



INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION DIVISION, AEJMC

ICD Newsletter

A MESSAGE FROM ICD'S DIVISION HEAD TO OUR MEMBERS

By Summer Harlow



Dear ICD members:

Thank you so much for the honor and privilege to serve as Head of the International Communication Division of AEJMC. I am excited to continue working with ICD's officers and all of you as we strive to ever-improve the opportunities and offerings for existing members while also bringing in new members.

We already are making great progress to that end. Since the AEJMC conference in August, we've held three ICD at Home virtual panels, all of which were well attended. We started the virtual panel series last year as a way to turn the pandemic transition to Zoom and working from home into an opportunity for connecting with scholars around the world. Be sure to check out the message in this newsletter from our ICD at Home Coordinator, Volha Kananovich, to learn more about the panels and how you can get involved. We'll have more in the new year, so stay tuned!

I also am really excited to announce the first regional ICD-co-sponsored conference. Our Regional Liaison Coordinator, Hanan Badr, writes more about this and the regional liaison program in this newsletter. On Dec. 4, we collaborated with the Faculty of Mass Communication at October University for Modern Sciences and Arts (MSA University) in Cairo to co-sponsor an international roundtable, "Media and Communication Studies and Interdisciplinary Approaches in Arab Countries: Opportunities and Challenges." Since I first joined ICD as a graduate student at the University of Texas at Austin, I have wanted to better "internationalize" ICD, and making ICD a truly international division is one of my main goals as Division Head this year. ICD's sponsorship of this Arabic-language panel—the first ICD has done in a non-English language—is a great step toward expanding our division mission beyond the promotion of "teaching, research and public service activities in international communication" to embrace inclusivity across languages and regions.

Newsletter Highlights

A Message from ICD's
Division Head

ICD-At-Home

Syllabus Bank and
Expert Database

A Message from the
New ICD Regional
Liaison Coordinator

AEJMC Midwinter
Conference

Meet the ICD
Leadership

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I hope we can co-sponsor more regional panels in various languages not only this year, but also in coming years continue to develop partnerships with universities around the globe to make such events a permanent part of what ICD offers.

Something else that is changing as a way to increase international participation in ICD is that we are offering tiered memberships. Starting this year, we are now charging different rates for ICD members depending on whether they work at U.S. universities or outside the United States. While this is not a perfect system and doesn't take into account all the economic differences between the Global North and South, it is a way to begin to acknowledge that scholars working outside the United States do not always have access to the same resources and funding as their U.S. colleagues. Along these same lines, we also are decreasing the rate for grad students to make it more in line with other divisions. We hope these changes will encourage more people to join ICD and enjoy the benefits of membership.

In addition to these new initiatives, we can't forget everything else ICD does that helps make it one of AEJMC's largest divisions. I want to congratulate and say thank you to all the ICD officers, reviewers, discussants, moderators, and presenters who contributed to the success of the 2021 virtual AEJMC conference. Thank you, as well, to all of those who logged in to watch and participate in our sessions. One of the benefits of a virtual conference was that we were able to have more presenters and attendees from outside the United States, who might not have been able to attend had the conference been in-person. That being said, we are planning on having a face-to-face conference in Detroit in August 2022.

Our Vice-Head, Delwar Hossain, is already at work on the programming of teaching, PF&R, and research panels. More information about the accepted panels is forthcoming.

Meanwhile, don't forget about the upcoming Midwinter Conference, to be held March 4-5 at the University of Oklahoma. In this issue of the newsletter, our Research Chair, Lea Hellmueller, talks more about the Midwinter Conference and the upcoming Dec. 15 deadline for abstracts.

This newsletter also spotlights the work of other ICD officers and programs, such as our Syllabus Databank, Expert Database, and Teaching Competition. Please be sure to check out our website, <https://aejmc.us/icd/>, to learn more about all the resources, research awards, and other competition prizes that ICD offers.

You can also read in this newsletter about some of the accomplishments of our many amazing members. Please be sure to continue to send us updates about all that you're up to so we can feature it on social media and in upcoming newsletters.

Lastly, I want to encourage you all to contact me if you have suggestions about how ICD can better serve you all. Please get in touch and send me your ideas or proposals for initiatives: sharlow@central.uh.edu. I look forward to hearing from you all, and hope to see you at our next ICD at Home panel. And don't forget to subscribe to our WhatsApp group and follow us on Twitter (@ICD_AEJMC) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/InternationalCommunicationDivision>).

Be well,
Summer Harlow
Your Division Head

Newsletter Highlights

A Message from ICD's Division Head

ICD-At-Home

Syllabus Bank and Expert Database

A Message from the New ICD Regional Liaison Coordinator

AEJMC Midwinter Conference

Meet the ICD Leadership



ICD-AT-HOME BRINGS TO YOUR ZOOM SCREENS BEST PRACTICES IN RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION

By Volha Kananovich

I'd like to start this update with a brief introduction. My name is Volha Kananovich, and I am an assistant professor of digital journalism at Appalachian State University, North Carolina, where I teach courses in journalism and multimedia storytelling. Originally from Belarus, I got my Ph.D. degrees in Mass Communication from the University of Iowa and in Economics from the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. My research examines the role of political and media discourse in (de)legitimizing various forms of citizen engagement with the state across authoritarian and democratic contexts.

My first experience with ICD dates back to 2018, when I, a graduate student at that time, was recognized with the Best Student Poster Award. I'm excited to be able to give back to the division by serving as the coordinator of ICD-at-Home. For those who haven't had the chance to attend our events yet, ICD-at-Home is a series of virtual panels hosted by the division to showcase best practices in research and teaching of international communication as well to network and discuss topics of more general nature in partnership with other divisions. The events are free and hosted via Zoom. Please find below information about the events that we held in Fall 2021 and consider joining us in Spring 2022!

BEST OF TEACHING IN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION: 2021 EDITION | SEPT. 23

We kicked off the Fall 2021 series of ICD-at-Home with a showcase of the winning projects in the 2021 ICD Teaching Contest and a discussion of challenges and opportunities in teaching international communication. Our panelists were Drs. Lourdes Cueva Chacón (San Diego State University, United States), Mel Bunce, Lindsey Blumell, Zahera Harb (City, University of London, U.K.) and Yael Warshel (Pennsylvania State University, U.S.), who shared their classroom-tested assignments on various aspects of international communication. These ranged from teaching empathy as a methodological approach for critically interpreting intra- and inter-cultural group communication to countering hate speech and misinformation in the coverage of refugees and migrants to equipping students with international reporting experience by having them create multimedia packages localizing the coronavirus pandemic for a country of their choice.

INTERNATIONAL BOOK TOUR | OCT. 29

Our second event, moderated by ICD Head Dr. Summer Harlow, celebrated the launch of five recent books on international communication.

The panelists, Drs. Celeste González de Bustamante and Jeanine Relly (University of Arizona, U.S.), Daniela Dimitrova (Iowa State University, U.S.), Herman Wasserman (University of Cape Town, South Africa), Claudia Kozman (Lebanese American University in Beirut, Lebanon) and Yael Warshel (Pennsylvania State University, U.S.), offered a behind-the-scenes look into the book publishing process and shared their tips for navigating it successfully, including advice on developing a sustainable writing practice, working with the publisher, negotiating open access and promoting books across media platforms.

Here is the list of the books in case you'd like to add them to your library:

- González de Bustamante, C., & Relly, J.E. (2021). *Surviving Mexico: Resistance and Resilience Among Journalists in the Twenty-first Century*. University of Texas Press.
- Dimitrova, D. (Ed.). (2021). *Global Journalism: Understanding World Media Systems*. Roman & Littlefield.

In case you'd like to take a closer look at their winning projects, the descriptions are available at <https://aejmc.us/icd/2021/08/19/icd-2021-teaching-contest-winners/>.

- Wasserman, H. (2021). *The Ethics of Engagement: Media, Conflict and Democracy in Africa*. Oxford University Press.
- Richter, C., & Kozman, C. (Eds.). (2021). *Arab Media Systems*. Open Book Publishers.
- Warshel, Y. (2021). *Experiencing the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Children, Peace Communication and Socialization*. Cambridge University Press

ICD-AT-HOME PANEL ON COMPARATIVE CROSS- NATIONAL RESEARCH | NOV. 17

Our third panel was dedicated to discussing strategies for conducting rigorous, publishable and impactful cross-national research.

Our panelists were Drs. Saba Bebawi (University of Technology Sydney, Australia), Saif Shahin (American University, United States), Matthew Barnidge (University of Alabama, United States), Dolores Palau-Sampio (University of Valencia, Spain), and Hanan Badr (Gulf University for Sciences and Technology, Kuwait; Paris Lodron University of Salzburg, Austria).

Drawing on perspectives from quantitative and qualitative approaches, the panelists — whose cumulative record includes publications, which have been cited 2,330+ times — walked us through their recent research projects that they found to be instructive in terms of thinking through the methodological challenges of conducting cross-national research and shared their insights into the process. The aspects they addressed included sampling and case selection, misunderstandings about what “comparative” means and what is its ultimate theoretical goal, the challenges of going through the reviewing process, and advice on how to make cross-national research more feasible considering COVID-related restrictions, scarcity of resources, political instability, limited data access, and others.

LOOKING AHEAD

With 2021 winding down, we are planning events for Spring 2022. One idea is a virtual speed-networking event (think “speed dating” without the “dating” part), which is a great way to meet new people, expand academic networks and mingle in a fast-paced, low-pressure environment. We hope this creates more of a personal feel for our already existing members and opens up our division to people both from other divisions and outside of AEJMC.

We also hope that ICD feels like home to graduate students. One event we are planning to gear specifically toward graduate students and people considering a career change is navigating the international job market. (For example, you are graduating from a U.S. institution and looking for a job outside the U.S., or vice versa. Where should you look for job ads? What are the differences in the job search process and job itself that you should be aware of and plan for?) With the coronavirus restrictions being gradually lifted globally, this topic will hopefully be of interest — and use — to those of us who are considering going on the international job market.

I view ICD-at-Home as a wonderful opportunity for us to get to know one other, share our research and teaching insights, celebrate our accomplishments and to feel like a community. I hope you join us for our upcoming events. Please be on the lookout for information about our next ICD-at-Home panels on our social media and in our listserv announcements.

In case you have an idea for a panel or another event that we could (help) host as a division, my email is kananovichv@appstate.edu. I'd happy to hear from you and to make it work!

SYLLABUS BANK AND EXPERT DATABASE

By Meghan Sobel Cohen



Interest in issues related to international communication and global journalism is growing within AEJMC and beyond. Recognizing the need for good classroom resources to teach on these issues, the International Communication Division is home to a syllabus bank which serves as a resource for ICD and AEJMC membership. The syllabus bank is home to syllabi related to a wide range of international communication and global journalism topics, and we invite you to both utilize the syllabus bank and contribute to it. We welcome syllabi focused on any aspect of international communication and global journalism, including but not limited to regional media studies, international reporting practices, globalization, war and conflict reporting, journalism and human rights, and public diplomacy.

Introductory and advanced courses at the undergraduate and graduate level are all welcome. If you are willing to share a syllabus, please send it as a PDF to ICD's Teaching Chair, Meghan Sobel Cohen: mcohen003@regis.edu

In addition to knowledge, assignments and readings that can be shared via syllabi, we know there is tremendous expertise among the ICD membership. If you are looking for an expert in a specific area to be a guest speaker in one of your classes, for an event, or as a potential collaborator on a project, please visit our Expert Database: <https://aejmc.us/icd/expert-database-international-communication-division/>

If you would like to be included in the database, please email your information (Name, Title, Institution, email id, Area/s of expertise) to mcohen003@regis.edu

Newsletter Highlights

A Message from ICD's Division Head

ICD-At-Home

Syllabus Bank and Expert Database

A Message from the New ICD Regional Liason Coordinator

AEJMC Midwinter Conference

Meet the ICD Leadership

A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW ICD REGIONAL LIAISON COORDINATOR

By Hanan Badr



Hi dear ICD members,

Media and Communication Studies need to become more international!

This is exactly what we aim for in the International Communication Division, it is a goal I am personally committed to. Through my service for the ICD as Regional Liaison Coordinator I look towards creating an inclusive international dialogue that strengthens our field and creates platforms for this envisaged dialogue. Not only opening the field diversifies our perspectives and acknowledges alternative perspectives on our world, but it also strengthens our discipline from within: by acknowledging the different epistemological paths of creating knowledge.

These values also represent who I am: as a transnational scholar who was academically socialized between North Africa and Europe, Arabic and German-speaking spheres of knowledge, and just recently started as Chair for Public Spheres and Inequalities at the Department of Communication Studies at the Paris Lodron University of Salzburg, Austria, throughout my academic career I know too well that challenging Western-centric knowledge production structures can be tough. Who has not faced challenges in making alternative research traditions legible to Western-centric communication studies when observing similarities and differences in global communication contexts and comparative research? At ICD, together with a vibrant international scientific community, we are working on responding to those dilemmas: while the Covid-19 pandemic has closed borders and limited the spirit of collective comradery we feel in personal academic encounters, it also opened doors of the online virtual webinars -admittedly too many!!- which also offered an opportunity of networking and making scholars' research visible, who otherwise might have not been able to travel due to mobility restrictions.

ICD at Home format used those newly found possibilities to virtually travel around the world from the convenience of your own screen.

This is why I am especially excited about sharing the news that the International Communication Division (ICD) of AEJMC introduced its very first International Regional Roundtable entitled **"Media and Communication Studies and Interdisciplinary Approaches in Arab Countries: Opportunities and Challenges"** that ICD helped sponsor with the Faculty of Mass Communication at October University for Modern Sciences and Arts MSA University in Cairo (<https://msa.edu.eg/msauniversity/mass-communication>) on **Saturday, 4th of Dec, 2021**. The roundtable brought together several scholars from the region to discuss issues like visibility of Arab media and communication scholarship in international publications, issues of making local research practice and traditions legible. In strengthening outreach and inclusivity, the roundtable language was Arabic.

This is only a first step towards international cooperation and will not be the last!! If you want to suggest a similar ICD-sponsored regional event at your department or university, feel encouraged to reach out to me. Please feel particularly encouraged if you are an Early Career Scholar or a student. This tradition shall continue, and we will expand it to other regions in the world.

We also welcome you to become a regional liaison and invite you to initiate cooperation research projects and academic events together with ICD members. Please write me an email at hanan.badr@plus.ac.at Let us brainstorm together what exciting and innovative ideas you bring to help realize them together with ICD, and contribute to making our discipline and community more diverse and inclusive – in every sense of the word!

Best wishes,
Hanan Badr



AEJMC MIDWINTER CONFERENCE: DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS DECEMBER 15, 2021

By Lea Hellmueller

As the current Research Chair for ICD, I am very happy to announce that our division is an important co-sponsor of the forthcoming AEJMC Midwinter Conference, which takes place on March 4 and 5, 2022 at the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma.

The Midwinter Conference provides an important annual forum for the presentation of research and debate in areas relevant to the AEJMC groups sponsoring the event. It provides a platform for presentations and extended discussions in a relaxed setting and is particularly attractive to graduate students wishing to gain first-hand experiences presenting at a conference in a supportive environment.

Interested in submitting your work to the Midwinter Conference? Authors are invited to submit a paper or a panel. Research paper abstracts should be between 600 and 800 words that give a clear sense of relevant literature, research objectives, methodological approach, and stage of research project.

In addition, the organizers are also inviting panel proposals. These panel proposals should not be done through the online abstract submission system. Instead, submissions for panels should be sent to the relevant midwinter chair directly via email (for ICD, they can be sent directly to me (leahellmueller@uh.edu). The deadline for panel submissions is the same as for abstract submissions, December 15, 2021, 11:59 p.m. Central Time.

You can find more information here:

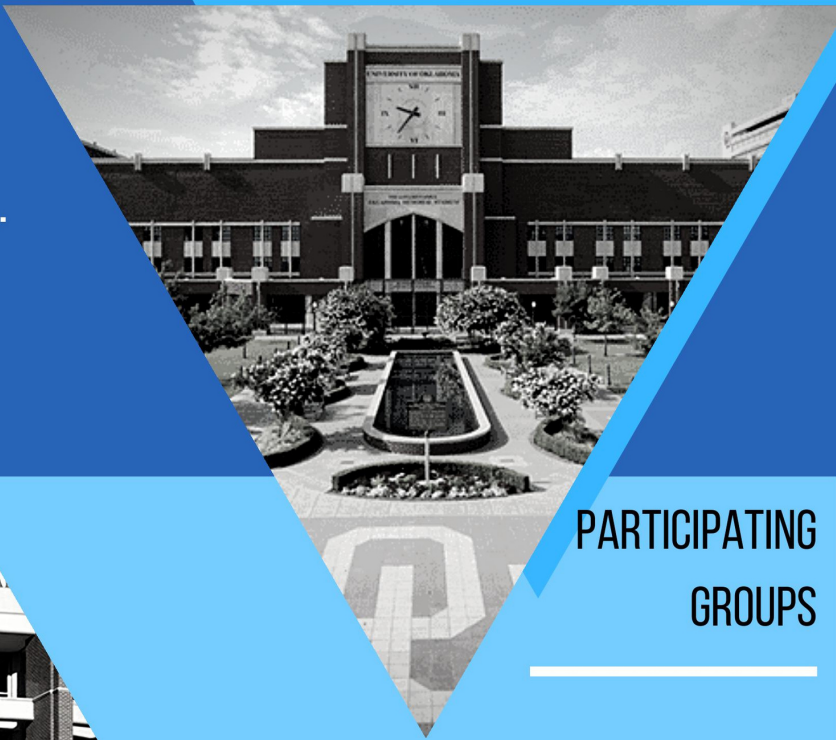
<https://www.ou.edu/gaylord/news-events/aejmc-midwinter-conference-information>

For further questions, feel free to contact me anytime: leahellmueller@uh.edu / ICD Research Chair

AEJMC MIDWINTER

SAVE THE DATE:
March 4-5, 2022

Submit your
abstracts by
December 15, 2021.
Submission link to
follow.



PARTICIPATING GROUPS

CCSD, COMJ,
CSWM, CTEC, ESIG,
GSIG, INTC, MACD,
MCSD, MMEE, PLCD



Meet the ICD Leadership



ZHAOXI LIU

Membership Chair

- Tell us a little about yourself.

I teach in the Department of Communication at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. I've been at Trinity for eight years.

- How did you first get involved with ICD?

I first get involved with ICD as a doctoral student, submitting conference papers to the division.

- What is your favorite aspect of being a part of ICD?

I really love the diverse group of scholars from all over the world as part of the division, and broad range of research they bring. As a result, the division is intellectually stimulating and academically dynamic. I also love the collegial atmosphere among ICD members.

- How would your family and friends describe you in three words?

No nonsense, candid, caring

- Who inspires you, and why?

Stuart Hall; he is brilliant and cared deeply about social justice.

- What is the most exciting part of your job?

Publishing my research.

- What energizes you outside of work?

Music, piano, walking my dog

- Are you an early bird or a night owl?

Early bird.

- Share your favorite quote from a book or a film with us.

Can't think of any right now.

- Tell us one weird fact that you know.

My son can bend the first knuckle of all his fingers.



IMRAN HASNAT

Research Reviewer
Recruitment Officer

- Tell us a little about yourself.

I am originally from Bangladesh and currently working at the university of Oklahoma as an assistant professor. I teach digital storytelling, data visualization and multimedia journalism.

- How did you first get involved with ICD?

I first started working with ICD as a student member back in 2015, and then became a regional liaison and most recently the newsletter editor.

- What is your favorite aspect of being a part of ICD?

Meeting scholars who are also studying international communication. Additionally, I think ICD gives a platform to research on areas of the world that is otherwise neglected.

- How would your family and friends describe you in three words?

Caring, stupid and forgetful.

- Who inspires you, and why?

My teachers – there's so many of them that its hard to pick favorites. They helped me be the person I am today.

- What is the most exciting part of your job?

Working with students. Helping them realize their potential and seeing their eyes light up with hope and aspirations.

- What energizes you outside of work?

My family and my PC games!

- Are you an early bird or a night owl?

Definitely a night owl! I cant function properly before noon.

- Share your favorite quote from a book or a film with us.

This aggression will not stand man – the dude from The Big Lebowski

- Tell us one weird fact that you know.

The gesture of "flipping someone off" with your middle finger dates back to Ancient Greece.

Recent Member Publications

Lea Hellmueller:

Terrorist Organizations in the News: A Computational Approach to Measure Media Attention towards Terrorism

DOI:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15205436.2021.1936068>

Amal M Bakry:

Mishra, S., & Bakry, A. (2021). Social identities in consumer-brand relationship: The case of the Hijab-wearing Barbie doll in the United States. *Journal of Consumer Behaviour*, 1– 13.

<https://doi.org/10.1002/cb.1965>

Volha Kananovich:

Kananovich, V. (2021) #presidentspartingwords at a critical juncture: Reclaiming the autonomous subject in social media discourse on coronavirus in Belarus. *Journal of Communication Inquiry*. (Online first).

DOI: 10.1177/01968599211049557.

H. Denis Wu:

Seaton, K., & Wu, H. D. (2021). Making war and peace with emotion: Examining the Iraq and Iran cases via presidential speech and media coverage. *International Political Science Review*.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/0192512120982498>.

Wu, H. D. (2020). The impact of language and systemic factors on tweeted countries of the world. *Journal of International Communication*, 26(2), 171-189.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/13216597.2020.1793797>.

Member Accomplishments

ICA PRE-CONFERENCE PARIS 2022

COMPARATIVE COMMUNICATION RESEARCH IN A GLOBALIZED RISK ARENA: PARADIGMS – METHODS – CRITIQUE

Time: Thursday, May 26, 2022, 8.30AM to 5.00PM

Venue: Organizers are planning to host the event at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

Registration fee: USD 85.00

Call for Papers

Numerous debates have shaped the parameters of international comparative research over the last decade. Nevertheless, a new dimension of globalized crisis interaction is emerging from the COVID pandemic. The pandemic, as a globalized risk reveals new forms of inequality while increasing existing inequities and situations of high uncertainty for citizens across the globe. Communications during the pandemic, it follows, have been characterized by an amalgamation of all kinds of communicative actors: ranging from journalists, governments, citizens, to scientists who engage with each other on digital platforms beyond national borders. The communicative interactions to which they contribute reveal a sphere of reflective interdependence unfolding across continents, rather than nationally bound connections establishing networked subjectivities. Of interest, therefore, is to what extent do we really live in 'one world, one network'?

In response, this ICA preconference will provide a broad platform for the discussion of new dimensions of comparative communication research. It will address cosmopolitan approaches, assess globalized ontologies, and explore, overall, those inclusive frameworks which characterize today's globalized risk arena. In turn, the preconference will outline the key challenges to existing paradigms and methodological approaches and seek to establish a critical dialogue in the field. Overall, this preconference will provide a platform for the discussion of new approaches to post- pandemic comparative communication research!

The preconference will begin with thoughts from the UNESCO's Chief of the section for Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists, alongside a podium discussion with key stakeholders. Following the preconference, selected contributions will be published in an edited volume.

It is planned to host the preconference at UNESCO (tbc).

Generally, paper submissions could focus on (but are not restricted to):

- conceptualizing comparison,
 - comparative methods,
 - approaches for inclusion,
 - digital analysis,
 - Global South crisis communication,
- engage with challenges to existing paradigms and methodological approaches.

Abstracts of 300 words should be submitted here by February 18, 2022. For questions regarding the pre-conference and/or abstract submission, please email Ingrid Volkmer, University of Melbourne: ivolkmer@unimelb.edu.au.

Conference organizers (in alphabetical order):

Hanan Badr, Gulf University of Science and Technology, Kuwait

Saba Bebawi, University of Technology Sydney, Australia

Lea Hellmueller, University of Houston, USA

Ansgard Heinrich, University of Groningen, The Netherlands

Rasha El-Ibiray, Future University, Egypt

Julian Matthews, University of Leicester, UK

Ingrid Volkmer, University of Melbourne, Australia

Conference chairs:

Ingrid Volkmer, University of Melbourne, Australia

Ansgard Heinrich, University of Groningen, The Netherlands

Member Accomplishments

Dr. Owen V. Johnson, Associate professor emeritus of Journalism at Indiana University presented at the Mass Media and Communications Conference at the Faculty of Journalism at Moscow State University, Nov. 18. He was a participant in the panel, "From the Past to the Future: The Faculty of Journalism, Lomonosov Moscow State University in Global Academia,"

celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Faculty of Journalism and the 75th anniversary of journalism education at Moscow State University.

Twenty years ago Dr. Johnson participated in person at the 50th anniversary of the Faculty of Journalism. Because of the Covid-19 emergency in Russia, this time he participated via Zoom.

Member Accomplishments

Book Project

Reflections on Feminist Communication and Media Scholarship Theory, Method, Impact

Edited By Stine Eckert, Ingrid Bachmann

This collection brings together ten of the most distinguished feminist scholars whose work has been celebrated for its excellence in helping to lay the foundation of feminist communication and media research.

This edited volume features contributions by the first ten renowned communication and media scholars that have received the Teresa Award for the Advancement of Feminist Scholarship from the Feminist Scholarship Division (FSD) of the International Communication Association (ICA): Patrice M. Buzzanell, Meenakshi Gigi Durham, Radha Sarma Hegde, Dafna Lemish, Radhika Parameswaran, Lana F. Rakow, Karen Ross, H. Leslie Steeves, Linda Steiner, and Angharad N. Valdivia. These distinguished scholars reflect on the contributions they have made to different subfields of media and communication scholarship, and offer invaluable insight into their own paths as feminist scholars. They each reflect on matters of power, agency, privilege, ethics, intersectionality, resilience, and positionality, address their own shortcomings and struggles, and look ahead to potential future directions in the field. Last but not least, they come together to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women, marginalized people, and vulnerable populations, and to underline the crucial need for feminist communication and media scholarship to move beyond Eurocentrism toward an ethics of care and global feminist positionality.

Link to order the book: <https://www.routledge.com/Reflections-on-Feminist-Communication-and-Media-Scholarship-Theory-Method/Eckert-Bachmann/p/book/9780367609832>

LGBTQ DIGITAL CULTURES: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE (ROUTLEDGE FOCUS ON LGBTQ STUDIES)

Dr. Paromita Pain (Editor): Emphasizing a deeply intersectional lens to the study of queer and transgender issues, digital media technologies and centered on efforts that delve into topics such as race, disability, and colonialism as co-assembled with gender and sexuality, this edited collection examines queer cyberculture and presence through the lens of representation and identity politics to explore how digital technologies have made queer cultural productions more expansive and how such technological affordances and platforms enable queer cultural practices to be more transformational.

Newsletter Highlights

A Message from ICD's
Division Head

ICD-At-Home

Syllabus Bank and
Expert Database

A Message from the
New ICD Regional
Liason Coordinator

AEJMC Midwinter
Conference

Meet the ICD
Leadership

Member Accomplishments

Book Project

(Re)presentation of Refugees in Media: Local and Global Perspectives

Edited By

Nasir Uddin & Delwar Hossain

Concept Note

The roles of media in shaping public opinion and formulating policy concerns towards refugee and migrants' politics have long been underscored by scholars across the disciplines. Media could provide both "sympathy frame" and "hostility frame" for the refugees and asylum seekers in the countries of migration and beyond. In the process of news, views and analyses, these issues are molded by various mechanisms of media including agenda-setting, story-lining and perspective-framing. By doing so, the process of integration and assimilation of the refugees and migrants could be jeopardized in the host societies.

Media and refugees rhetorically live together, hence complementary to each other, as refugees benefit from media to have appeared before the global community as well as media (re)presents refugees as victims of the state and the system. However, it seems a contesting fact that while civic liberalism, human rights voices, democratic norms, and the multipolarity of faith, race, and ethnicity seemingly tend to increase, strikingly the global refugee situation is on the rise. Given the contestation, media play a very significant role to disseminate information and framing issues related to the conditions of the refugee situation across the globe.

Media mobilizes global opinions in favor of refugee conditions to make the state accountable for generating humanitarian situations. At the same time, the media conventionally portrays the refugee situation before the world as if it is a 'crisis' created by the refugees themselves. Particularly, such a critic against media came up when the refugee situations in Europe in 2015-2016 were projected as a 'crisis. This sort of media portrayal adds a negative connotation to the refugee situation across the globe. Media covers both 'hate speech' against and 'sympathy' for the refugees as well as 'hostility' in the place of origin and 'hospitality' in the place of migration. But, in most cases, media lack voicing the victims who take refuge finding no other alternative but to accept the fate of refugeehood. Media gives limited opportunities to the refugee to speak up but projects humanitarian crises to further dehumanize them.

Newsletter Highlights

A Message from ICD's Division Head

ICD-At-Home

Syllabus Bank and Expert Database

A Message from the New ICD Regional Liason Coordinator

AEJMC Midwinter Conference

Meet the ICD Leadership

Media publishes images of suffering people and people in outrageous crisis which adds to the populist projection of stereotyping 'refugee crisis. At the same time, media brings perpetrators to light which helps the global community stand up in favor of refugees and mobilize public opinion. This is the way media deals with refugee issues both as helpers and harmers, friends and foes, humanitarian and humiliating ones, and productive and counter-productive at local, national, regional, and global scales. Such dual roles in dealing with the refugee issues equally make media accountable in the broader spectrum of ethics, human rights, and global justice.

Given the context, the book tends to address the following unaddressed questions: Should media stand by refugees or maintain deliberate distance under the pretext of 'objectivity' and 'neutrality'? Should media consider the 'greater good of the society and cover issues related to media with more empathy and following 'ethics of care'? Does the media have any right to further dehumanize the refugee in humanitarian conditions? Is the media entitled to publish photographs of refugees in dire crisis without informed consent? Should media stand by the state which is in most cases responsible for generating refugee situations or make the state accountable for the acts of rendering its people refugees? Why does the media project the refugee situation as a 'crisis' rather than the human beings in crisis?

What roles can media play to reduce increasing refugee situations across the world? What effective roles can media play to resolve the refugee 'crisis' in different parts of the world?

The book intends to house scholars across disciplines and continents to cover up the global refugee scenario with local specificity and the roles of media in a local and global context. It aims to focus on the leading refugee situations in the last two decades including Syrian refugees, Venezuela refugees, Afghan refugees, Rohingya refugees, South Sudanese refugees, and Somali refugees, etc. It tends to take part in the methodological and theoretical discussions and challenges regarding the reciprocal engagement between media and refugees from both local and global perspectives.

Important Deadlines

Abstract submission: December 15, 2021

Final manuscript: February 28, 2022

Tentative Publication: August, 2022

Potential publishers:

Duke University Press, Chicago University Press, University of Pennsylvania Press etc.

Or

Palgrave MacMillan, Routledge, SAGE, Springer

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