

What do you want CJIG to accomplish next year?

By Cheryl Gibbs
 Head of CJIG

In a little over a month, many of us will gather in Kansas City for AEJMC's annual convention, and I hope we'll have some fun, learn a lot from one another, and renew our commitment to this interest group.



Cheryl Gibbs

Many of us will attend the preconference workshop, during which we'll look at what we want the future to hold for civic journalism.

Most of us will probably pick up some research papers about civic journalism and attend several (or all!) of the great panels we're cosponsoring.

Some of us will probably go looking for the barbequed ribs that made Kansas City famous.

And, last but not least, we'll elect a new slate of officers.

That means it's time for all of us to start thinking both about what we'd like to see the interest group accomplish during the coming year and about what role each of us might want to play in the group next year.

It will be important for those who can help to commit to doing so.

In many cases, it's not a major time commitment.

If you propose an interesting panel idea for the 2004 convention in Toronto, you will simply need to write out your idea, along with a very tentative list of possible panelists, in early October. If we secure a slot for your idea on the program, you then will be responsible for getting the panelists together.

We will need a program chair (or program co-chairs) to compile those proposals by Oct. 31, then call people from other AEJMC divisions and interest groups to arrange cosponsorships and attend the mid-year meeting at which panels are assigned time slots (a travel subsidy is available).

Every year, we need people to write for our newsletters and an editor to assign articles, receive them and lay them out (we have a template that makes it easier).

Every year, we need a research chair to announce our paper competition in the fall, collect the submissions (the deadline is April 1) and distribute them to judges (whom we also need to read and rate up to four papers each) in April.

We need a chair who can help the program chair(s) get your/our panels on the program in the fall, write

THE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, July 30

11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Interactive Journalism-J-Lab lunch.

1:30 to 3 p.m.

Communication Technology and Policy Division and Civic Journalism Interest Group

"New Technologies, New Voices, New Empowerment? Blogs and Other Forms of Interactive Journalism"

Moderating/presiding: Jan Schaffer, executive director, J-Lab, Maryland.

Panelists

- Aaron Barnhart, Kansas City Star and tvbarn.com.
- Bonnie Bressers, Kansas State.
- Steve Outing, online editor, Poynter Institute senior editor.
- Ken Sands, managing editor of online and new media, The (Spokane, WA) Spokesman-Review.

3:15 to 4:45 pm

Visual Communication Division, Civic Journalism Interest Group and Cultural and Critical Studies Division.

"Designing News for a Community Narrative: Listening to the People We Look At"

Moderating/presiding: Marc Kawanishi, East Carolina.

Panelists

- Tim Janicke, editor, *Star Magazine*.
- The' Pham, deputy director of photography, *The Kansas City Star*.

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Public Journalism workshop is July 29 at AEJMC —you're invited!

Exciting things are happening in the world of civic or public journalism, and we would like you to be part of a core group of people who participate in a July 29 workshop to explore ways to build on the momentum.

The workshop, sponsored by the Civic Journalism Interest Group, will be from noon to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, July 29, 2003, immediately before the annual convention of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication in Kansas City. **You must RSVP to Cheryl Gibbs (chergibbs@aol.com) if you want a free box lunch.**

As you may know, the new Public Journalism Network, a professional society for journalists and scholars, was formed in January. (To learn more about it go to PJNet.org.)

The *Anniston Star* in Anniston, Ala., one of the best small newspapers in the country, will spawn the new nonprofit Ayers Institute for Community Journalism. It will combine forces with the University of Alabama's journalism school. Chris Waddle, former editor of the *Anniston Star*, is now helping establish the

institute and is a public journalism advocate. The J-lab is up and running. The Kettering Foundation sees the tie between public journalism and the press and democracy. Plus there is interest internationally.

These and other developments will be discussed in the workshop as we map teaching, service and scholarship possibilities that might grow out of this second phase of public journalism.

Public journalism has always been a combination of theory and practice. One informs the other. So in this second phase what are the scholarship and practical opportunities for scholars and journalists interested in public journalism?

We believe the workshop can help point the way and present opportunities for the workshop attendees. Please join us on July 29 at the Crown Center in Kansas City.

The agenda for the workshop is inserted. For more info contact Cheryl Gibbs: chergibbs@aol.com

**Cheryl Gibbs, Chair
Leonard Witt, Co-Vice Chair
Civic Journalism Interest Group
AEJMC**

CJIG members contribute to new mass comm book

Look for *Qualitative Research in Journalism: Taking it to the Streets* published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2003 (in press).

Twelve CJIG members are among the contributing authors, another CJIG member, Jay Rosen, wrote the foreword and the editor is CJIG member Sharon Hartin Iorio. Contributing authors are Kathy Campbell, Cliff Christians, Renita Coleman, Lew Friedland, Tanni Haas, Mike McDevitt, Jack Morris, Jan

Schaffer and Susan Willey.

Designed for journalists, academics and anyone interested in mass communication, Part 1 gives background on the connection of qualitative research and journalism. Each chapter in Part 2 shows how a qualitative method is being used in news rooms, accompanied by a current broadcast or published example.

Methods discussed include focus groups, oral histories and civic mapping.

CJIG

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articles for a couple of newsletters, and write an annual report in June (it's not hard, really!).

We need someone to serve as secretary, taking minutes at our meeting during the convention.

And we need people to make sure we're meeting AEJMC's criteria for research and programming in the areas of teaching and professional freedom and responsibility.

Also in Kansas City, we will acknowledge the conscientious, dedicated work of people who served the interest group this year—people like Kathy Campbell, dedicated former head of this group, who agreed to serve as program co-chair to help her co-chair Len Witt, a newcomer to AEJMC, learn the ropes. Kathy and Len also devoted a great deal of effort to the preconference workshop.

Les Anderson did a great job putting the newsletter together. Sharon Iorio helped gather articles.

Chike Anyaegbunam cheerfully gathered research papers, recruited judges, sent them papers to evaluate, and forwarded the results to AEJMC.

David Loomis quietly took minutes at our meeting during the annual conference.

Mike McDevitt made sure we stayed on track with respect to professional freedom and responsibility, and Dave Kurpius did the same with teaching.

So ... if this article has succeeded in making you think about what role you might want to take in the Civic Journalism Interest Group next year and you have any questions, call any of us who have been involved in the area that interests you.

Otherwise, you can certainly ask us questions when you see us in Kansas City. Hope I see you there!

THE SCHEDULE

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- Will Kennedy, *Topeka Capital-Journal*.
- Scott Sines, creative director, *Memphis Commercial Appeal*.

•Loret Gnivecki Steinberg, Rochester Institute of Technology.

Thursday, July 31

11:45 am to 1:15 pm

Civic Journalism Interest Group and Mass Communication and Society Division
"Pro-Active Academics: How Far Should You Go in the Classroom?"

Moderating/presiding: Diana Knott, Ohio.

Panelists

- Jeremy Cohen, Pennsylvania State.
- Carolyn Byerly, Maryland-College Park.
- Leonard Witt, Kennesaw State.
- Stacey Cone, Iowa.

Scholar to Scholar

1:30 to 3 p.m.

Top Faculty Paper

"Narrative Definers? Storytelling as a Channel to Public Discussion"

Risto Kunelius and Mika Renvall, Tampere, Finland

Top Graduate Student Paper

"Tracing the Effects of Public Journalism on Civil Society: 1994-2002"

Sandy Nichols, Lewis A. Friedland, Jaeho Cho, Hernando Rojas and Dhavan Shah, Wisconsin-Madison

"Civic Journalism and Objectivity: A Philosophical Resuscitation"

Henry Overduin, McNeese State. Discussant: Kathy Campbell, Oregon

3:15 to 4:45 p.m.

Civic Journalism Interest Group and Communication Theory and Methodology Division

"Journalism's Theory of Democracy"

Moderating/presiding: Cole Campbell, The Union Institute and The Charles F. Kettering Foundation.

Panelists

- Jack McLeod, Wisconsin-Madison.
- Jay Harris, Southern California.
- Mike Farrell, Kentucky.

6:45 to 8:15 p.m.

Civic Journalism Interest Group Business Session: Members' Meeting

Moderating/presiding: Cheryl Gibbs, Earham.



Friday, Aug. 1

8:15 to 9:45 a.m.

Communication Theory and Methodology Division and Civic Journalism Interest Group

"Combining qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Professional and Academic Research"

Moderating/presiding: Betsi Grabe, Indiana.

Panelists

- Kathy Campbell, Oregon.
- Sharon Iorio, Wichita State.
- Chris Peck, editor, *Memphis Commercial Appeal*.
- David Weaver, Indiana.

1:30 to 3 p.m.

Science Communication and Civic Journalism Interest Groups; AEJMC Council of Affiliates; Media and Disability and Religion and Media Interest Groups

Mini-plenary: **"Stem Cell Research: Intersection Between Science and Religion"**

Moderating/presiding: Kimberly Laufner, Towson.

Panelists

Reporting at the Interface of Science and Religion: Judith Buddenbaum, Colorado State.

"Covering the Stem Cell Debate: When Journalism, Ethics, Science and Policy Meet"—Lee Wilkins, Missouri.

"Media, Religion and Public Perspectives on Bioethics"—Bala A. Musa, Northwestern.

5 to 6:30 p.m.

Civic Journalism and Small Programs Interest Groups

"Teaching Students to Get Diverse Voices in News Stories: Using Public Journalism and Other Techniques"

Moderating/presiding: James Simon, Fairfield.

Panelists

- Cheryl Gibbs, Earham.

- Dave Kurpius, Louisiana State.
- Sally Lehrman, SPJ national diversity chair, Stanford.

•Kim Voss, Wisconsin-Stout.

Saturday, Aug. 2

11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Refereed Paper Session

Moderating/presiding: Buck Ryan, Kentucky.

Discussant: Risto Kunelius, Tampere, Finland.

•**"A Public Journalism Model for the Middle East and North Africa: Effectiveness of Media-NGO Relationships in Partial Autocracies"**—David C. Coulson, Nevada-Reno, and Leonard R. Teel, Georgia State.

•**"Exploring Radio Public Service as Civic Journalism"**—Tony R. DeMars, Sam Houston State.

•**"When Schools Fail to Act Ethically: The Vital Role of Civic Journalism"**—Janis T. Page, Missouri-Columbia.

•**"Elite and Non-elite Sourcing in Civic and Traditional Journalism News Projects"**—Jennifer Roush, West Virginia.

All the food that's fit to eat (in print) in KC

Lauren Chapin, dining critic for *The Kansas City Star*, recommends the following restaurants to visiting journalists. If you have a hankering for anything from haute cuisine to KC barbecue, take a culinary stroll through this list:

- The Classic Cup on the Plaza
- Frondizi's
- Cafe Sebastienne
- Fiorella's
- Jack Stack Barbecue in the Crossroads
- Lidia's in the Crossroads
- City Tavern in the Crossroads
- Macaluso's on 39th
- Joe D's on 39th
- Hannah Bistro Cafe on 39th and State Line Road
- Le Fou Frog on 5th and Campbell in the River Market
- Plaza III Steakhouse
- The Majestic Steakhouse

Lauren's reviews are listed at http://www.kansascity.com/mld/kansascity/entertainment/columnists/lauren_chapin/. You

New practices transform public life

Book a 'must' for public journalism faculty, interdisciplinary connections

By Sharon Hartin Iorio
Wichita State University

A number of books and articles published in the early 1990s focused on the decline of civil society in America. Many CJIG members read them—with interest—but how many of us after reading, sighed with dismay, wondering what the future might bring?

One enlightening response to that collective angst is found in *Civic Innovation in America: Community Empowerment, Public Policy, and the Movement for Civic Renewal*. The book is by Carmen Sirianni, a professor of sociology and public policy at Brandeis University and Lewis Friedland, CJIG interest group member and Professor of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Writing for the nonspecialized reader, Sirianni and Friedland concentrate on the contemporary American experience, and they outline a current movement for civic renewal they find different from any other in American history.

They believe that over the past several decades sophisticated civic practices and collaborations have created a mix that is transforming the way we do politics. This reinvention of democratic processes is the work of highly diversified groups and individuals.

Sirianni and Friedland believe this is a new part of American civic life that emerges through complex partnerships, innovative policy designs, and interracial and interfaith collaboration.

It is not the amount but the type

REVIEW

*Civic Innovation in America:
Community Empowerment, Public
Policy, and the Movement for Civic
Renewal*

—By Carmen Sirianni
and Lewis Friedland

of civic involvement that is important to Sirianni and Friedland. The attention is not on special interest groups but on the interests advanced by networks of groups. The task of the book is to help the reader understand this movement and how individuals partake in it. This is done by presenting examples of civic action.

The topical net cast by the authors is not broad. Description and analysis of successes and failures (but mostly successes) in the everyday public work of community organizing and development, civic environmentalism, community health and civic organizing, and public journalism form the major divisions of this work.

For the journalist and academic, the book provides a unique history of public journalism, one presented through the lens of social movement theory. The impetus for public journalism from this viewpoint is a response to faltering public discourse in America rather than an effort designed to halt faltering newspaper readership.

The authors' perspective ties the scattered events and disparate issues surrounding public journalism into a story that is unified and sequen-

tial. The early reporting projects are shown to be experiments in broadening the definition of the public's right to know. Funding from private foundations is shown to be part of the new network of public, corporate, and individual resources that together form the synergy necessary to energize modern civic life.

The book is heavily documented and dense with examples. Reading it is a must for faculty looking for background in public journalism and for interdisciplinary connections to the fields of social organization and community development.

The book would make an excellent addition to an upper-level undergraduate or graduate seminar reading list, or it could be used as a text in any number of political science, sociology, or communication courses dealing with community empowerment and public policy.

Interactive journalism @ AEJMC in Kansas City

Civic lunch sessions are back!
Save the date and RSVP.

J-Lab: The Institute for Interactive Journalism invites members of the Civic Journalism Interest Group to an Interactive Journalism Summit during lunch Wednesday, July 30, at AEJMC in K.C.

Time is 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Hear innovative journalists from *The Seattle Times*, Minnesota Public Radio and others describe how they are using new technologies to involve citizens actively in public issues.

RSVP to awyatt@j-lab.org. Box lunches will be supplied.

What's next for Public Journalism in theory and practice?

Noon to 12:15 p.m.

Welcome, introductions, brief overview workshop, hand out box lunches.

What is the theoretical, experimental and applied work that can still be done in these areas?

- Strengthening the relationship between the media and democracy.

- Helping journalists develop a deeper understanding of the communities they serve.

- Developing techniques to break away from the "Crossfire" approach where we hear from someone on the right and then the left and think we have a balanced story.

- Looking for ways to include the general public in deliberative discussions. (Recent international events illustrate the need to have greater discussions about the events that affect our lives).

- Helping journalists worldwide become more responsive to the needs of the people and to break away from the model where the press is an instrument of the government.

- Continuing the search for methods to ease the horserace mentality and spin doctor control of the election process.

- Finding methods for the press to better inform citizens so they can become active and responsible in the political process and in public life.

12:15 to 1:15 p.m.

Potential and current tools and resources we have now and how we might use them, 8 minutes each: (Working lunch)

- CJIG – Cheryl Gibbs—Scholarship possibilities, teaching opportunities, service opportunities.

- PJNET – Leonard Witt (see www.pjnet.org)

Web site, global forum, conference, contest, information clearinghouse.

- Ayers Institute on Community Journalism – Chris Waddle, director—"Turning theory into practice."

- "Democracy and the Press"—Cole Campbell, Kettering Fellow.

- "Hands-on, Applied Public Journalism"—Representative of the working press.

- "International Possibilities"—Buzz Merritt, Tom Warhover.

- "J-lab—Interactive Possibilities"—Jan Schaffer.

Civic Journalism Interest Group Workshop

Co-sponsored by the
Graduate Education Interest Group

Noon to 5 p.m. July 29, 2003
Crown Center in Kansas City
AEJMC Pre-conference Workshop
<http://www.aejmc.org/convention/>

For more information, contact
Cheryl Gibbs chergibbs@aol.com

You must RSVP for a free box lunch!

1:15 to 1:30 p.m.—break

1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Small-group discussions:

Areas of concern we want to focus on:

- Do our seven tenets or areas of interest make sense for public journalism?

- Are we duplicating other people's work? Can we work with them?

- What parts of the study of journalism are decidedly the work of the CJIG?

- Are there other areas we are leaving out?

- How can we best use the tools and resources at our disposal, including CJIG, PJNET, J-lab, Ayers Institute, Kettering, etc.

- What are the international opportunities?

2:30 to 2:45 p.m.—break, back to plenary

2:45 to 3:15 p.m.

"Where We've Been, a Brief Look
at Public Journalism's Past"

Jan Shaffer, Sandy Nichols.

3:15 to 4 p.m.

"Where We're Headed"

Small groups to report outcomes of what they discussed. Cheryl Gibbs to facilitate this process, using a flip chart or overheads and markers.

4 to 5 p.m.

"Putting Ideas into Action"

Sketch action steps and assess what's most do-able! Get people to commit in helping move those things forward. Top five do-able priorities.