



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATION IN JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION (AEJMC)



Head's Message



Candi Carter Olson
Chair

Six years ago, I came to my first AEJMC. I decided that since I was on the job market, I would attend the Commission on the Status of Women networking luncheon (which we've now turned into an evening social). That

decision, honestly, changed my life and career for the better.

For this, my final piece as chair of the CSW and as a six-year board member, I want to encourage everyone to take a chance and get involved, particularly with the CSW, but with any DIG, really. Your AEJMC experience will be enriched by the stronger ties you have with people and groups just because you took a chance on volunteering and jumping into the pool of

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people who keep this organization running.

Go to a DIG meeting. Ours is on Tuesday evening at 6:45 p.m.

Go to a social. The CSW's is on Tuesday evening at 8:30 p.m.

Yes, the socials cost money. However, the return you get on attending these events in terms of meeting new friends, mentors, and professional connections is invaluable.

Through my connection with the CSW, I gained a mentor in Tracy Everbach, who sucked me into being a board member at that first networking luncheon I ever attended. If you've never met Tracy, she's a force of nature. Do yourself a favor and track her down.

Through my connection with the CSW, I gained a research partner in Victoria LaPoe. Victoria and I have been through a lot together. We have an edited collection coming out this fall, and while we've fought and gone crazy together as we've worked to try and figure out survey questions or a particular piece of theory, we know that we can count on each other.

Throughout my time on the CSW board, I've served as the newsletter editor, the Midwinter research chair, the research chair, vice chair, and chair. I've seen the board expand to include an ad hoc social media position and a membership committee.

The CSW has advocated for childcare at conferences, a change that's finally coming to our D.C. conference. I hope many of you will take advantage of this service and reinforce to AEJ that childcare is an important thing for women who attend conferences.

The CSW has sought to diversify its membership, which is a work in progress. However, our board is more representative of America's women, and this is a goal for which we should continue to strive. More diversity in our leadership provides more diverse mentors and friends for our quickly changing faculty. We need more diversity among our university's faculty, and the CSW can be a major part of that change by fostering strong connections among women from different backgrounds.

The CSW has worked to increase its membership. We currently have around 200 members, and I'd love to see us grow to 500 or 600, more than enough to rival the biggest DIGs at AEJ.

The CSW is one of only two DIGs with a position on the Executive Board. We are an advocacy group. Within our current political climate, we should be louder and more active than ever as we seek to make sure that women of all backgrounds have a voice in AEJ, academia, and the professional media world.

I've met so many of you beautiful members, first through email and then at the conference when we ran into each other at panels or meetings. The CSW membership is and has been my AEJ family. For this, I thank every one of you.

Remember that your voice matters. You matter. You belong. Don't let this AEJ pass you by without speaking to anyone. Come to our meeting. Come to our social. Introduce yourself. Become part of the family.

I'll miss being part of your leadership, but I look forward to continuing to expand my AEJ family with each and every one of you.

2017-2018 Officers

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Run for the CSW Board

Do you want to meet some amazing people and strengthen your ties with AEJMC and the CSW? Do you want to be part of one of the two AEJ groups that has a strong advocacy voice in the organization? Then step forward and nominate yourself for a CSW board position.

Vice Chair: The vice chair manages the commission's programming for the year. The vice chair's position is busy every fall with the chipping process and negotiating panel deals with other DIGs. In addition, the vice chair uses chips to negotiate how many research panels and scholar-to-scholar poster sessions we have available for members. The vice chair becomes chair the following year, as per CSW rules.

Research Chair: The research chair manages the research paper competition every year. The research chair reviews the paper call every fall and recruits reviewers throughout the fall and winter. When papers are submitted on April 1, the research chair distributes papers to reviewers, analyzes the results, sends out acceptances and rejections, and organizes accepted papers into panels and scholar-to-scholar poster sessions.

Midwinter Research Chair: The Midwinter research chair is similar to research chair but on a smaller scale. The Midwinter research chair distributes the call for papers and panels in the fall for the Midwinter conference. Once the Midwinter papers are submitted in December, the chair distributes

submissions to reviewers, analyzes the results, sends out acceptances and rejections, and organizes accepted submissions for the conference program.

Secretary: The secretary takes notes at the annual conference and any subsequent meetings that the board may have, if those meetings occur. The secretary then sends meeting minutes to the newsletter editor for publication and circulates them at the next conference for approval.

Newsletter Editor: The newsletter editor (or editors) distributes three newsletters every year, fall, midwinter, and right before the summer conference. This is a digital newsletter. The newsletter editor solicits submissions, designs the newsletter, and distributes it to the membership through digital channels. This year's newsletter editors also set up a Google Group for the CSW, and the newsletter editor manages that group and can approve or reject submissions.

Ad-Hoc Social Media Chair: The ad-hoc social media chair manages the CSW's social media, including Twitter and Facebook and a writing support group, and the main CSW page. To gain access to the website, the social media chair will need to contact CSW central. The social media chair distributes information of interest to members on all social media channels and on the website. The ad-hoc social media chair also arranges relationships with other DIGs for Twitter chats and panels.

The AEJMC Commission on the Status of Women 2018 Awards

Every year, the CSW awards four endowed prizes promoting feminist research and advocacy. This year, we received numerous entries for each award, and all of the entries were judged by a panel of three judges, including past winners of each award. The Commission is pleased to announce this year's four awardees. All of these awards and our paper prizes will be given at our meeting on Tuesday, August 7, at 6:45 p.m.

Mary Gardner Award for Graduate Student Research Elizabeth Lance, Northwestern University, Qatar

This year's Mary Gardner Award goes to Elizabeth Lance, research manager at Northwestern University at Qatar. The award will support Lance's dissertation, "Mediated visibilities: Representation and self-presentation in Qatar." The first study, which is under way, is a content analysis of English-language daily newspaper *The Gulf Times* using an adapted version of the Global Media Monitoring Project codebook. The second study is a textual analysis of Instagram posts by Qatari women and other female social media influencers (the "Instafamous") in Qatar.

Lance said she has always been interested in how women appear in the media, and living in different countries has allowed her to examine this phenomenon in multiple contexts. However, she said, representations of women in Qatar have not yet been studied – the practice, Lance said, is taboo among many people – which spurred her interest in using the Global Media Monitoring Project codebook to examine these depictions.

"That raises the question of how women present themselves on social media, and how does it deviate from what the establishment press shows?" Lance said.

The Mary Gardner Award will fund a research assistant to help Lance with the quantitative content analysis portion of her project.



Lance said she hopes the project makes an impact both in the academic and professional media communities.

"Academically, I hope the study will provide an important baseline against which progress on representations of women can be measured," she said. "Additionally, the project offers insight into the Arab Gulf region, which is largely understudied in the media field. The 'Middle East' or 'Arab World' is highly diverse, with very distinct cultural traditions and media practices in its various regions, and my hope is that by increasing the research produced in the Gulf, that will allow for more nuanced understandings of the region by scholars working outside of it.

"Qatar has instituted several ambitious plans to build its economy beyond the oil and gas industries, and they won't be able to realize that economic growth without women actively participating in the workforce. And we know that media representations of women can serve a social role in teaching the public what women can do. So I hope that media entities will take the results of the study and make a more concerted effort to include women in media coverage."

CSW 2018 Awards

Mary Ann Yodelis Smith (MAYS) Award for Feminist Scholarship Erica Ciszek



This year's MAYS Award goes to Erica Ciszek, an assistant professor in the Jack J. Valenti School of Communication at the University of Houston, who will begin a position at the University of Texas at Austin this fall. This scholarship will support Ciszek's work on an exploratory project examining the lived experiences of trans and non-binary communication professionals.

As Ciszek's nomination letter described, the work explores how these individuals use their work to "construct, define, and perform identity and how this works to reify or challenge hegemonic social conventions and ideologies."

The project will also suggest "best practices for communicating with and on behalf of trans and non-binary publics and the broader implications of such messaging."

Ciszek said the project will use in-depth interviews to capture participants' lived experiences as trans and non-binary individuals. As someone who has worked in strategic communication and identifies as non-binary, Ciszek sees a project that aims to highlight the perspectives and voices of this community as particularly important.

"I hope the academy recognizes that through this research, gender is not simply a demographic category on a survey where participants select male or female," Ciszek said. "This binary does not capture the diversity of genders that communication professionals (and audiences of communication materials) identify with. Within the social landscape, gender identity is evolving; however, within the professional and academic spheres, we continue to view gender through a binary lens."

Ciszek said the MAYS Award will help fund the interviews while providing a broader academic audience for the work. Ciszek aims to publish the research in a top-tier journal and share the findings at professional conferences, such as the Public Relations Society of America and the Institute for Public Relations Research, allowing it to spur both academic and industry dialogue and change.

What to Do in D.C.

Looking for some tips for how to spend your downtime from the AEJMC conference? Take this advice from fellow CSW members on what to see, do, and eat in the nation's capital

- ∞ The Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery (8th and F streets N.W.) will have an exhibit on Henrietta Lacks. – *Jade Metzger-Rifkin*
- ∞ The Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery (8th and F streets N.W.) isn't too far from the host hotel. The gallery has free admission, and it has the recently unveiled portraits of Michelle and Barack Obama. – *Kim Fox*
- ∞ The Textile Museum (701 21st St. N.W.) is fabulous. – *Sheila Gibbons Hiebert*
- ∞ Etete Ethiopian Cuisine (1942 9th St. N.W) is awesome! – *Mimi Perreault*

AEJMC National Conference 2018

CSW Schedule

Tuesday, August 7

3:15-4:45 p.m.

Refereed Paper Session: Commission on the Status of Women Top Research Papers

#SELFIES at the 2016 Rio Olympics: Comparing Self-Representations of Male and Female Athletes from the U.S. and China

Qingru Xu, University of Alabama

Cory Armstrong, University of Alabama

Panfeng Yu, University of Alabama

The Women's Convention: Reclaiming a Movement

Katie Blevins, University of Idaho

"A Group That's Just Women for Women:"

Feminist Affordances of Private Facebook Groups for Professionals

Urszula Pruchniewska, Temple University

Gendered Visa: Korean Dependent Visa Women's Media Use and Home-making in U.S.

Claire Shinhea Lee, University of Texas at Austin

5-6:30 p.m.

Referred Paper Session: From the Newsroom to the Retirement Home: Preserving Women's Voices in a Male-Dominated World

Growing Old Gracefully? Gendered Depictions on Retirement Communities' Websites

Anne Cooper, Ohio University

Hong Ji, Ohio University

Hear Their Voices: A Qualitative Study of Women in Public Media

Laura Harbert, Ohio University

Women Newspaper Editors in Collegial Wilderness: But Digital Environment Turning This Around

Catherine Strong, Massey University

Needle, Not Sword: How Nackey Scripps Loeb Used Editorials to Build Audiences and Influence Conservative Presidential Politics

Meg Heckman, Northeastern University

Wednesday, August 8

12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Scholar-to-Scholar Session

A Woman at 300: Gendering News Coverage in a Historic Mayoral Election

Shearon Roberts, Xavier University of Louisiana

Sheryl Kennedy Haydel, Dillard University

Women Public Relations History Forgot to Discover: Community Building on and after the Oregon Trail

Donnalyn Pompper, University of Oregon

Tugce Ertem Eray, University of Oregon

Reaching a Balance Between Crimes of Passion & Femicides: Influences on the Construction of News in Mexican Journalists

Miriam Hernandez, City University of Hong Kong

Women Journalists Face Danger and Death While Doing their Jobs

Carolyn Byerly, Howard University

Jasmin Goodman, Howard University

3:30-5 p.m.

Referred Paper Session: Dating, Activism and Harassment in the #MeToo Era

Beyond Swiping Left: Exploring How Dating App Use Affects College Students' Abilities to Refuse Unwanted Dating and Sexual Activities

Stacey Hust, Washington State University

Stephanie Gibbons, Washington State University

Jiayu Li, Washington State University

Nicole O'Donnell, Virginia Commonwealth University

Social Media Activism in Bangladesh: Understanding the #JusticeForTonu Movement from a Feminist Standpoint Theoretical Framework

Umana Anjalin, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Catherine Luther, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

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AEJMC CSW Schedule *continued from p. 6*

Thursday, August 9

12:45-2:15 p.m.

Refereed Paper Session: Sex Trafficking, Violence and Trauma:
Improving the Narrative in Media & Classrooms

Framing Transgender Violence: Narratives within Mainstream
News Coverage

Natalee Seely, Ball State

“Boyfriending In”: Violence and Romance in News Narratives
about Sex Trafficking

Anne Johnston, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Barbara Friedman, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

What Happens When They Can Find You?: Doxxing, Privacy,
and Feminist Theory

Stine Eckert, Wayne State University

Jade Metzger, Wayne State University

Developing a Trauma-Informed Approach to Public Relations
Education

Stephanie Madden, Pennsylvania State University

Teri Del Rosso, Bridgewater State University

Join Us Online!



@CSW_AEJMC

Join your
fellow CSW
members at
the 2017
CSW Annual
Business
Meeting and
Mixer at
AEJMC on
**Tuesday,
Aug. 7 at
6:45 p.m.**

More AEJMC Events

1 to 5 p.m., Sunday, August 5

**Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Center for the Advancement of Women in
Communication at Florida International University, Commission on
the Status of Women and the AEJMC Council of Affiliates
Preconference: Women Faculty Moving Forward: Securing the
Future**

Keynote: Jan Slater, chief marketing officer, College of Business;
former dean, Illinois

Panelists: Dorothy Bland, North Texas; Carolyn Bronstein, DePaul;
Jinx Broussard, Louisiana State; Laura Castaneda, Southern
California; Radhika Parameswaran, Indiana

This annual workshop with accomplished academics will help junior
women faculty move forward in their careers through mentoring,
networking and preparing for tenure and promotion and administration
and leadership positions. By prior application only.

PROMOTIONS & Publications

Kim Fox (American University in Cairo) has been awarded an AEJMC 2018-19 Scripps Howard Foundation visiting professorship and will be working with WCPO and wcpo.com in Cincinnati, Ohio. Fox is a professor in the university's Department of Journalism and



Mass Communication. She received her B.S. and M.A. degrees from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. She has worked at several radio stations, including WIZF in Cincinnati and WBLK in Buffalo, New York. She's the executive producer of the award-winning *Ehky Ya Masr* (Tell Your Story Egypt) Podcast about life in Cairo.

Dr. Brenda J. Wrigley is starting a new position this August as an associate professor in the Department of Communication at Curry College in Milton, Massachusetts.

Dr. Radhika Parameswaran, chair of journalism at The Media School at Indiana University, Bloomington, received a Herman B. Wells Endowed Professorship from IU Bloomington in fall 2018.



Her commentary response essay (co-authored with Ph.D. student Pallavi Rao), "Imagining, Imaging, and Implementing the New India," was published in *Journalism & Communication Monographs* in the March 2018 issue. This commentary essay was written in response to the monograph article, "In Other Spaces: Contestations of National identity in New India's Globalized Mediascapes." Her co-authored article (with Sangeet Kumar, Denison University), "Charting an Itinerary for Postcolonial Communication and Media Studies," is forthcoming in the *Journal of Communication's* 2018 special issue on ferments in the field. Her book chapter "Jamming the Color Line: Comedy, Carnival, and Contestations of Commodity Colorism" is also forthcoming in fall 2018 in the edited Duke University Press book, *Race, Post-Race: Culture, Critique, and the Color Line* (Eds. Sarah Banet-Weiser, Herman Gray, and Roopali Mukherjee).

CSW 2018 Awards: Donna Allen Award for Feminist Advocacy Petula Dvorak

This year's Donna Allen awardee is an outspoken columnist with *The Washington Post*. Petula Dvorak is a fierce feminist advocate who has written on issues ranging from homeless shelters, gun control, jails, and abortion to high heels, high school choirs, and modern families. Her nomination for the Donna Allen award was supported by two former CSW chairs, an AEJMC president, an administrator of the year, and a prominent member of the Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press (WIFP).

“An important mission of the Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press has been to encourage more women to be hired by all media outlets where they can speak out about issues,” said the WIFP member. “In Dvorak's case, she regularly addresses issues that are not being covered by male colleagues. This is crucial since issues affecting women are usually only seen as ‘women's issues,’ even when it is male behavior that is at the center. Not infrequently if a woman journalist doesn't write about a particular issue women face then it is not covered at all.”

A columnist with *The Washington Post* since 2009, Dvorak is one of the four from the newspaper to receive the 2017 Sigma Delta Chi Awards for excellence in journalism. According to *The Washington Post*, Dvorak's general column has a daily circulation of more than 100,001. A quick read into her stories, such as “A woman hailed the chief, resist-style — and lost her job” or “Demolition at a storage facility means discarding people, too” demonstrates how she has effectively wielded the power of media to voice the concerns of all publics. A graduate of the University of Southern California, she has also covered social issues, crime, and the courts in Los Angeles, New Orleans, and New Jersey.

“Her column runs on the front page of her newspaper's Metro section, making it readily available to readers as a platform for a concerned mother to give her views on local

and national issues. She writes with a very human touch, talking about her own family situation.”



Dvorak was honored in 2013 with the Casey Medal by the Journalism Center on Children & Families for the column “[Transgender at Five](#).” In the column, she traces the story of a family — the parents' acceptance and love for their transgender child. In 2016, Dvorak became a finalist for the Batten Medal, honoring individual achievement in public-service journalism, by the American Society of News Editors, for her *The Washington Post* columns on a city's indifference toward the disappearance of an 8-year-old homeless girl.

“Donna Allen recognized the power of the media to amplify voices. Dvorak gives voice to those who have little or no voice in our cultural conversation. In pursuing her craft in mainstream media, where feminist voices are still an anomaly, along with maintaining a social media presence and speaking about her passions, she models the ideals of democracy that drove Donna Allen to found the Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press,” read a nomination letter.

CSW 2018 Awards: Outstanding Woman in Journalism and Mass Communication Education - Victoria LaPoe

This year's Outstanding Woman in Journalism and Mass Communication Education is Victoria LaPoe, an assistant professor at the Scripps School of Journalism, Ohio University, and a familiar face among our Commission on the Status of Women membership and AEJMC. LaPoe received her doctoral degree from Louisiana State University in 2013 and previously served as the broadcasting and film coordinator, in addition to her role of an assistant professor, at Western Kentucky University's School of Journalism and Broadcasting. LaPoe also served on the CSW Board (2017-18) for the Mentorship Program alongside **Genelle Belmas** and **Janet Kwami**.



On receiving the award LaPoe said, "I am truly thankful, honored and humbled to receive the 2018 Outstanding Woman in Journalism and Mass Communication Education Award from CSW, AEJMC. I appreciate the division's continued acknowledgment as I have evolved as a person and researcher. My work is better because of the mentorship, partnerships I have made in CSW, and I thank you."

LaPoe's research focuses on gender, race, sexuality, ability, and intersectionality within journalism and marketing of media. She has

recently co-authored and published articles on trolling and spiral of silence, analyzing suppression of diverse voices.

One of the letters supporting her nomination read, "Dr. LaPoe's curriculum vita lists example after example of her gender-related professional and community service work, honors, and awards. Her contributions to women and journalism are just too numerous for me to list here. I believe Dr. LaPoe has 'represented women well through excellence and high standards' in her research, teaching and service."

LaPoe wears many different hats, serving as the American Indian Editor for the Media Diversity Forum and vice president for the Native American Journalists Association, and she is a NAJA lifetime member. She has co-run the NAJA Fellows student newsroom for the past four years. As the education chair of NAJA, she conducted the 2018 membership survey and presented it at the NAJA strategic planning session in January. From this, she developed a NAJA Education Committee pathways system that supports students at a multi-year level and guides members as skills change within journalism.

"Dr. LaPoe works daily to preserve the delicate rapport needed to connect with Indian Country communities, which reflects one of her greatest strengths as an educator working to inspire students to tell the critical stories of their Native American communities," wrote a colleague from the NAJA.

"This is one remarkable woman. Her research is not limited to Native America, but she is a leading voice for our people. She is an excellent teacher, researcher and colleague. I can think of no other woman actively teaching and researching who

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Victoria LaPoe *continued*

deserves this award more than Victoria LaPoe.”

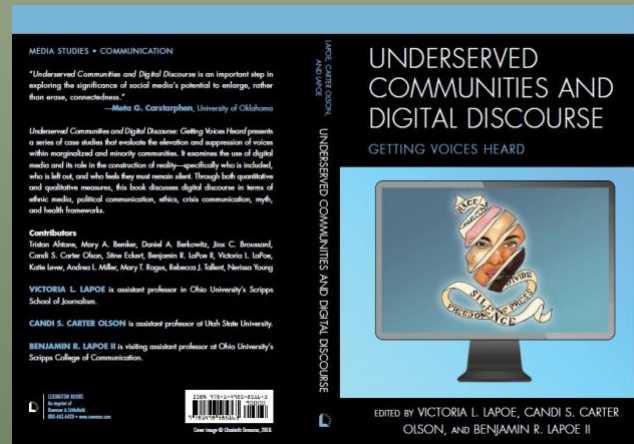
LaPoe installed the first NAJA Mentor-In-Training program in 2015. She assisted in creating the first online voting for NAJA, which doubled response rate for the previous year.

She revived the Native American Journalists Student Fellowship for credit, including assessment tools and curriculum. The fellowship may be taken for undergraduate or graduate credit. Sixty-percent of the fellows completed for credit in 2017. She fundraises for NAJA and assists in the development of university partnered sustaining membership that assists in funding the student fellowship.

At Ohio University, LaPoe helped create the NAJF Scripps Scholar, where she worked during the university’s summer journalism with an Oglala Lakota Sioux student who is enrolled in community college but hasn’t transitioned to a four-year degree. She will work with the student again in Miami. LaPoe worked with the same student in 2017 as part of the NAJF and has continued to mentor her throughout the year. Prior to work in academia, LaPoe was an award-winning television journalist for more than 10 years.

Talking about current projects LaPoe said, “I will also co-direct for the third-year the Native American Student Journalism Fellowship in Miami next week (July 18-21); we will have a partnered newsroom with the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. I encourage you to follow the next generation of storytellers’ work at <https://najanajf.wordpress.com>.”

Victoria LaPoe has an upcoming book titled *Underserved Communities and Digital Discourse* (October 2018, published by Rowman & Littlefield), co-edited/co-authored with CSW Chair Candi Carter Olson and CSW member Benjamin Rex LaPoe II. The book has highlighted several gender-focused studies on representation and suppression of female voices, including within academia, through multiple case studies.



Passage from Chapter 9 in *Underserved Communities and Digital Discourse*: “We must push forward in academia, professionally and even within our overall societal roles so that one day individuals and a community will not be sourced under one stereotyped attribute; but instead there will be a unification where many traits and qualities are upheld, understood, represented and heard with many layers for all peoples. This will be a society that values a stew pot with all its flavors uplifting one another versus a melting pot of assimilation (Wilson, Gutierrez, & Chao, 2012). When we maintain our pluralism, with our diversity we are stronger. Acknowledging life, resources, and education is not a pie, but instead a tower we each can help construct, build and stabilize. We must also understand that same tower may need to be torn down and rebuilt. This building also comes with more questioning. Within all facets of society we need to question who is accepted, who is empowered, who is left out and who is deciding all of these things. This takes effort, education, ego control and openness. In the end, it is clear that journalists and their hopeful audiences are attempting to cope: coping during distress, coping with entertainment, coping with avoidance, coping within communities and coping with construction of new realities. The hope of this book is that, in the end, this research collectively uplifts the difference between truth and facts. There are many truths based on perspective and facts should be able to withstand multiple lenses. In underserved communities, understanding this dichotomy is essential for understanding community, coverage and digital discourse.”

Pruchniewska wins First-Place Student Paper in CSW competition

Urszula Pruchniewska, a doctoral candidate at Temple University, won the 2018 top student paper award from the Commission on the Status of Women for her research “‘A Group That’s Just Women for Women’: Feminist Affordances of Private Facebook Groups for Professionals.” Pruchniewska was also the winner of the 2017 student paper competition.

Here, Pruchniewska discusses the impetus for this project, what she learned, and what’s next for her academic work.



Why did you decide to study how women professionals use private Facebook groups?

I’m broadly interested in how women use social media in their day-to-day lives and how these personal uses of media and technologies link to feminist politics. As for the motivation for this particular project, I was already a member of a few private Facebook groups for professional women and saw first-hand how useful these groups seemed to be for women in terms of their careers. So I wanted to look more in-depth into the activities in these spaces.

How did you study this phenomenon?

I conducted repeat in-depth interviews and focus groups with 26 women to understand in their own words how and why they used private Facebook groups. I spoke to my participants on the phone and on Skype but also used tailored digital methods, such as creating private groups on Facebook that served as focus group spaces for my project. I also mapped the various affordances (features and functionalities) of Facebook as a platform, to understand the human-technology interaction aspect.

What stood out to you about your findings?

Two things stood out to me about my findings. Firstly, these groups were clearly beneficial to individual women in their careers, for instance, in helping them network through connecting employers and employees virtually. But what was particularly interesting was how these groups were also instrumental in facilitating change for women *collectively*, such as providing the affordance of easily sharing individuals’ wage information, which resulted in raised pay rates across entire industries.

Secondly, it was fascinating to see how certain activities in these groups were closely related to the #metoo movement, which was emerging at the time we were doing interviews. These groups were being used to discuss sexual harassment in the workplace and to strategize actions to deal with harassers outside the groups, paralleling the wider social changes of #metoo.

What implications does this study have for understanding how women use these groups?

This study shows empirically how women use social media for what Tim Highfield calls “everyday politics” and advance the feminist cause, despite the women not labeling their actions in these Facebook groups as “feminist.” This highlights how feminist practices in the digital age can be more diffuse, individualized, and embedded

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Xu, Armstrong, Yu win Top Faculty paper in CSW competition

Qingru Xu, Cory Armstrong and Panfeng Yu, all of the University of Alabama, will receive the top faculty paper award for their research, ““#SELFIES at the 2016 Rio Olympics: Comparing Self-Representations of Male and Female Athletes from the U.S. and China” at the AEJMC 2018 conference in Washington, D.C.

Here, **Xu** shares insights on what inspired the project, what she learned, and where she hopes this research will go next.

What led you to pursue this particular topic and project?

During my doctoral studies, I have done several projects exploring the mass media coverage of women and men athletes in sporting events. It is an area that had been explored for decades, and the findings are quite consistent. That is, sports media, globally, have devoted more attention to male athletes, promoting a male hegemony in the sports domain. Although some progressive findings have been uncovered in recent years, the overarching statement has been rarely challenged.

The research pertaining to mass media coverage of sports makes me curious about how athletes themselves construct their own images on social media, instead of how media depict them. ... I was wondering whether athletes' self-representation is consistent with the gender stereotypes, or they question the dominant ideology of male hegemony in sports and construct themselves in different manners.

In literature, there are some studies exploring athletes' self-representation on social media. ... However, most of them focused on the self-representation of American athletes. In our project, Panfeng and I come from China and Dr. Armstrong is an American. So, the cultural diversity really inspired us, and we decided to bring the variable of nationality into the examination. That is, exploring Chinese and U.S. athletes' self-representations on social media to

investigate the potential gender and national differences.



What implications does this project have for understanding how athletes present themselves?

The finding that surprised me the most was the wide disparity between Chinese athletes and American athletes in their self-representations. In our study, we did not uncover many differences between American male and female athletes; however, the differences between Chinese male and female athletes were salient. The finding might indicate that the cultural background exerted a great impact on athletes' self-representations on social media.

As we know, the gender equality movement is more advanced in the United States compared to that in China. Also, Confucianism, a philology that has dominated the Chinese society for a thousand years, emphasizes

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PROMOTIONS & Publications

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Dr. Tracy Everbach was promoted to full professor in the Mayborn School of Journalism at the University of North Texas.



Dr. Debbie Owens, associate professor and interim chair for the department of journalism and mass communications at Murray State University, has been selected to attend the 2018 Higher Education

Resource Services (HERS) Leadership Institute. The two-week intensive institute is held at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania. The three-pronged management development program for women in higher education focuses on self-knowledge, networking and institutional awareness.

Pruchniewska *continued from p. 12*

in everyday life, instead of viewing feminist action as organized activism instigated by feminist organizations.

What's next?

I am planning on studying, using interviews and mapping affordances, how men use social media, through a feminist lens — that is, how they use various platforms both to advance or support feminism and to oppose gender equality. I hope this will give me a fuller understanding of the intersection between new media technologies and everyday politics.

Xu, Armstrong, Yu *continued from p. 13*

women's roles as sisters, wives, and mothers. All of these could be socialized by athletes and then play a role in their self-representations.

The majority of prior studies have exclusively focused on American athletes, without considering the cultural influence on their self-representations. I think our study really advanced the application of Goffman's self-representation theory. It pointed out that, although athletes gain autonomy and agency in representing themselves on social media, they are still heavily influenced by the culture and socialization. That is why the traditional gender stereotypes are more entrenched in Chinese athletes' self-representation, whereas the differences between American male and female athletes are minimal.

What other questions did this project raise that you hope to pursue?

We have a plan to examine athletes' self-representations at the Winter Olympics. Winter sports and summer sports are quite different, and athletes wear very different types of uniforms to compete. We are wondering whether the uniforms that athletes wear would make a difference in their self-representations, or whether the sports that they compete would influence the results.

What are you most looking forward to in terms of presenting your work at AEJMC?

The Commission on the Status of Women has so many great scholars, and this will be my first time presenting my paper at the commission. I am very much looking forward to communicating with the amazing scholars and their suggestions for this paper.