

aejmc 2025 preview

Conference in San Francisco includes many SPIG offerings

Pre-Conference panels

WEDNESDAY

Aug. 6, 1 to 2 p.m.

Adventures Abroad: Navigating the Ups and Downs of Study Abroad Programs. Study abroad enriches students but brings challenges. This panel explores its benefits – global reporting skills, cultural awareness – and pitfalls such as misunderstandings and ethics.

Aug. 6, 2:15 to 3:20 p.m.

Teaching Tips from Teachers of the Year. In the 30th anniversary of SPIG, this panel of past Teacher of the Year recipients will provide insights and teaching tips, sharing pedagogy and course management ideas.

Aug. 6, 3:40 to 5 p.m.

Great Ideas for Teaching for Small Programs. GIFTs for Small Programs provides a dynamic opportunity for faculty members and/or graduate students to share classroom-tested “great ideas” with other educators in an engaging and fast-moving presentation style.

Conference panels

THURSDAY

Aug. 7, 8:30 to 9:45 a.m.

The Wobbly Three-Legged Stool – Finding Time for Research (SPIG and HIST). Research Panel. New faculty members are informed from the start of their careers that success in academia stands on three legs—teaching, service and research. Yet as teaching loads and service demands increase, faculty at smaller institutions struggle to find time



for research. Unlike the R1s, faculty at small colleges do not have a cadre of graduate students to help compile data and many struggle to make connections with collaborators at other institutions. This panel will provide strategies for devising research agendas that can be accomplished by one person as well as provide tips on finding collaborators at other institutions.

Aug. 7, 1:45 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Refereed Research. (SPIG).

Aug. 7, 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

They're Not OK: Navigating Mental Health in Your Media Classroom or Lab (SPIG with ICIG). Teaching Panel. Students in our post-pandemic classrooms and media labs are carrying baggage many thought would be gone in 2023. It's not. And research on twenty-somethings shows they are more prone to clinical depression, anxiety and misgivings about all things structural, including your curricu-

lum. How do you fire them up for what you teach? How do you navigate the absences and tardies and struggles with assignments? This panel will help you with best practices driven by psychology, sociology and the wisdom of flexible pedagogy.

FRIDAY

Aug. 8, 8 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.

Put This Another Way: How to Teach Journalism to Students Who Don't Trust Journalism (SPIG and CTAM). Teaching Panel. Journalism is not the academic discipline it was 20 years ago. That's especially true at smaller colleges and universities whose shrinking budgets have caused consolidation of what used to be entire journalism or media programs. This panel will explore how faculty trained (or career experienced) in journalism and media have found ways to bring practical journalism training into a liberal arts model, an English or Business curriculum, or other places in the university milieu. Bring your insights and concerns.

Aug. 8, 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

From Momentous Change to Leadership: Preparing our Students for Communication Careers (ICIG with SPIG). Teaching Panel. This panel will address how communication professionals do not consider Generation Z to be “work ready.” While Gen Z has expertise in several areas, their problem-solving abilities, ethics knowledge, interpersonal skills, emotional intelligence, and understanding of office politics may leave them behind – especially as many are working in the momentous workplace changes – remote

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The 2025 AEJMC conference in San Francisco will be headquartered at the Marriott Marquis on Mission Street, overlooking downtown and within walking distance of many of the city's top attractions and sights.

Photo courtesy of Marriott

Final evening to toast SPIG's 30th

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and hybrid environments, or, conversely, returning from remote and hybrid learning models to working in person. Of particular focus for the panelists will be how professors can deliver post-pandemic classes, extracurricular experiences, experiential learning through classes, and internships, that will help ensure our students are better prepared for entry level work and leadership.

SATURDAY

Aug. 9, 8 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.

How Do I put This? Journalism and Media in a Post-Journalism Era (SPIG with ICIG). Teaching Panel. Journalism and practical media instruction have fallen into disrepute and have lost funding in the post-pandemic, “fake news” era of American higher education. Many small programs (and even big ones) have been either swept en-

tirely or folded into other academic disciplines. This panel will bring the insights, advice and futurist projections of seasoned educators who have seen their programs grow, wane and dissolve in an era when all higher education is asking hard questions about what an educated person should be.

Aug. 9, 3 to 4:15 p.m.

Helping Podcasting and Broadcasting Students Become Confident Communicators. (BAMJ with SPIG). Teaching Panel. Students in podcasting and broadcasting courses often are uncertain about how to write in their own voice and are uncomfortable speaking when it's time to record. Many hear vague feedback about how to “write like you talk” and “sound conversational.” This panel brings together veteran journalism educators to share tips on how to give students more specific, helpful advice on audio writing, voicing and editing. Panelists

will share exercises they have used in class to help students become more confident communicators. Topics include writing engaging, informative scripts; overcoming anxiety and learning to sound your best; and getting comfortable editing your own voice. This session covers not only how to teach students about the technical aspects of voicing and writing, but also how to craft a message that resonates with listeners. These topics are timely as podcasting has become an increasingly popular course offering and are significant as a growing number of journalism and communication jobs (even those considered to be in “print”) require speaking to an audience on a variety of platforms.

Aug. 9, 4:45 to 6 p.m.

Top Paper Research Award and SPIG's 30th Anniversary Celebration

Aug. 9, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

SPIG Members' Meeting