



GSIG Newsletter
2014

Fall

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If you are interested in getting involved, submitting articles or have any other questions contact Stephanie Miles at stephanie-miles@uiowa.edu.

Guidelines about the submission can be found on the [GSIG website](#).

Dear AEJMC graduate student members,

Happy Fall!

We would like to extend a warm greeting and introduce you to GSIG's November 2014 electronic newsletter.

The first feature article in this issue contains advice for creating a compelling research agenda that showcases your interests and talents. Our second feature article examines the issue of stress and suicide in undergraduate education.

Finally, it is never too late to start thinking about papers for AEJMC. Our 2015 Call for Papers is included at the end of this issue to help you prepare your upcoming submissions. Please note that there are some changes from last year, including a new rule about being first author on only one paper.

Featured Articles

Advice for Building a Research Agenda That Supports Your Academic Career



By Frank Russell (University of Missouri)

"Candidates must have a well-defined research agenda."

You've seen language like this in faculty job postings. (Or if you haven't looked at job boards yet, you eventually will!) Although I've found plentiful advice

About GSIG

Graduate Student Interest Group AEJMC

GSIG is the only
AEJMC Interest
Group focused
entirely on the needs
of Graduate
Students.

about other aspects of graduate school, guidance about how to shape a research agenda is somewhat scarce.

Although she is not in our field, Harvard University economist Rohini Pande noted the importance of a strong research agenda for hiring committees. It's probably just as relevant to choose a research area that will motivate you to earn an advanced degree. "A research agenda might simply be the naming of that inspiration that gets you out of bed and into the office every morning," Pande wrote. Furthermore, I'd argue that an engaging research agenda could be the foundation for your service to our field, the media industry, and the public.

University of Washington grad students have compiled some advice about building a research agenda. Start with what interests you. Talk about your interests with faculty and other students. Read a lot, even literature that doesn't seem relevant to your agenda. Take classes that will advance your research. Submit and present papers at conferences.

Feedback on papers can give you ideas for future research. Like most GSIG members, I've submitted papers to our group and other divisions. GSIG is as competitive, but you are competing against fellow grad students. We don't have topic restrictions, so you can submit papers that aren't an exact fit elsewhere. In my experience, reviewers want to help students become better scholars. For these and other reasons, GSIG can help you craft your research agenda.

Frank Russell is a doctoral candidate in the School of Journalism at University of Missouri. He currently serves as PF&R chair for GSIG.

Easing the Stress of Our Students

By Nicholas Hirshon (Ohio University)

A scary trend is plaguing academia. Every year, midterms and final exams coincide with a rash of student suicides. News reports often suggest the students could not handle the pressures of doing well in their classes on top of the stress of everyday life. It is very troubling to think the work that we assign as college instructors may push these promising young minds over the brink.

How can we address this problem? I asked myself this question while teaching journalism for several years in New York City. At the time, a series of suicides at New York University was making national headlines. I believe in setting high standards for students, but I worried that too much work would only discourage them and produce anxiety.

If students reveal their depression to us, we can direct them to the counseling center at our institution. But we can do our part in the classroom as well, reaching students who may not speak up about the stress they are enduring.

I teach Magazine Feature Writing at Ohio University, and I assign students to read an award-winning article about suicides, "The Suicide Catcher," which ran in GQ in 2010. On a busy bridge in China, a mysterious man peers at passersby through his clunky binoculars. Should a pedestrian begin to linger and glance toward the water, the man rushes to their side, ready to save a potential jumper. At last count, he had saved 174 lives. It's comforting to know that selfless people like Mr. Chen exist and to think of all the lives he has saved.

Mr. Chen tells would-be jumpers that their problems can be overcome, no matter how large they might seem. That is an important message for students, too. In the chaotic home stretch of the semester, discussing "The Suicide Catcher" can put life in perspective. It also demonstrates to our students that we acknowledge the challenges they face, and those challenges can be overcome.

Nicholas Hirshon, the teaching chair for the Graduate Student Interest Group, is a Scripps Howard teaching fellow and a Ph.D. student in mass communication at Ohio University. He was the recipient of an AEJMC Promising Professor Award in 2014. Hirshon can be reached at nickhirshon@gmail.com.

Call for Papers

2015 AEJMC Call for Papers from GSIG

The Graduate Student Interest Group (GSIG) invites graduate students to submit research papers for the 2015 AEJMC annual convention in San Francisco. GSIG is dedicated to providing opportunities for graduate students to present research in the conference setting. Author(s) may be at any point in

their graduate education, from master's through Ph.D.

GSIG accepts research from a variety of theoretical and methodological perspectives that address any topic in journalism, media, or mass communication. The top-ranked submission will receive the annual Guido Stempel Award and will receive a cash prize, award plaque, and conference registration reimbursement for the lead author. Authors of the top four papers will have the opportunity to present at a special GSIG-sponsored research panel highlighting graduate student research. In addition, the top student poster will receive the Carson B Wagner Award, which includes a cash prize and award certificate. To be considered for GSIG awards, author(s) must be graduate students at the time of submission.

Authors are not required to be a member of GSIG to submit a paper, but authors of accepted papers must be members before presenting their research at the convention in August. Our membership fee is one of the most affordable of all AEJMC divisions and interest groups at \$7 per year.

Papers should be submitted to the AEJMC site in Word, WordPerfect or PDF format (PDF preferred). An abstract of 75 words should also be uploaded at the time of submission. Papers should be no more than 25-pages, not counting references, tables or appendices. Authors should use Times New Roman in 12-point font, with 1-inch margins, double-spaced and in APA style. According to AEJMC submissions guidelines, the manuscript title should be printed on the title page, the first page of the text, and on running heads on each page of text. Do NOT include author's name anywhere in the document. Papers uploaded with author's identifying information displayed WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR REVIEW AND WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE DISQUALIFIED FROM THE COMPETITION. Please refer to the AEJMC uniform paper call for more information.

All submissions will undergo a blind review process by a panel of independent reviewers. Papers are accepted on the understanding that they have not been previously published or presented elsewhere (with the exception of the AEJMC Midwinter Conference) and are not under consideration by any scholarly journal or trade organization. Only one paper per primary author will be accepted.

Questions regarding submission should be directed to GSIG Research Chair, Holly Cowart (hcowart@ufl.edu).



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