

GSIG August Highlights

On behalf of the Graduate Student Interest Group, we would like to thank all members, old and new, for supporting GSIG. As we seek to build stronger relationships with our members and other graduate students across the world beyond the scope of the annual AEJMC conference, we will be publishing monthly newsletters to our website and distributing them via email, addressing issues relevant to graduate education, including research, negotiating the job market, publishing, balancing teaching and research responsibilities with student performance, and so on. We would like to spend this month's email wrapping up the 2018 AEJMC conference in Washington, D.C. by hitting a few conference highlights, including messages from a few of our panelists and top paper winners.

Student spotlight: Nicole Liebers, GSIG's Guido Stempel Top Paper Award winner



“When hearing that I will be receiving the Guido Stempel Award at the annual conference of the AEJMC this year, I got very excited. Not only was it the first time to get a paper accepted at AEJMC (and my first time to visit Washington DC), but also the first time I got an award for a top paper. Research on romantic parasocial interactions between media characters and media users might seem rather as an exotic and uncommon research topic at AEJMC at first sight, and I am delighted that the Graduate Student Interest Group had an open mind on it.

Exchanging views about my research and, of course, about research (with) other members of the Graduate Student Interest Group was fascinating and broadened my horizon. As far as I can see, the diversity of backgrounds, topics, origins, methodological approaches, perspectives, and people, in general, is one of the greatest strengths of the Graduate Student Interest Group and I am thrilled to be a part of it.”

– Nicole Liebers, doctoral student, Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg.

Advice from faculty – *Surviving the job market:*

“One of the most important questions that graduate students, post-docs, professors, and those going into industry should consider is, “Who am I?” This question asks you to examine both who you are and who you would like to be. The answer(s) to this question assist you in deciding the direction you take to get to where you want to be.

A simple way to attempt to answer this question is to compose a tweet. In 280 characters or less you have to pitch yourself. Your description could begin something like, “I am a scholar of....,” or “I examine....,” although ultimately how things are framed is up to you.

How would you frame yourself? By understanding who you are, what you do, and where you want to be you can both widen and narrow your job search to the opportunities that best fit.”

– Jasmine McNealy,
Assistant Professor,
University of Florida



“When thinking about what type of job you want to shoot for, how do you know if you're better suited for a more research- or teaching-oriented job? Obviously, you need to really enjoy teaching to fit well at a teaching school, but there are a couple of other clarifying questions that can help.

First, who would you rather spend time investing in? At research institutions that will most often be grad students, and in teaching positions that will commonly be undergraduates.

Second, how would it be more fulfilling for you to plug in: Locally or more broadly? Teaching institutions tend to value a deep investment across the university, as you get a more holistic sense of campus and academic life.

In research institutions, you will often be more encouraged to build a broad network across your field and devote significant time and attention there. There are always exceptions and shades of ambiguity, but these distinctions can help you determine where you would be most fulfilled.”



– Mark Coddington,
Assistant Professor,
Washington and Lee
University

On getting published:

Plan short and long term:

- Before beginning a draft/revising an article, have a journal in mind.
- Can my dissertation become a book? Think about what the narrative is and if this would work. And can I get 1-2 articles out of the dissertation as well?
- If you are more of an article writer: imagine how you can have a few articles coming out of your dissertation
- Note that most R1 universities will grant tenure on the basis of more than the book or articles based on your dissertation. They want a second project, hence the importance of your note book.

Valerie Belair-Gagnon,
Assistant Professor,
University of Minnesota



Meet the 2018-19 Board:

Chair - Aaron Atkins, Ohio University

Aaron is in his final year as a doctoral student in the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University. He earned his master's degree in communication at Virginia Tech in 2016. Prior to pursuing graduate education, Aaron worked primarily as a community journalist at daily and weekly newspapers in Wyoming and Virginia. His research is focused on integrating new technology, specifically virtual and augmented reality, into journalism production, integrating tech into community news reporting, and investigating the effects of their use on an audience. He also works with drone-based aerial videography. He has taught undergraduate courses for five years, including courses on multiplatform reporting and writing, media and information literacy, online journalism, and public speaking.

Vice Chair - Amanda Bradshaw, University of Florida

Amanda is a second-year doctoral student at the University of Florida. Her research interests include how social networking interactions influence maternal health decision-making, particularly in regard to vaccine hesitancy. Amanda is originally from Huntsville, Alabama and received her B.A. in Journalism from the University of Alabama and her M.S. in Integrated Marketing Communication from West Virginia University. Her professional experience includes three years as the public relations manager of Preferred Medical Group which includes three clinics and six providers in pediatrics, family practice, and child psychology and one year as a marketing director for Chick-fil-A in Lawton, Oklahoma. Additionally, Amanda owned her own social media consulting firm, Backward Bullseye Branding, and worked as an adjunct instructor in public speaking at Cameron University.

Research Chair I - Jessica McKnight, Ohio State

Jessica is a PhD candidate in the School of Communication at The Ohio State University. Her research interests center on science communication, health communication, and risk

communication – particularly focusing on the ways that individuals find and select information through online news aggregators and social media sites.

Research Chair II - Ahmed Orabi, University of Illinois

Ahmed is a PhD student and visiting scholar at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is a journalist and assistant lecturer at South Valley University in Egypt.

Communication Chair - Easton Wollney, Univ. of Florida

Easton is a second-year Ph.D. student at the University of Florida in the College of Journalism & Communications. She earned both her undergraduate and master's degrees in mass communication from Texas Tech. She is interested in health information-seeking behaviors online and how it influences decision making. She is primarily interested in adolescent, emerging adult and women's health issues. She also has an interest family and interpersonal communication within health. She has taught courses in public speaking, multimedia writing, and media and politics.

Membership Chair - Kaitlin Bane, University of Oregon

Kaitlin is a third-year Ph.D. student in the media studies program at the University of Oregon. She has a bachelor's degree from California State University-Sacramento, and a master's degree from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Both her degrees are in journalism. Prior to her move to Oregon, she was an on-air TV reporter (multimedia journalist) at a local television station in Montana. Her research focuses on media ethics, media ownership, and the harassment of journalists. Kaitlin enjoys teaching broadcast courses, and advises DuckTV, Oregon's student-run TV show featuring news, sports, and creative content.

Teaching Chair - Shannon Zenner, UNC-Chapel Hill

Shannon Zenner is a doctoral student in the School of Media and Journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (expected graduation in May 2019). Currently, her research investigates visual aesthetic preferences (visual taste) and how that maps onto political identity in political advertising. She has a background working in advertising and worked for several advertising agencies with clients such as Bank of America, Justin Boots, IBM, Bell Helicopters, and Nortel Networks. As an educator for more than a decade, Shannon has a passion for the science and art of teaching with experience teaching courses in advertising, mass media, creativity, graphic design, web design, social media, broadcast communication, photography, and media ethics.

PF&R Chair - Olushola Aromona, University of Kansas

Shola Aromona is a second-year doctoral student at the William Allen White School of Journalism, University of Kansas. Shola's research interests are political communication, gender and sexuality, and social media for advocacy and social change. She is primarily interested in the interaction of gender in the political communication styles of political office holders/seekers on

social media. Shola has taught classes on media literacy and information management and is excited about helping students realize their dreams and succeed in their academic pursuits.

And finally:

We are always interested in feedback – both positive and critical – on GSIG, our communications with our members, and our AEJMC panels and sessions. We are also interested in hearing from you about issues graduate students are facing in order to encourage healthy discourse around those issues. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact GSIG Chair Aaron Atkins at da057916@ohio.edu or check us out on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/aejmcGSIG/> or on Twitter at @GsigAejmc