

CIVIC & CITIZEN JOURNALISM INTEREST GROUP 2012-13 ANNUAL REPORT

OFFICERS

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Newsletter Editor

Steve Listopad, Jamestown

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Jeff South, Virginia Commonwealth

AEJMC Demographic Information for 2012

Year: 2012-13	Officers	2012 Annual Conference Sessions				Mid-Year Meetings				Total
		Paper Judges	Panelists	Moderators	Discussants	Paper Judges	Panelists	Moderators	Discussants	
Male (tot.)	6	11	22	2	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	43
Amer. Indian/ Alaska Native						n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Asian	1					n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1
Black/ African American			2			n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2
Hispanic/ Latino			3			n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3
International		1	2			n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Is.						n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
White	6	9	15	2	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	34
Multi-racial						n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Female (tot.)	4	7	12	5	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	29
Amer. Indian/ Alaska Native						n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Asian		1	3	1		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5
Black/ African American			1			n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1
Hispanic/ Latino			1			n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1
International			2			n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Is.						n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
White	4	6	5	4	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	20
Multi-racial						n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Did not report						n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Total:	10	18	34	7	3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	72

GENERAL INFORMATION

3. Please provide an overall statement weighting the division or interest group's activities for this year in the Research, Teaching and PF&R areas. The new assessment process recognizes that the relative weighting of these three activities will be different from year to year, but over the five-year reporting period, the three areas should receive generally balanced attention.

For the 2012 conference we had more teaching panels on our agenda. This year we had more PF&R sessions sponsored for our programming, giving us three for the 2013 convention. Our panel "Blog by Block: Participatory urban journalism in a changing media landscape" and "Dancing with trolls: Strategies for story comment management" offer the right mix of professional activities that will be of interest to both scholars and educators. In addition, the latter panel is bringing in two professionals as part of the panel – Kate Myers from NPR and Ro Gupta from the web commenting service Disqus. Also, our J-Lab luncheon for 2013 will again feature three working professionals who are making a name for themselves in professional work in citizen journalism. This was one of our goals for the year, to make sure that our panels don't just feature academics and graduate students. We feel like this makes for much more balanced programming in the long run.

Our fourth sponsored panel is a teaching-focused panel, "Best practices/lessons in the teaching of participatory journalism." In addition to offering best practices and ideas for an interest group that draws a lot of people interested in teaching ideas, it also reflects our expansion into the broader realm of participatory journalism as we prepare for our name change next fall.

4. Please write a bullet-point statement (500 word maximum), to be co-authored by the outgoing and incoming Heads, addressing:

- What are your most important goals for the upcoming year?
 - Increase the number of high quality paper submissions that address a diversity of topics that fall under participatory journalism.
 - Continue to promote the name change from Civic and Citizen Journalism Interest Group to the Participatory Journalism Interest Group. Update our materials to reflect and promote the name change.
 - Update the CCJIG blog more often. We need to continue to develop interesting and relevant content to keep members engaged with the group.
 - Develop a stronger social media presence and strategy. We currently have a Facebook page with 34 "likes" and no Twitter account. Our goal is to increase our engagement on Facebook and to start a Twitter account for sharing relevant information and stories regarding "participatory journalism" teaching, research and practice.
 - In light of points #3 and 4, we propose creating a Communications Chair to replace the Newsletter Editor position. This person would be

responsible for updating the blog and social media accounts and the e-newsletter.

- With the money saved from no longer traveling to the winter meeting for the chip auction, develop additional paper (e.g. Top Poster) or travel awards (e.g. graduate student travel award for Top Paper winner).
- What goals did your group set this year that you were unable to reach? Why?
 - Continue to explore the name change to “Participatory Journalism Interest Group.” **OUTCOME: SUCCESSFUL.** We voted in Fall 2012 and membership approved the name change. It will take effect in October 2013.
 - Start using the language “Participatory Interest Group” in communications with members to start getting them used to the term. **OUTCOME: SUCCESSFUL. In addition to the name change, participation has been a key part of our language in communications. We also emphasized it in the paper call even though our interest group’s name was remaining the same.**
 - Increase the number of high quality paper submissions. This year only a top student paper award was given because none of papers submitted by faculty were felt to be of high enough quality to qualify. **OUTCOME: IN PROGRESS. We feel like some of the drop in quality has been due to waning submissions, which is linked to our outdated name. While it will take a couple more cycles to determine this, we believe the name change is a strong first step.**
 - Update the CCJIG blog more often. **OUTCOME: NOT ACCOMPLISHED.** You will note in our goals for next year we’re proposing a Communication Officer to replace the Newsletter Editor. Given that our communication must be multifaceted, this is better done when someone is tasked with the job. While we weren’t successful on the blog, we did successfully establish and recruit followers for our new presence on Facebook and Twitter. Going forward, those will be a key part of our strategy.
 - Work with members and leadership to identify more efficient ways to do conference programming. **OUTCOME: SUCCESSFUL. We were a strong voice in the debate to replace the chip auction. Our conference programming submissions were the strongest in several years, as we had to leave behind four outstanding proposals that easily would have been selected in past years.**
- How may any or all of the Standing Committees help you to achieve your goals in the coming year?
 - We feel like our work with the committees has been strong, as in the past. No extra attention will be needed in this case, but we would like to continue our good working relationship.

RESEARCH

5. **Number of faculty research paper submissions:** 12; **number of acceptances** 8; 66.6%.
6. **Number of student research paper submissions:** 4; **number of acceptances** 2; 50%.
7. **Overview of judging process (forms used, please attach).** Approached judges from previous years. Used the standard judging matrix offered by AEJMC.
8. **Total # of judges:** 20; **# of Papers per judge:** Most had 3; a few had 2 papers per judge
9. **Did your group conduct any other type of refereed competition?** None
10. **Please list your in convention activities related to research.** Sponsored two refereed research panels as part of our programming, and we also participated in the scholar-to-scholar session using the spots assigned to us.
11. **Please list your out-of-convention activities related to research.** None. We have participated in mid-winter in the past but felt it was not a good use of funds for this academic year.
12. **Please describe briefly the research goals and activities of your division. Such description may include discussion of primary accomplishments, programming diversity, special competitions, faculty/student research awards, newsletter activities and other activities.** CCJIG has been concerned about the number of paper submissions to the annual conference. This year's total of 16 is similar to what was submitted two years ago in St. Louis. We hope to clarify our area and entertain more submissions when the name change to Participatory Journalism Interest Group takes effect in October. Last year's research chair, Burton St. John, noted that there has been a decline in quality of submissions to the interest group. While this is my first year as research chair, I noted that there was a clear delineation between acceptable submissions in our area and those that were of poor quality or were off the mark.

TEACHING

13. Please list your in-convention activities related to teaching. Describe how these activities fulfill one or more of the Teaching Standards Committee's focus on curriculum, leadership, course content and teaching methods, or assessment.

The teaching goals of our interest group were richly fulfilled through diverse programming in the 2012 annual convention. The popular J-Lab luncheon hosted by CCJIG informs teachers and instructors nationally. The 2012 event focused on the rise of university entrepreneurial news startups. Featuring panelists Willa Seidenberg, David Poulson and Steven Elliott, the panel explored 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 focused on the different models and how they operated.

A second 2012 teaching panel explored ways to update theory and models for understanding a culture that increasingly is based around the notion of sharing content and information. The panelists posited 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 centered on how to update scholarship and teaching.

CCJIG has worked hard on its 2013 convention programming. This August it will host a teaching panel featuring four faculty members speaking on the best practices/lessons in the teaching of citizen journalism. From the biggest daily newspapers to one-person blogging operations, news organizations are realizing they need to put engagement and participation at the heart of their journalism, and social media enable that effort. This session assembles some of the leading teachers of participation and engagement, who will discuss how to teach the students who soon will be thrust into leadership positions in this effort.

14. Please list your out-of-convention activities related to teaching. Describe how these activities fulfill one or more of the Teaching Standards Committee's focus on curriculum, leadership, course content and teaching methods, or assessment.

The co-teaching chairs, Sue Ellen Christian and Mary Lou Nemanic, discussed several strategies for promoting teaching in our interest group. Conference panels about teaching participatory journalism were key part of our discussions. (Participatory journalism is generally defined as journalism in which professionals work with nonprofessionals, a current feature of both commercial and nonprofit media outlets). We discussed some of the current issues in this field and seriously considered two proposals that dealt with teaching about participatory journalism: Technology Tools for Teaching with a focus on social media and other tools for

engaging citizens and Citizen Storytellers, a panel featuring citizen storytellers using multiple media formats. We chose the Tech Tools to develop and identify potential expert panelists.

We also developed a third proposal addressing the role of educator that professional journalists are often assuming in participatory journalism settings: Tips for Teaching Non-Journalists. This would cover an array of teaching topics including basic teaching tips for both written and visual journalism, training issues and incentives, ethics, technical problems and recommendations, and online resources for training non-journalists.

We lined up possible panelists for the Tech Tools and Teaching Non-journalist panels and submitted our proposals for the conference. The Tech Tools for Teaching panel included representatives from the Poynter Institute and the Washington Post, and the Tips for Teaching Non-Journalists featured Jan Shaffer, executive director of the J-Lab. Although neither panel was approved, we feel both panels demonstrate our group's commitment to teaching and could be updated and resubmitted with co-sponsors for the 2014 conference.

Dr. Christian had also planned to write a column for the newsletter dealing with teaching participatory journalism, but because there was only one issue this last year, she was told there wouldn't be room for her column.

Finally, there is an interest group-wide in pedagogy that incorporates participatory journalism within curriculum, and syllabi are freely shared to facilitate this emphasis.

15. Please describe briefly the Teaching goals and activities of your division. Such description may include discussion of primary accomplishments, programming diversity, special competitions, faculty/student research awards, newsletter activities and other activities.

The change of our interest group's name reflects a teaching-focused membership that seeks to respond to the needs of faculty as well as students.

CCJIG has a top student paper award to encourage the scholarship in the area of participatory journalism by graduate students. The concept behind the award is that the paper prize will encourage faculty at institutions nationwide to foster scholarship, awareness, critical thinking and original research into the areas of civic, citizen and participatory journalism.

In addition, each edition of the CCJIG newsletter features an article that can be used for teaching purposes. For example, the summer 2012 edition featured an article on how the editor of a Japanese newspaper adapted civic journalism principles after a tsunami.

PF&R

16. Please list your in-convention activities related to PF&R. Describe how these activities fulfill one or more of the PF&R Committee's focus on free expression, ethics, media criticism & accountability, racial, gender and cultural inclusiveness, or public service. Include a list of non-member invited convention speakers with names and affiliations.

Our PF&R panels focus on the ideals, norms, and practices of civic and citizen journalism and their implication for how we think about news and information in the contemporary media landscape. At the 2012 AEJMC convention, we co-sponsored (with the International Communication Division) a PF&R panel titled "African Media, the Arab Spring and Democratization: The 'Unseen' and 'Unmentioned' Social Side of the News Revolution." This panel addressed the social issues of international news reporting about countries and their peoples in sub-Saharan Africa and the way these issues interact with the media and the process of democratization. The panel went beyond questions simply of "news flow" to focus on issues such as women's rights, cultural rights (including language and religion), education, and media ethics — thus taking up several of the key areas of foci for the PF&R Committee. For the 2013 convention, our PF&R panel — titled "Block by block: Participatory urban journalism in a changing media landscape" — examines the rise of forms of "hyperlocal" media that have emerged in Philadelphia, America's second-poorest big city, in the last few years. In discussing current trends, panelists also consider divides based on race and income that digital news startups present, altogether taking up several key questions at the heart of PF&R's mission.

17. Please list your out-of-convention activities related to PF&R. Describe how these activities fulfill one or more of the PF&R Committee's focus on free expression, ethics, media criticism & accountability racial, gender and cultural inclusiveness, or public service.

We have continued to promote PF&R concerns via our interest group newsletter. For example, 2011-12 PF&R chair Glenn Scott wrote an extensive piece profiling a Japanese journalist who adapted the principles of civic journalism to help his community after the devastating earthquake and tsunami in 2011.

18. Please describe briefly PF&R goals and activities of your division. Such description may include discussion of primary accomplishments, programming diversity, special competitions, faculty/student research awards, newsletter activities and other activities.

Our primary PF&R goal is to build bridges with the professional community by improving the quality and diversity of PF&R programming at the annual convention, seeking to offer panels of relevance to scholars and practitioners alike. This includes make a more concerted effort to recognize obvious points of intersection — such as the professional interest in hyperlocal or other niche news startups, and the

particular questions such developments present for the nature of civic and citizen journalism, as we're discussing at the 2013 convention. Going forward, we hope to do more in expanding this outreach through more convention panels, greater contributions from professionals in our division communication (e.g., newsletter), possible connections via social media, and so forth.