

CIVIC *and* CITIZEN Journalism

SUMMER
2012

INTEREST GROUP NEWS

<http://aejmc.net/civic>
www.has.vcu.edu/civic-journalism

CCJIG members'
meeting, Saturday,
Aug. 11, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Conference
information
[http://www.aejmccicago.org/
schedule/](http://www.aejmccicago.org/schedule/)

CCJIG Panels - see page 6



Survey results

Name change discussion continues

The debate about whether CCJIG should change its name continues.

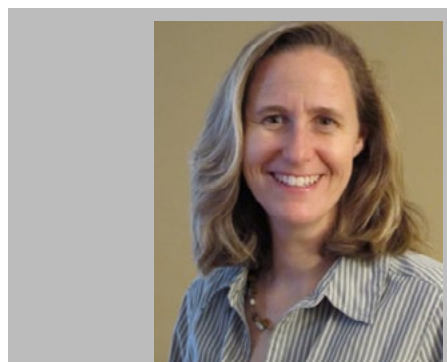
In March a survey was sent to CCJIG members regarding a new possible name. The survey presented members with two options—to leave the name the same or to change the name to Participatory Journalism Interest Group. The survey was sent to 111 CCJIG members and 43 responded. The results are below:

54% *change the name to Participatory Journalism Interest Group*

47% *keep the name the same*

Obviously, this was a very close vote with the new name only receiving three more votes than the old one. Due to the closeness of the vote, the CCJIG leadership team is carefully considering these results and determining what the next steps should be.

This most recent vote came after a survey was sent to CCJIG members in October to try and determine whether the name CCJIG was still relevant. Forty-one people responded. Fifty-nine percent responded



KIRSTEN A. JOHNSON, PH.D.
CCJIG Chair

“yes” when asked if the name should be changed. When asked to suggest a new name for the group, Participatory Journalism Interest Group was mentioned most often. The survey sent to members in April came as a direct result of the October survey.

I would invite you all to attend the members' meeting in Chicago. It will be held on Saturday from 7-8:30 p.m. The location of the meeting is still to be determined.

This is an important issue and I'd like to continue to hear your thoughts and opinions on the subject. You can email me at johnson-ka@etown.edu.

CCJIG sessions in Chicago

By **Burton St. John**
Research Chair

Models of Emerging Journalism; Friday, Aug. 10; 11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.; refereed paper session

Crowdfunding for Civic Journalism: An Analysis of Story Content and Publication on Spot.U.S. - Marianne McCarthy, California State University-Northridge

New Institutionalism and a Business Model for "Social Journalism" - Mark Poepsel, Loyola University-New Orleans

Twitter as a "Journalistic Substitute?" Examining #wiunion Tweepsters' Behavior and Self-Perception - Aaron Veenstra, Narayanan Iyer, Fawaz Alajmi, Ravee Subramanian, Chang Sup Park, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale

Discussant: Jack Rosenberry, St. John Fisher College; Moderator: Deborah Chung, University of Kentucky

Perspectives on Community-Engaged Journalism; Friday, Aug. 10; 1:30 - 3 p.m.; scholar-to-scholar session

See SESSIONS, page 3

Japanese journalist adapts civic principles after tsunami

By Glenn Scott
PF&R Chair

It wasn't the way Hideya Terashima planned to increase his newspaper's involvement in participatory journalism. But then the earth rocked on March 11, 2011, and the tectonic rebound launched a tsunami that brought a tragic new reality to Japan's Tohoku Coast.

When the Great East Japan Earthquake struck with 9.0 force, Terashima was at his desk on the fifth floor of his regional paper, the *Kahoku Shimpo*, in downtown Sendai. It was 3:36 p.m.

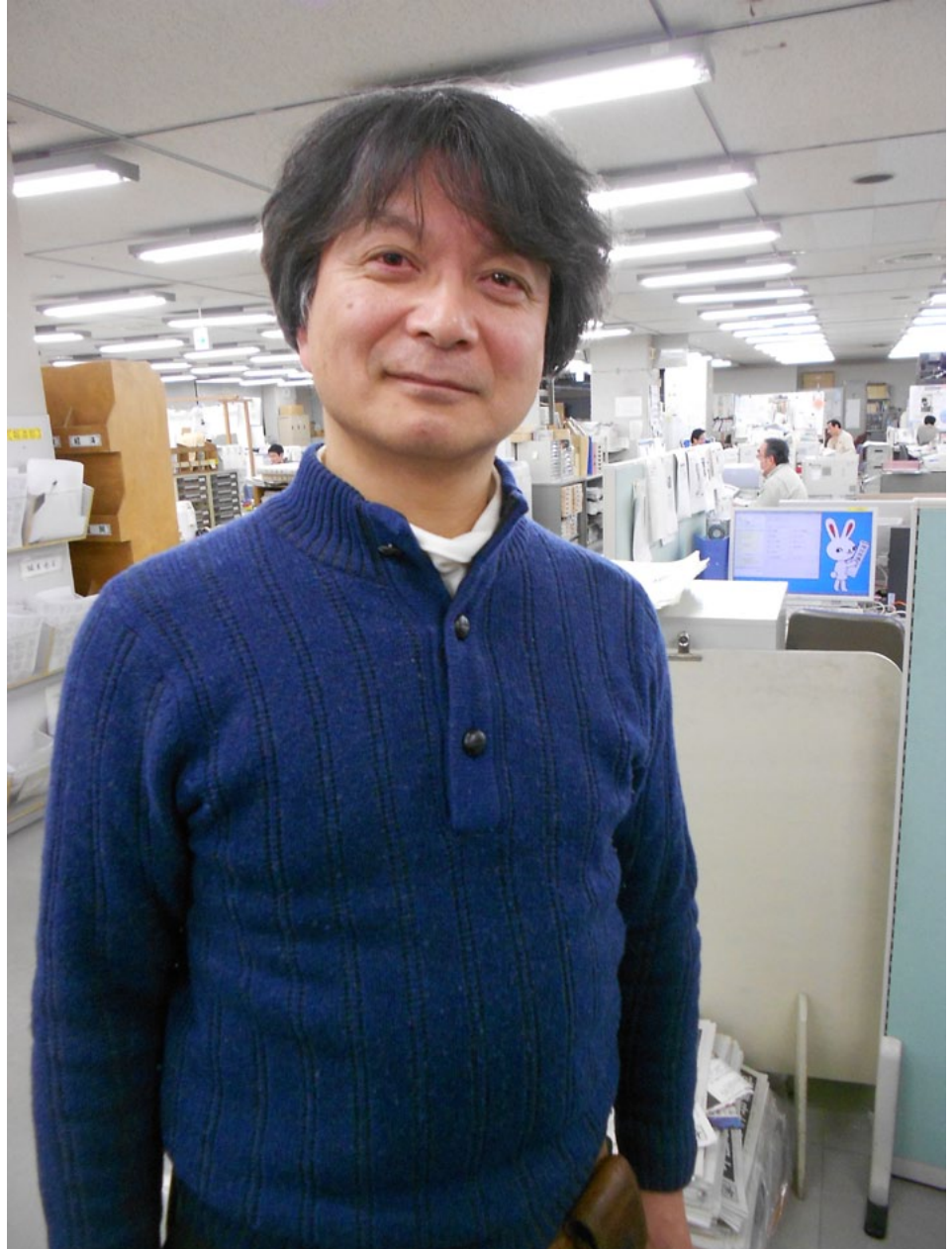
The way his paper covered news was about to change.

Some changes were immediate: Terashima and colleagues rode out the hard shake, but a few floors higher up, the newsroom's layout server toppled. Generators kicked in, and the paper's digital networking survived. They couldn't print that night in their plant, so two editors made a hasty drive to another paper six hours to the east. They transferred stories and graphics via the Kyodo News system and printed an edition for the next day.

The paper brought the first news to many victims, outlining the scope of the devastation. For days after that —power out, homes ruined, roads impassable—the journalists reported basics: where to find shelter, how to seek survivors, who to ask for help.

And, of course, they published photos such as aerial shots showing the tsunami's destruction and human scenes of survivors carrying out family members on their backs.

Terashima is an editor as well as the author of a well-researched 2005 book in Japanese on U.S.-style civic journalism. He was a Fulbright researcher in 2003-04 when we first met. Many other CCJIG colleagues reading this may remember him. Our interview, in English, took place in February at his newspaper in



Hideya Terashima/Photo by Glenn Scott

Sendai.

His background, he noted, helped him to see possibilities. Soon after the disaster, he took on a special duty. He would go out into the damaged regions to listen to the stories, to forward the personal narratives, to make sure people in need were heard. When people had questions, he would

try to find and print answers. This was a new kind of civic journalism — not the more formal method—but the principles of engagement and solution-seeking still applied.

His job, he says, has been in “connecting people’s voices.”

See **TERASHIMA**, page 3

Terashima, continued from page 2

He posted stories in his blog, *Cafe Vita*, where readers and others could comment. One story soon after the disaster described a man whose family had run a woodshop for more than a century. He knew the area, the villages. Suddenly, this man had a new job giving directions when people came looking for missing friends. He kept a fire burning to help people warm up. He became an honest voice and a central, helpful figure.

The newspaper, with its half-million circulation, began running a series called "Let's Not Give Up." Terashima continued to spend a year traveling through the region, listening and writing. Near the one-year mark, he heard from a mother whose son had been washed out of the backseat of a fleeing car when the first wave caught up to the escaping family.

He wrote her story about her two sons. One had gripped his older brother's hand, but the force of the water pulled him away. The brother's last words: "I'm afraid!"

When Terashima met her, the mother had joined in a group of survivors who'd created a support circle. Her lament was about her surviving son, a middle-schooler, who still felt such remorse. She tried to cheer him: *Don't give up. Live a good life for your brother. Someday when you're old he'll come back to take you away.*

But it was hard. And though she did her best to keep her young son looking ahead, she wondered how he could handle the memories.

Such are the voices Terashima connects.

When comments arrive on his blog, he reads them and looks for follow-ups. The blog, he says, is a new twist in his civic-J approach but a needed one, a major tool. The paper reports on the large issues, but with the regional economy stunned, the number of printed pages has been limited since the disaster. He uses the blog to fill in the human stories and to solicit comments.

"What we want to relate cannot appear in the newspaper," he said. "In the blog, I can report the small facts out of the big facts."

In fact, Terashima said his paper has learned and adapted since the disaster. Its online site, KOLNET, has dedicated space now for readers' posts. The traditional reliance in Japan on the print form, he said, has shifted at his paper. He expects the shift to remain intact, and for the new model at his newspaper to spread to others.

Sessions, continued from page 1

The Relationship between Citizen Journalism and Development Communication—Tyler Jones, Wilson Lowrey, University of Alabama

The New Storytellers for Community Reclamation: Emerging News Non-Profits—Sue Robinson, Magda Konieczna, University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Journalism and Community; Saturday, Aug. 11; 1:45 - 3:15 p.m.; refer-
eed paper session**

Cynics and Skeptics: Evaluating the Credibility of Mainstream and Citizen Journalists—D. Jasun Carr, Matthew Barnidge, ByungGu Lee, Stephanie Jean Tsang, Joshua Villanueva, University of Wisconsin-Madison (Top Student Paper)

Whose news? Whose values? Citizen Journalism and Journalistic Values through the lens of content creators and consumers—Avery Holton, Mark Coddington, Homero Gil de Zuniga, University of Texas-Austin

Citizen Journalism 3.0: A Case Study of the Twin Cities Daily Planet—Mary Lou Nemanic, Pennsylvania State University-Altoona

In Their Own Words: Teens Find a Voice in Their Communities through Working with Youth News Websites—Jeffrey Neely, University of North Carolina-Wilmington

Discussant—Melissa Tully, University of Iowa; Moderator: Sue Ellen Christian, Western Michigan University

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CCJIG 2012 research paper abstracts

Cynics and Skeptics: Evaluating the Credibility of Mainstream and Citizen Journalists

D. Jasun Carr; Matthew Barnidge, ByungGu Lee, Stephanie Jean Tsang, Joshua Villanueva, University of Wisconsin-Madison

With the increase in citizen-generated news, the need to understand how individual predispositions interact with this shift in source becomes increasingly important to understand. This study begins to explore this question, with a focus placed on the perceived credibility of a citizen journalist and his mainstream counterpart. Our results indicate that media skepticism is purely dispositional, applied uniformly to both media outlets, while political cynicism interacts with message source to influence perceptions of credibility.

Whose news? Whose values? Citizen journalism and journalistic values through the lens of content creators and consumers

Avery Holton, Mark Coddington, Homero Gil de Zúñiga, University of Texas-Austin

As user-generated content and citizen-driven forms of journalism have risen to prominence alongside professional media production, they have presented a challenge to traditional journalistic values and processes. This study examines that challenge from the perspective of the creators and consumers of citizen-driven news content, exploring their perceptions of citizen journalism and the professional tenets of good journalism. Through a nationally representative survey of US adults, this study finds that citizen journalism consumers hold more positive attitudes toward citizen journalism, but do not show a significant identification with professional journalistic values, while general news consumption is positively related with affirmation of professional journalistic values. Compared with consumption, content creation plays a relatively insignificant role in predicting attitudes toward citizen journalism and the professional tenets of good journalism. Implications for understanding the changing perspectives of news creators and consumers are discussed.

The relationship between citizen journalism and development communication

Tyler Jones, Wilson Lowrey, University of Alabama

This study examine the conditions in which a citizen journalism site may be more or less likely to adopt aspects of development communication, a field that applies communication to socioeconomic betterment. As a participatory media form, citizen journalism overlaps with certain aspects of development theory, and certain conditions in the U.S. suggest development communication may be increasingly relevant. Given the historical tension between the mainstream media and development communication, it was predicted that the more a citizen journalism site was aligned with institutional journalism, the less it would demonstrate traits of development

communication. A content analysis was conducted on a random sample of citizen journalism sites. Results from a regression analysis and t-test showed that, rather than diminishing the presence of development communication, mainstream media alignment increased the likelihood of development communication. Despite low efforts toward development overall, when it was present, there was more openness to it from mainstream media than predicted.

Crowdfunding for Civic Journalism: An Analysis of Story Content and Publication on Spot.Us

Marianne McCarthy, California State University-Northridge

Crowdfunding is becoming a popular means of financing independent projects. For journalism, crowdfunding allows online community members to contribute to the financing of story ideas that interest them. This study analyzed 113 articles on the website Spot.Us for content, donations and publication placement. The research determined that journalism produced there did not conform to traditional news topics, focused mainly on local and regional stories, attracted mostly non-commercial funding, and were disseminated through non-traditional media outlets.

In their own words: Teens find a voice in their communities through working with youth news websites

Jeffrey Neely, University of North Carolina-Wilmington

This study examines the experiences, motivations and challenges of youth who participate in producing original news content online. Within a general conceptual framework of community building, the researcher applies the constant comparative method of grounded theory to derive emergent themes relating to teens' experiences in generating news in their own words. Specifically, the researcher conducted 24 semi-structured in-depth interviews with youth news producers and the adult advisors who work with them. The responses from the participants suggest that such youth news websites offer a great deal of potential to contribute to the process of community building. Perhaps most significantly, such sites offer teens a way to express themselves directly about a variety of issues that interest and concern them. Through this, youth find their voice not only for themselves, but also for their peers and their generation, about a variety of topics. At the same time, respondents indicated a number of challenges involving busy schedules, difficulties in capitalizing on multimedia capabilities, and a lack in funding and resources. The study suggests that if these sites are to realize their full potential for community building, they will need the support of a diverse and broad-based community network.

Abstracts, continued from page 4

Citizen Journalism 3.0: A Case Study of the Twin Cities Daily Planet

Mary Lou Nemanic, Pennsylvania State University-Altoona

Despite the popularity of citizen journalism, there have been few micro-studies that examine the structures and practices of online participatory journalism news sites. This paper provides a case study of the non-profit the Twin Cities Daily Planet, based on in-depth interviews with the staff and some of its contributors, and examines how the roles of journalists have changed now that collaborative journalism has become so widespread.

New Institutionalism and a Business Model for "Social Journalism"

Mark Poepsel, Loyola University-New Orleans

Finding a sustainable model for participatory journalism matters for democratic participation the world over, and it matters for a certain type of social cohesion built around the shared discourse of an informed electorate. This paper outlines the emergence of a form of journalism called "social journalism" in which information gathering and dissemination are conducted as parts of an ongoing conversation rather than as more of a one-way "lecture and listen". This paper locates "social journalism" in a place of its own on a spectrum of participatory journalism developed by J. Nip. Following this, the paper presents a detailed definition of the business model underlying "social journalism". Using the theoretical framework of new institutionalism, the hopes and challenges facing the business side of participatory journalism are discussed with implications for journalists and scholars included.

The New Storytellers for Community Reclamation: Emerging News Non-Profits

Sue Robinson, Magda Konieczna, University of Wisconsin-Madison

This essay begins a scholarly response to the questions: Who are the new non-profit journalists? What do they aim to accomplish? Textually analyzing the mission statements of the non-profit news organizations,

the researchers qualitatively approach these questions. A descriptive typology categorizes the myriad groups in America as of 2012, offering a snapshot of this burgeoning industry. The evidence shows that these groups aim to re-connect citizens with news about public affairs through a rebuilding of trust and also to create a new kind of relationship borne of mutual understanding and agency in information co-production. Through new technologies, collaboration and networking, non-competitive practices, and citizen participation, the new news non-profits strive to tell stories, seek solutions, train future information producers and thus, reclaim community for the "ordinary" (and often marginalized) citizen. At the core of these missions lies a commitment to civic journalism and the idea that citizens must represent a fundamental component of any venture to provide accurate, significant information about public affairs today. Unfortunately, the elusive sustainability they all seek has so far failed to reveal itself. Thus, any long-term relationship of trust with citizens – essential to any community reclamation, these non-profits maintain in this evidence – remains uncertain and unstable. Nonetheless, the work these non-profits are "pioneering" – one of the key themes to emerge from this data – has the power to model coming journalistic projects, whatever they may be.

Twitter as "a Journalistic Substitute?" Examining #wiunion Tweepers' Behavior and Self-Perception

Aaron Veenstra, Narayanan Iyer, Fawaz Alajmi, Rajvee Subramanian, Chang Sup Park, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale

Twitter has been cited as a key factor behind a number of recent protest movements. Through interviews with heavy users of the #wiunion hashtag, this study examines the motivations and perceptions behind its usage during the 2011 Wisconsin labor protests. Findings suggest these users see a blurred boundary between citizen journalism and activism, but that their Twitter behavior is driven in part by distrust of traditional news sources and a desire to present an alternative.

CCJIG paper reviewers

Aaron Barlow, New York City College of Technology

Jon Bekken, Albright College

Sue Ellen Christian, Western Michigan University

Deborah Chung, University of Kentucky

Lona Cobb, Winston-Salem State University

Michelle Ferrier, Elon University

John Hatcher, University of Minnesota-Duluth

Kirsten Johnson, Elizabethtown College

Gary Keibel, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Seth Lewis, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

John McManus, Grade the News.org

Nikhil Moro, University of North Texas

Seungahn Nah, University of Kentucky

Glenn Scott, Elon University

Jeff South, Virginia Commonwealth University

Burton St. John, Old Dominion University

Melissa Tully, University of Iowa

Elizabeth K. Viall, Eastern Illinois University

CCJIG panels at AEJMC '12

By **Jeremy Littau**
Co-vice Chair

CCJIG is co-sponsoring several different panels and events for the upcoming St. Louis conference.

What's Next For Research On Participatory Journalism? **Research panel, Thursday, Aug. 9, at 1:30 p.m.**

The session, co-sponsored with the Communication Technology division, will survey the body of research in citizen journalism and user-generated media and then delve into questions about the next steps to build on this work. The session, organized and moderated by Seth Lewis, will ask practical, theoretical, and methodological questions intended to provoke discussion about the next wave in research on interactive participatory media.

African Media, the Arab Spring and Democratization: The 'Unseen' and 'Un-mentioned' Social Side of the News Revolution **Thursday, Aug. 9, at 3:15 p.m.**

A panel co-sponsored with the Community Journalism Interest Group, will explore the effects social issues had on discourse of politics and economics in sub-Saharan Africa during a time of tremendous change.

Mobile Me, Mobile We: **Building and Bridging Communities with Media** **Friday, Aug. 10, at 3:15 p.m.**

This panel, co-sponsored with COMJIG, looks at some of the diverse attributes of mobile in a changing media landscape at the hyperlocal and community level. The panel looks both critically and optimistically at what mobile means, not just as a journalism tool, but the emerging ways mobile fundamentally changes the broader dynamic of community media—as a tool for overcoming the digital divide, as a tool of social protest and reform, as a tool for economic development, as a tool for creating and distributing personal media, and as a tool for teaching and reaching mobile millennials.

J-Lab luncheon New News Labs: **The Rise of University Entrepreneurial News Startups** **Saturday, Aug. 11, at 12:15 p.m.**

Featuring panelists Willa Seidenberg, David Poulson and Steven Elliott, the panel will explore the growing trend of journalism programs launching their own news sites to cover communities, state government, or other public policy issues on a daily routine. The panel will focus on the different models and how they operate. If you are interested in attending, be sure to sign up for the event at <http://aejmc2012luncheon.eventbrite.com/>.

Teaching With And About Participatory Media Cultures **Teaching panel, Saturday, Aug. 12, 5:15 p.m.**

The session, co-sponsored with Mass Communication & Society, will explore ways to update theory and models for understanding a culture that increasingly is based around the notion of sharing content and information. The panelists posit that sharing media has changed the way society works and that journalism and mass communication scholars need to update the methodological and sociological understandings that guide their work. Discussion will center around how to update our scholarship and our teaching.



Other conference links:

**Preconference Sessions
on Aug. 8:**
<http://www.aejmcchicago.org/schedule/>

**AEJMC Conference
JobHub**
<http://www.aejmcchicago.org/jobhub/>

**Conference hotel
information**
<http://www.aejmcchicago.org/hotel/>

**AEJMC Newmember
Guide**
<http://www.aejmcchicago.org/guide/>

**Chicago Marriott
reservations:**
https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=8120837

Explore Chicago:
<http://www.explorechicago.org/city/en.html>