NEWSLETTER #1

PARTICIPATORY JOURNALISM INTEREST GROUP

SEPTEMBER 2023

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WELCOME TO PJIG!

DEAR MEMBERS,

Happy Fall greetings to all Participatory Journalism Interest Group (PJIG) members! We are grateful to you for helping us to build a community of researchers, educators, and many who bridge various worlds of practice— who are committed to more participatory, equitable, and engaged relationships between journalism and publics. And while it feels like we gathered for AEJMC in DC five minutes ago, we are excited to collaborate with you in the year ahead.

We invite you to share what you are up to for our future newsletters and our listserv/google group—let us know about relevant new publications, projects, teaching initiatives, etc. We also hope to hear from many of you with your ideas for panels, research paper submissions, and participation as reviewers and thought-partners.

In this newsletter, we'll share our call for AEJMC 2024 panels, spotlight some highlights from AEJMC 2023, particularly some PF&R and Teaching initiatives, and introduce our officers.

Thank you for all of your efforts and please reach out to us as we'd like PJIG to grow even more participatory!

Best,
Andrea Wenzel
Head of PJIG
Associate Professor, Temple University

CALL FOR PANELS

AEJMC 2024: PARTICIPATORYJOURNALISM INTEREST GROUP

The Participatory Journalism Interest Group (PJIG) is now accepting panel proposals for the AEJMC 2024 Conference. Philadelphia Marriott Downtown: Wednesday, Aug. 7 – Sunday, Aug. 11.

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT 12PM EST THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5TH, 2023.

WHY SUBMIT TO THE PARTICIPATORY JOURNALISM INTEREST GROUP?

Do you have an idea for a panel that explores ways journalism involves the public in some aspect of producing, circulating, or discussing news and information? This might mean online or offline practices such as participatory or engaged journalism, citizen journalism, community-centered journalism, direct service journalism, social media engagement, crowdsourcing, citizen's agendas, or collaborations between journalists and community organizations or influencers.

We are interested in any discussion that highlights the ever-changing and increasingly important relationship between journalists and the public.

This is an exciting time for participatory journalism—from the expansion of innovative participatory programs in the like City Bureau's Documenters in the U.S., or the Bureau Local in the U.K., to an array of local and national efforts to use participatory approaches to elections coverage. However, it's also a challenging time for journalists who increasingly encounter "dark participation" in the form of online harassment, abuse, and bad faith attacks on their reporting. We're interested in critically exploring what this changing dynamic means for efforts to build more reciprocal, equitable, and accountable relationships between journalism and diverse publics, and for the future of journalism and journalism education.

CALL FOR PANELS

WHAT TYPES OF PANELS DO YOU WANT?

We need a mix of teaching, professional freedom and responsibility (PF&R), and research panels:

I. TEACHING PANELS: eaching panels may discuss teaching ideas, challenges, innovations, technologies, etc. that are relevant to participatory/engaged journalism, community media and/or considerations of media, race, gender and participation in and out of the classroom. They must address one of the following general areas identified by the AEJMC Standing Committee on Teaching Standards:

1. Curriculum development including the philosophy, design, and examination of issues, developments, and trends in journalism or global communication.
2. Leadership issues, especially the administrative and organizational efforts formulated to address the changes in the field of journalism and mass communication.

3. Course content and methods showcasing innovative teaching techniques and strategies.
4. Assessment reports highlighting diverse range of activities measuring the effectiveness of journalism education.

II. PROFESSIONAL FREEDOM & RESPONSIBILITY (PF&R) PANELS: These panels should focus on one or more of the following areas: freedom of expression; ethics; media criticism & accountability; racial, gender and cultural inclusiveness; or public service.

III. RESEARCH PANELS: Research panels should focus on original, innovative and trending research by a panel of experts on a topic related to national and international communication, with a focus on core interests of the group as noted above (under why submit to PJIG).

WHO SHOULD I PUT ON MY PANEL?

Diversity matters! Please keep this in mind when you're thinking about potential panelists. Race, ethnicity and gender identity are key factors to consider, of course, but so is geography. Think about how you might be able to pull together people from different regions or continents to talk about an issue. See if you can get a diversity of scholars (including graduate students, non-tenure track faculty as well as tenured/tenure-track faculty) plus people from the industry, where relevant. Aim for about 3 panelists in your proposal and bear in mind if another division chooses to co-sponsor the panel, they may want to add additional panelists.

WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF RECENT PANELS (AND CO-SPONSERS)?

IN 2023, PJIG PANELS
INCLUDED:

Making Journalism Education More Inclusive and Less Extractive

Teaching panel, co-sponsored by the Commission on the Status of Minorities

From Witnesses to Participants of News: The Impact of Immersive Technologies on News Production and Consumption

Research panel, co-sponsored by Newspaper and Online News Division

Collaborative Journalism Experiments with Community Media Resources

Research panel, co-sponsored by the Community Journalism Interest Group

How Journalism Support Organizations Are Using Data and Research to Connect with Communities of Color

Research panel, co-sponsored by the Communication Technology Division

WHY DOES IT ASK ME FOR A PANEL CO-SPONSOR?

AEJMC divisions and interest groups are encouraged to co-sponsor panels. Panels including co-sponsoring divisions/interest groups/commissions have a better chance of being accepted, because they are likely to be of wider interest at the conference and give the interest group a chance to take part in more sessions.

Send panel proposals using the form below to Jacob Nelson (jacob.l.nelson@utah.edu) by 12 noon EST October 5th.

HOW DO I SUBMIT?

DIRECTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE PROPOSALS:

All proposals should be one-page in length (single-spaced) and include the following:

1. Panel title: Be creative and broad with your title – keep in mind current trending issues and the potential for attracting co-sponsors.

2. Panel type: A statement of whether the panel would be a Teaching, Research or Professional Freedom and Responsibility panel.

3. Panel Description: Describe clearly in one paragraph the key issues or subject matter to be addressed by the panelists and why the panel's topic is important.

4. Panel Co-sponsorship: Suggestions for divisions or interest groups that might be interested in co-sponsoring the panel.

5. Possible Panelists [about 3]: Names of proposed panelists, affiliation, demographic data (race, ethnicity, gender identity and pronouns) and contact information for each. Please indicate whether they have committed to participating. AEJMC tracks diversity among panelists, moderators and discussants, so please keep that in mind when planning. Limited funds for travel reimbursement are available for panel participants who are not AEJMC members. The deadline for those requests is late January. Whenever possible, please try to find local panelists (Philadelphia) or AEJMC members whom you expect will be attending the convention.

6. Panel Moderator: Provide the name of the person who will moderate the panel (this can be you or someone you nominate).

7. Contact Person: Provide the name, affiliation, email, and phone number for the person proposing the panel.

Thank you, and we look forward to your submissions!

AEJMC 23 - CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

TEACHING: REIMAGINING JOURNALISM EDUCATION

Our PJIG co-sponsored Engaged Journalism Exchange preconference brought together more than thirty participants— a mix of researchers, educators, journalists, and journalism support organizations. We heard a series of provocations raising ideas around engaged, reparative, and more equitable journalism curriculum and the practicalities of curriculum transformation, and models for collaboration between universities, media outlets, and community stakeholders. This was followed by a series of small group discussions and unconference breakouts.

You can find a more detailed summary of the day here: https://bit.ly/EJE2023-recap

The preconferences' co-sponsors included the Community Journalism Interest Group, the American Press Institute, City University New York, Knight-Lenfest Local News Transformation Fund, Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Temple University's Klein College, University of Pennsylvania's Media Inequality and Change Center, and the University of Utah.

PF&R: A VISIT TO ARLINGTON INDEPENDENT MEDIA

On Wednesday, August 9, PJIG hosted a fun field trip to Arlington Independent Media (AIM). We had a blast traveling the metro together and meeting up with Kristen Clark, AIM's director of community engagement, who gave us a tour of AIM's low-power FM radio station, open classroom spaces, and video production studios.

Since 1982, AIM has continuously provided video production equipment, facilities, training, and access to Arlington's community access television channels. We learned that AIM is in the process of making significant changes, which include relocating its facilities and expanding its programs to include more structured participatory journalism activities with youth and civic groups. Two additional AIM staff members, Steven Burgoon and Linda Lawson, joined our fruitful, post-tour conversation about the organization's plans to continue growing as a powerful local media center that facilitates the production of community-centered programming.

MEET THE TEAM

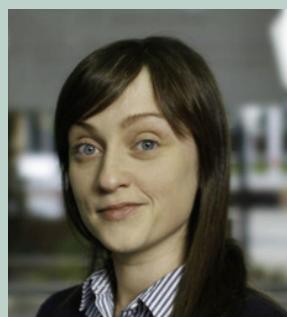**ANDREA WENZEL**

Head

JACOB NELSON

Vice-Head

CARRIE BROWN

Research Co-Chair

MARK POEPSEL

Research Co-Chair

ANTOINE HAYWOOD

PF&R Chair

JILLIAN BAUER-REESE

Teaching Chair

NISHA SRIDHARAN

DAMILOLA ODUOLOWU

Communication Co-Chairs

NINA KELLY

JESSICA PETTENGILL

Graduate Student Liaisons

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Andrea Wenzel is an Associate Professor of Journalism at Klein College. Her research focuses on initiatives to create more connected and equitable communities and newsrooms. She is the author of *Community-Centered Journalism: Engaging People, Exploring Solutions, and Building Trust* (University of Illinois Press, 2020) and of *Antiracist Journalism: The Challenge of Creating Equitable Local News* (Columbia University Press, 2024), and her work also appears in both academic journals and industry publications. She co-founded the Germantown Info Hub and has been a fellow with Columbia University's Tow Center. Prior to completing her PhD at USC Annenberg, she spent 15 years as a radio producer and editor at WBEZ (Chicago NPR affiliate) and WAMU (Washington DC NPR affiliate), and as a trainer/project manager for organizations including BBC Media Action and Internews in Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Iraq, and Ghana.

Jacob Nelson is an assistant professor in the College of Humanities at the University of Utah. 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.

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. 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.

Mark Poepsel is an associate professor of Mass Communication at Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville, near St. Louis, Missouri. Mark's research interests include engagement journalism and threats against journalists. He teaches media writing, publication design, media management, advanced broadcast writing, and graduate research methods courses, among others. Mark recently won a Department of Education grant, administered by the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois, to develop The OER Guide to Media Writing, an open access textbook. Mark is a former local television reporter and was educated at Mizzou for his undergraduate and PhD degrees and the University of Arizona for his master's in Latin American Studies.

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 managing community engagement programs at public access cable channels in Atlanta and Philadelphia. His research broadly evaluates the relevance and value of public, educational, and government (PEG) access channel infrastructure in the digital age. Antoine's autoethnographic dissertation research explores the significance of African American community participation in public access television. In addition to being a (cont.)

MEET THE TEAM

community media advocate and scholar, he is also a filmmaker, guitar player, deejay, and vinyl record collector. Antoine is a proud Morehouse College alumni who hails from Palm Beach County, Florida.

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.

Nisha Sridharan is a Ph.D. Candidate and Faculty Associate in the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University. Her research centers around the role of media in society with research interests in journalism studies, organizational communication, community and participatory journalism, and DEIB in media. Her dissertation explores the journalistic and organizational practices of non-profit monothematic news organizations within the evolving media landscape. Nisha holds a Master's degree in journalism from the University of Nevada, Reno, and has prior experience reporting for The New Indian Express in Chennai, India.

Damilola Oduolowu is a second-year doctoral student and teaching assistant at the University of Missouri School of Journalism. He studies media sociology and ethics as he explores his research interests in new media and misinformation, digital journalism, citizen and participatory journalism, environmental journalism, and journalism ethics.

He currently serves as the President of the University of Missouri chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and Director of Public Relations and Communications for the Graduate Professional Council of the University of Missouri. Before starting the Ph.D. program, he worked with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) World Service as a senior journalist reporter based in Nigeria. He earned his Master's degree in Mass Communication from the University of Lagos and a Bachelor's degree in Mass Communication (specialization in broadcasting) from the Lagos State University School of Communication in Lagos, Nigeria.

Nina Kelly is a Ph.D. student in the Wayne State University Department of Communication in Detroit, where she is pursuing a dual-title degree in Communication and Urban Sustainability. Prior to beginning this path, Nina built a career as an urban and regional planner for over 15 years, working in various communities and specializations in Michigan and Georgia. She conducts research that bridges the communication and planning disciplines, and her primary areas of interest include public meetings, political participation, community engagement, climate change communication, and civic journalism. Nina holds a master's degree in urban planning from Wayne State University and a BA in social science from Michigan State University.

Jessica Pettengill is a Ph.D. student in the School of Journalism at Michigan State University. She is pursuing a doctorate in Information & Media, and her research focuses on metajournalistic discourse, storytelling and narrative in media, and community resilience. Prior to her doctorate, she received her master's in Emerging Media Design and Development and her bachelor's in longform journalism, both from Ball State University in Indiana. She has previously worked as an editor in broadcast journalism in Sacramento, California, and later as a digital media content producer and manager for The Huntington museum and arts education non-profit P.S. Arts in Los Angeles.

THANK YOU!

Don't be shy! E-mail us at
nishas@asu.edu