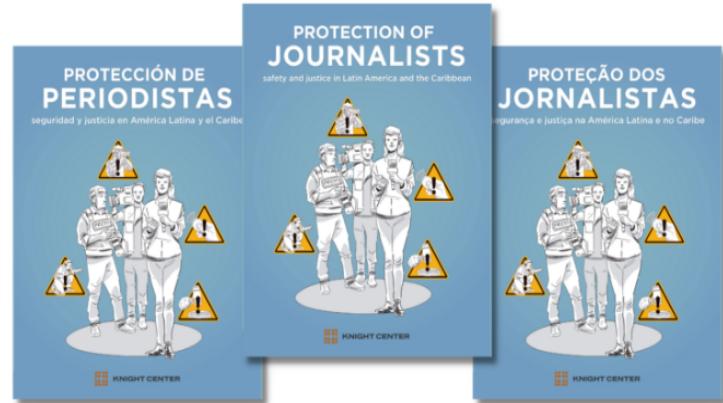
On August 2, over 40 researchers, journalists, and other media practitioners came together in the Detroit Free Press and participated in the Engaged Journalism Exchange AEJMC pre-conference focused on collaborating with communities.

Engaged journalism and collaborating with local communities are becoming a central concern in journalism practice and research. The Engaged Journalism exchange project is co-led by PIJG officers Jake Nelson and Andrea Wenzel, and the 2022 session was co-coordinated with Letrell Crittenden, Director of Inclusion and Audience Growth at the American Press Institute, and Daniela Gerson from California State University, Northridge. Read more of the event recap <https://medium.com/engaged-journalism-bridging-research-and-practice/creating-community-collaborations-a-recap-of-engaged-journalism-exchange-pre-conference-63764852a7d3>

New Publications

The Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas has published a new multilingual e-book on the safety and protection of journalists in Latin America and the Caribbean. The book includes case studies and lessons, focusing on coverage of protests, reporting on violent conflict, development of protection mechanisms for journalists, and investigation and prosecution of violence against journalists. You can [download it here](#) for free.

<https://knightcenter.utexas.edu/download-for-free-multilingual-e-book-on-safety-and-protection-of-journalists-in-latin-america-and-the-caribbean/>



The Solidarity Journalism Initiative seeks to help journalists, journalism educators, and journalism students improve coverage of marginalized communities. The initiative offers workshops, individual consultations, and resources that you can check out [here](#)

<https://mediaengagement.org/solidarity-journalism/>

- Based on a content analysis of Facebook posts and analyses of engagement metrics, **Dr. Ori Tenenboim** [in his new article](#) shows what content characters are associated with commenting, sharing, and liking/reacting, offering a nuanced understanding of user interaction with news-related content.
- What guides news organizations in their production of messages for social media platforms? Drawing on interviews in the U.S. and Israel, **Dr. Ori Tenenboim** offers a [framework](#) for understanding the underlying logics in what he calls *triple-party news-spaces*: digital spaces that involve a platform owner, news publishers, and users.



Ori Tenenboim