

**Civic & Citizen Journalism Interest Group
AEJMC 2012**

Panel Proposal

Type: Research

Title: What's Next for Research on Participatory Journalism?

Proposed moderator:

- **Seth Lewis**, Assistant Professor, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Minnesota–Twin Cities

Proposed panelists:

- **Jane Singer**, associate professor, School of Journalism & Mass Communication, University of Iowa; Singer is the lead editor of the recent book *Participatory Journalism: Guarding Open Gates at Online Newspapers* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011), and is widely considered a leading authority on this type of research.
- **Sue Robinson**, assistant professor, School of Journalism & Mass Communication, University of Wisconsin; she has published extensively on questions of citizen / participatory journalism, including a major piece (“Journalism as Process”: The Organizational Implications of Participatory Online News”) in the Autumn 2011 issue of *Journalism & Communication Monographs*.
- **Avery Holton**, doctoral student, School of Journalism, University of Texas at Austin; he has been exploring novel contexts for this kind of research—e.g., by conducting interviews with citizen journalists to assess their perceptions about participation.

Description: There is now a large and growing body of academic work on participatory journalism (e.g., as manifest in studies examining citizen journalism, user-generated news content, social media and journalism, newsroom practices oriented to civic/citizen engagement, and so on). This provides a good moment to reflect on lessons learned, themes developed, and (most importantly) areas yet to explore. This panel aims to generate discussion around the next steps for research on participatory journalism. Panelists will address questions such as: What kinds of spaces (literal / virtual / figurative) should we, as researchers, be exploring? What kinds of theoretical connections should we be making? What kinds of questions have gone unaddressed? And what kinds of methods and tools should be deployed in improving this line of inquiry?

Possible panel co-sponsors: Newspaper and Online News Division, Communication Technology Division, Media Ethics Division