



Concepts

ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATION IN JOURNALISM & MASS COMMUNICATION



Thoughts from the Head

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Welcome to the 2025 Spring Newsletter of the Communication Theory & Methodology Division! As this newsletter goes out, we're only a few days away from the AEJMC 2025 research competition deadlines. As always, we'll be taking both full papers and extended abstract submissions from faculty and students. My favorite submissions are always those in our Theory and Method competitions, and I can't wait to see this year's papers. Check out our paper call and all the details on our competitions from our Research Chair Isabelle Freiling. Remember, the success of our research competitions relies on volunteers like you, so please complete our reviewer survey linked [here](#). If you are unable to review papers this year, consider indicating your willingness to serve as a discussant or moderator at the conference in San Francisco. We welcome graduate student reviewers and moderators—it's a great way to get involved with the division as an early career scholar!

Also in this issue you will find a preview of our panels from Vice Head and Program Chair Judith Rosenbaum. We've got an exciting line-up again this year, including revisiting one of my personal favorite topics, qualitative methodology. Our panels include teaching, research, and professional freedom and responsibility (perhaps more relevant now than ever!), and cover topics like podcast theory 20 years into the medium, AI summaries, pop culture pedagogy, and the "Trump Effect" on journalism.



This issue also includes the call for the Barrow Minority Doctoral Student Scholarship.

Membership/Barrow Scholarship Chair Kathryn Thier will be overseeing the selection of the award for 2025. We urge you to encourage racial or ethnic minority Ph.D. students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents to apply for this scholarship, which includes a complimentary one-year membership to CT&M and a cash award. Awardee will be recognized in-person during the Best of CT&M session at the conference.

Speaking of the Barrow Scholarship...did you know that you can make a direct donation to support the Barrow Scholarship and Top Student Paper Awards? To make a contribution, follow the link [here](#). Then, from the "Division, Interest Groups, and Commissions" menu, select "Communication Theory & Methodology." In the write-in box, you may earmark your donation for the Barrow Scholarship or Top Student Paper Awards. Thank you for considering supporting early-career scholars and our division!

Finally, I want to thank the entire CT&M leadership team for all of their behind-the-scenes work leading up to our conference deadline. Service work is often quiet and underappreciated, but our conference—and organization—wouldn't exist without the dedication of volunteers like you. I'd like to give a shout out in particular to Eliana DuBosar, our newsletter editor, for making this publication possible.

Happy submitting, may the deadline gods be ever in your favor, and I hope to see you in San Francisco!

-Lindsey

AEJMC AUGUST 7-10
2025
San Francisco





Our panels at AEJMC in San Francisco

Judith E. Rosenbaum

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Vice Head

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CTAM will co-host five panel discussions at this summer's conference in San Francisco, CA. Each panel, whether research, teaching, or professional freedom and responsibility, features expert scholars in conversation about a particular topic and allows time for audience questions and interaction. Stay tuned to our social media for full panel previews as we approach the conference!

Research Panel: Methodological Rigor and Subjectivity in Qualitative and Mixed Methods

Research: Continuing the Conversation

Co-sponsor: Cultural and Critical Studies Division

This panel will focus on the importance of equity and ethics in qualitative and mixed methods research. While qualitative methodologies allow researchers to paint rich and compelling pictures of the human experience and societal issues, they also raise ethical dilemmas around informed consent, confidentiality, power dynamics, and the potential for harm. This panel will bring together researchers to discuss representation of marginalized voices and avoiding the perpetuation of social inequalities in our research. Audience interaction is welcome and encouraged.

Research Panel: Podcasting at 20: New Theories and Adaptable Research Strategies

Co-sponsor: Broadcast and Mobile Journalism Division

This panel will focus on the importance of equity and ethics in qualitative and mixed methods research. While qualitative methodologies allow researchers to paint rich and compelling pictures of the human experience and societal issues, they also raise ethical dilemmas around informed consent, confidentiality, power dynamics, and the potential for harm. This panel will bring together researchers to discuss representation of marginalized voices and avoiding the perpetuation of social inequalities in our research. Audience interaction is welcome and encouraged.



PF&R Panel: AI Summaries and Assistants: Accuracy, Reliability and Validity Concerns

Co-sponsor: Broadcast and Mobile Journalism Division

By 2025, mainstream adoption of AI summaries and assistants will be happening without many guardrails. The UN emphasizes human rights, but California's governor recently vetoed AI protections that were overwhelmingly supported by the legislature. Two presidential executive orders speak broadly about concerns. Paid data measurement and social media sites violate ethical and social scientific rules of transparency in methodologies, yet comment, content and reviews summaries appear to be popular on Amazon and Meta AI. Tools, such as Truescope, Sprinklr and Hootsuite use basic AI functions, but more are on the way. This panel will bring academics and industry leaders to talk about the issues.

PF&R Panel: The Trump Effect on Journalism: Revisiting the Social Responsibility Theory of the Press

Co-sponsor: Mass Communication and Society Division

Eight years of covering Donald Trump – an unconventional, disruptive presidential candidate and later president and then again presidential candidate with a penchant for not telling the truth – has stretched journalistic traditions and norms, raised critical questions about journalistic values and competencies, eroded public trust in media and put the future of journalism at risk. Effectively responding to the Trump Effect on journalism will require a collective effort involving media leaders, publishers, editor and reporters – along with others in the media community (e.g., academics) – all focused on restoring truth and trust in a political marketplace of ideas fraught with lies, disinformation, fake news and alternate facts. Where to begin?

This panel begins with an examination of the Trump Effect on journalism and then addresses the social role and responsibilities of journalists in modern society. The group will consider whether the time has come to revisit the social responsibility theory of the press introduced in 1947 by the Commission on Freedom of the Press, which rested on the assumption that media freedom carries with it obligations to promote democratic processes and to enlighten the public through mass communication. The Commission outlined recommendations aimed at ensuring that the media operate in the best interest of the public and provide a truthful, comprehensive, and intelligent account of the day's events in a context which gives them meaning. The panel will explore these ideas in the climate of contemporary society, consider the social responsibilities of media today, and offer recommendations for countering the Trump Effect on journalism and securing the future of the Fourth Estate.

Teaching Panel: Put This Another Way: Journalism Pedagogy in Programs that are Post-Journalism

Co-sponsor: Small Programs Interest Group

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.

Teaching Panel: Exploring Pop Culture Pedagogy: Innovative Approaches to Critical Education

Co-sponsor: Entertainment Studies Interest Group

This panel session aims to bring together educators, researchers, and practitioners who are utilizing pop culture to enhance student engagement, promote critical thinking, and address issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in their pedagogy. Pop culture pedagogy integrates elements of contemporary media into education to foster critical thinking, identity awareness, and social activism. By using examples from television, streaming, film, social media trends, music videos, and podcasts, educators can make learning more relevant and engaging, particularly for marginalized communities. Key aspects of this approach include using relatable pop culture references, highlighting intersectionality, encouraging critical dialogue, facilitating collaborative knowledge creation, and empowering students to take action against injustices. The panel will cover topics such as case studies of pop culture pedagogy in action, strategies for integrating pop culture into various disciplines, the impact on student learning and engagement, and the role of pop culture in promoting social justice and activism.





AEJMC25 Research Competition Call for Communication Theory and Methodology Division

Isabelle Freiling

University of Utah

Research Chair

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The Communication Theory and Methodology (CTAM) Division invites submissions of original research papers that advance the literature in mass communication theory, research methods, or both. CTAM welcomes both conceptual and empirical papers and is open to all methodological approaches, quantitative and qualitative.

Paper Competitions

CTAM sponsors four paper competitions. Papers can be submitted to the **open-call competition** or the **student paper competition**. Any paper can also be considered for the **theory paper competition** or the **method paper competition**. Winners of all awards will be recognized in the conference program and at the 2025 CTAM members' virtual meeting.

Student Paper Competition

CTAM strongly encourages submissions by students. Winners of the Chaffee-McLeod Award for Top Student Paper will be awarded \$250; two additional top student papers will also receive cash prizes. To be considered for the student paper competition, all authors must be students, and the author(s) must type "Student Paper Competition" in the upper right-hand corner of the first page of text.

Theory and Method Paper Competitions

CTAM also recognizes the top theoretical and methodological submissions to the division each year. Papers submitted to the theory and method paper competitions will also be considered for awards in the open-call and student competitions, as applicable. A theory paper may extend what is known about the current workings of a theory by including a data analysis section, or strictly extend the current theory literature without including data. A method paper may discuss, develop, or apply measurement, statistical approaches, sampling techniques, or field methods that demonstrate research method innovation. To be considered for the theory paper competition, the author(s) must type "Theory Paper Competition" in the upper right-hand corner of the first page of text; to be considered for the method paper competition, the author(s) must type "Method Paper Competition" in the upper right-hand corner on the first page of text.



Requirements

Please limit papers to no more than 25 pages (double-spaced) in length, excluding tables and references. Papers should follow APA style 7th edition, have 1-inch margins, and use 12-point Times New Roman font. **Please limit papers to a total of 35 pages (including text, tables, and references).** Papers over the page limit will be automatically disqualified from the competition. Refer to the AEJMC general paper call for this year's online submission guidelines.

Self-identifying Information

It is critical that there is no self-identifying information of any kind, such as in the body of the paper or in the document properties. Please also pay attention to the issue of self-citation. The Uniform Call for Papers lists possible solutions for self-citation.

We strongly encourage you to submit your paper at least a day or two prior to the deadline so that we can check to make sure there is no self-identifying information in the properties of the files you submit. An early submission will allow any and all individuals to fully check submissions so that a resubmission prior to the deadline is possible.

Co-authors and Presentations

Co-authors cannot be added after a paper has been reviewed. At least one author of an accepted faculty paper must attend the conference to present the paper. If student authors cannot be present, they must arrange for the paper to be presented by someone else. Failure to be present or provide a presenter for any paper will result in a one-year ban on the review of papers for all of the authors involved. Authors of accepted papers are required to forward papers to discussants prior to the conference.

For any questions related to paper submission or competition, please contact Isabelle Freiling, CTAM's research chair, at isabelle.freiling@utah.edu.

Call for Reviewers

Please help the CT&M division as a reviewer for this year's AEJMC conference by signing up via this [link](#) and creating an account on the [conference submission site](#). We need your expertise to ensure all submissions receive quality feedback. We ask that all submitters to the division also sign up to review.



Call for the 2025 Barrow Minority Doctoral Student Scholarship

Kathryn Thier

George Mason University

Membership Chair and Barrow Scholarship Chair

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Applications are now being accepted for the 2025 Barrow Minority Doctoral Student Scholarship. The scholarship includes a \$3,250 award and a free one-year membership in the Communication Theory and Methodology Division (CT&M) of AEJMC.

The scholarship honors the late Professor Lionel C. Barrow, Jr., of Howard University, recognizing his pioneering efforts supporting minority education in journalism and mass communication. The award is designed to aid doctoral students in journalism or mass communication programs to complete their dissertation research and academic studies. The student's work does not need to address issues of race or ethnicity.

The CT&M Division sponsors the award. It is made possible in part through contributions from the Minorities and Communication Division, the Commission on the Status of Minorities, the Mass Communication and Society Division, the Newspaper and Online News Division, and AEJMC. Applications will be evaluated based on each candidate's capacity to contribute significantly to communication theory and methodology.

To be considered for this scholarship, please provide the following: (1) a letter outlining research interests and career plans, (2) a curriculum vitae, and (3) two letters of recommendation. The letter and CV should be e-mailed to Dr. Kathryn Thier, CT&M Membership & Barrow Scholarship Chair, at kthier@gmu.edu. The letters of recommendation should be sent directly by the recommender to the same email address. Submissions must be emailed no later than May 1, 2025. Questions may be addressed to Dr. Thier in the email listed above. The scholarship will be awarded at the 2025 AEJMC Conference in San Francisco, CA, August 7-10. Reflections from the previous Barrow scholarship winner is available in our Summer 2024 Newsletter. You can read that newsletter [here](#).

Applications will be evaluated based on each candidate's capacity to contribute significantly to communication theory and methodology.

Racial or ethnic minority students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents enrolled in a Ph.D. journalism or mass communication program are welcome to apply. Applicants need not be members of AEJMC or the CT&M Division.

CT&M Division Membership and Journal Subscription

The annual membership fee for the Communication Theory and Methodology (CTAM) division is \$26.00, which includes online access to the CM&M Journal.

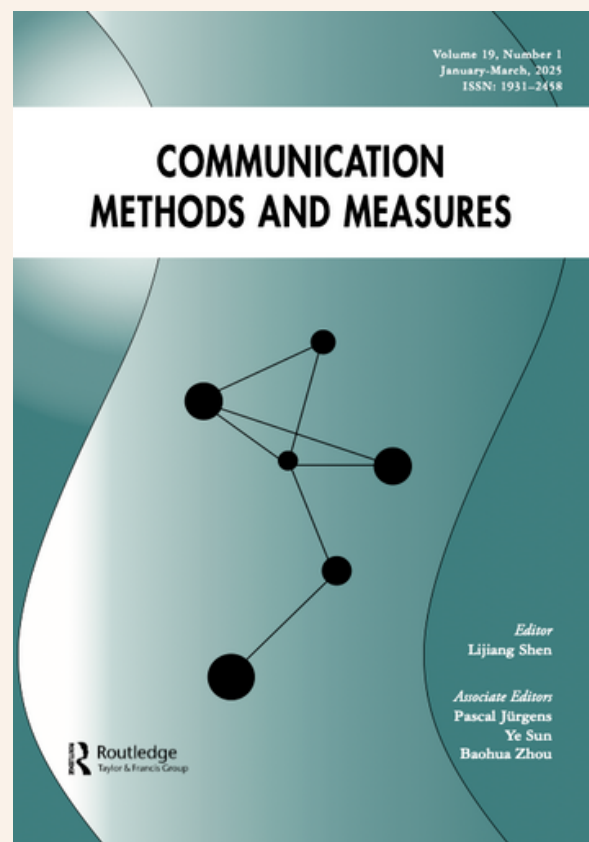
A reduced membership fee of \$11.00 is available for students, which provides online-only access to the journal.

These membership fees are vital in supporting the division's activities, including our presence and programming at AEJMC conferences.

For those interested in joining the Communication Theory and Methodology (CTAM) division, please visit the AEJMC's online membership community to initiate your membership <https://aejmc.users.membersuite.com>.

Volume 19, Issue 1 of Communication Methods and Measures is available [online](#) now.

1. Using State Space Grids to Quantify and Examine Dynamics of Dyadic Conversation, [Miriam Brinberg](#), [Denise Haunani Solomon](#), [Graham D. Bodie](#), [Susan M. Jones](#) & [Nilam Ram](#)
2. Beyond sentiment: an algorithmic strategy for identifying evaluations within large text corpora, [Maximillian Overbeck](#), [Christian Baden](#), [Tali Aharoni](#), [Eedan Amit-Danhi](#) & [Keren Tenenboim-Weinblatt](#)
3. On Measurement Validity and Language Models: Increasing Validity and Decreasing Bias with Instructions, [Moritz Laurer](#), [Wouter van Atteveltdt](#), [Andreu Casas](#) & [Kasper Welbers](#)
4. Googling Politics? Comparing Five Computational Methods to Identify Political and News-related Searches from Web Browser Histories, [Marieke van Hoof](#), [Damian Trilling](#), [Corine Meppelink](#), [Judith Möller](#) & [Felicia Loecherbach](#)



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