

SAMPLE ACCEPTED PANEL PROPOSAL

AEJMC 2015 Conference / San Francisco Research Panel Proposal

Panel title: “Reporting Crises in Africa: From Arab Spring to the Deadly Ebola Virus”

Sponsoring divisions: International Communication Division
Communicating Science, Health, Environment and Risk Division (Comm SHER) (confirmed)

Moderating/Presiding: Festus Eribo, Ph.D., Professor, School of Communication, East Carolina University

Panel Description: Africa’s 54 countries with a population of more than one billion people are presenting the world with inevitable hard facts in the demand for objectivistic analysis and acute scholarly examination of the communication system and other areas of human endeavors. This panel will examine various crises reported about African issues and events by local and international media. Against the backdrop that international media coverage may be more disparaging than local coverage, the panelists will provide scholarly analyses of the empirical matrix. Arguably, the local and international reports of African events and issues may be more alarming than reports of similar cases outside the continent. This comparative analysis is a significant discourse in any examination of the reportage of Africa in view of the dominant paradigm, which was instrumental to the demand for a new world information and communication order in the twentieth century. Using both empirical and qualitative methods, panelists will compare the good and bad news about Africa, such as news about major strides in capacity building, engineering of consent, creepy gender violence, deadly Ebola virus, diffusion of new communication technologies and other innovations. Panelists will address relevant research questions, including the following: How do local and international media cover Africa? Is the reportage of Africa multidimensional, objective and constructive? Do the new communication platforms or social media have sufficient impact on the coverage of Africa? Should Africa launch a new demand for constructive international reportage? Is there a paradigm shift in cyberspace and media landscape? Specifically, panelists will focus on Africa’s long shadow with the momentous Arab Spring, the deadly Ebola virus, changing media ownership, framing U.S.-Africa Summit, Boko Haram, and #Bring Back Our Girls that went viral all the way to the White House in America. All the panelists have worked and conducted communication research in Africa.

Moderator & Chair: Festus Eribo, Ph.D., Professor, School of Communication, East Carolina University (confirmed)

Discussant: Arnold de Beer, Ph.D., Professor, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Panelists (all confirmed):

- Folu Ogundimu, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Michigan State University, Reporting Ebola and Africa's long shadow of disaster news
- Ralph Akinfeleye, Ph.D., Professor, University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria, Health and behavioral change communication: knowledge level and responses of Obalande community residents to communication messages on the causes and prevention of Ebola Virus Disease
- Imafidon Olaye, Ph.D. Professor, William Paterson University, Deadly Diseases and the Phases of Crisis: Sources of Information, Media Credibility, and the Coverage of Ebola
- Chris Ogbondah, Ph.D. Professor, University of Northern Iowa, U.S. Media Coverage of Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria: The example of #BringBackOurGirls
- Charles Okigbo, Ph.D. Professor, North Dakota State University, Covering Africa: Western and African Media's Framing of the U.S.-Africa Summit
- Angela Nkiru Nwammuo, Ph.D., Anambra State University, Coverage of Issues by African Press: What Has Ownership Got to Do With it?

Contact: Dr. Festus Eribo, Contact: ERIBOF@ECU.EDU (252) 412-6777