

Communication Theory & Methodology Division, AEJMC  
2016 Members' Meeting Saturday, August 6, 2016  
Presiding: Kjerstin Thorson

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7 p.m. on August 6, 2016.

**1. COD news (Kjerstin Thorson)**

- AEJMC membership: 3,412 (down by about 100 from last year's record high)
- 2016 paper competition
  - 1,560 papers submitted; down 19% from last year's record high
  - Accepted: 774; acceptance rate 49.6%
- 54% of all AEJMC members not part of any division or interest group
  - Divisions encouraged to focus on recruitment
- CT&M Current membership: 193 (same as 2015)
  - For comparison: MC&S: 484, Newspaper: 407, PR: 396; Pol Comm: 189, ComSher: 234
- Ideas for recruitment? Members discussed: ICA's practice to give one group membership for free; give out scholarships; Lottery for new members getting free membership; Discount for attending the workshop; Target members with reminders
- Finances in good order, Maintaining a cushion of about \$2000
- Successful pre-conference again this year, Network Analysis of Social Media Data Using NodeXL, by Ital Himelboim, Georgia

**2. CT&M assessment (Kjerstin Thorson)**

- Overall feedback was positive and encouraging
  - Successfully meeting our dual mission (theory and method)
  - Praised for having our finances in good order, theory award, CMM article of the year, continuing affiliation with the journal
- From the committee: What else could we do to help other divisions with theory building and methods? Members discussed: Research panel on big theories, involve big scholars from CT&M; Expert bank for theories; Mentoring

**3. Committee Reports**

*a) Communication Methods & Measures (Jörg Matthes):*

- The journal is generally doing well, there was an increase in submissions in the past 12 months of about 20%; the journal published some highly cited and downloaded papers in the past year.
- For instance, in 2010, we had 1,622 downloads, in 2015 14,216; and up till July 2016 already 7,632

- Current mock impact factor went down a bit to .667, which is still good, considering the size of the journal
- There are plans for a new special issue on computation research methods, launched by the ICA interest group on "computational methods"

b) *Conference Program* (Jörg Matthes)

- This year's CT&M program included 6 research sessions (including 1 high density session), 2 PF&R sessions, and 2 Teaching sessions.
- We did a high density session on selective exposure, plus one refereed research panel on agenda setting, one on spiral of silence and opinion expression, and of course, our Best of CT&M session
- Another research panel was co-sponsored with CTEC, All Politics Is Social? The Evolution of Social Media Use in Presidential Campaigns. The room was packed with people (more than 60).

c) *Teaching Report* (Elizabeth Stoycheff):

- CT&M is co-sponsoring two panels related to teaching. The first, in conjunction with the Political Communication Interest Group (PCIG) is titled "Making Methods Matter: Recruiting and Attracting Undergraduates to Methods Coursework." The purpose of this session was to discuss successful (and unsuccessful) teaching strategies for quantitative and qualitative methodological courses. Four panelists who routinely teach methods courses shared their newest ideas and tips for making methodological teaching fun and effective for students. Panel was well-attended with over 25.
- The second panel sponsored by CT&M was held in conjunction with a new partner for the division – Community Journalism (COMJ). Together, the panel featured five leading ethnographic teacher-scholars to discuss how ethnographic methods can be integrated into journalism curricula to bolster the methodological acumen of aspiring journalists. Both practices utilize similar skillsets, and contributing panelists will discuss how to best use them in tandem. Panelists for this session included Chris Anderson of the City University of New York, Patrick Ferucci at Bradley University, Seth Lewis at the University of Minnesota, Nikki Usher at George Washington University, and Marshall Helmberger, a professional at the Timberjay. Panel was well-attended with over 25.

d) *Barrow Scholarship Report* (Jennifer Hoewe):

- The scholarship selection process went smoothly, and we had a solid pool of outstanding candidates. The winner was Adrienne Muldrow, Washington State. She was able to attend the meeting to be acknowledged, and she received formal recognition at the larger AEJMC awards ceremony.

e) *PF&R Report*

- This year CT&M PF&R was co-sponsoring two in-convention panels. The first panel, "Ethics, Challenges, and Opportunities Working With External Data Providers," is co-sponsored with the Political Communication interest group. This panel explored the

relationships between researchers and external data providers. We had panelists representing both data providers (Internet Archive, Wesleyan Media Project, National Annenberg Election Surveys) and researchers. Addressing these issues are relevant to the PF&R focus on ethics and public service. Panel was well-attended with over 30.

- The second panel, "Collecting Data From Online Labor Markets," is co-sponsored with the Communication and Technology division. This panel discussed ethical and methodological implications related to using online labor markets and quasi-professional survey takers from opt-in Internet panels for research. Our panelists will bring diverse experience from working on the review board of TESS (Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences) and working with data from Amazon's Mechanical Turk and other online labor market data providers. Again, addressing these issues is relevant to the PF&R focus on ethics. Panel was well-attended with over 40.

f) *Research Competition* (Melissa Gottlieb)

- We accepted 39 papers, which is a bit less than last year
- Number of faculty research paper submissions: 46; number of acceptances: 27; 58.70%. (One paper was disqualified after acceptance, bringing the final number of faculty papers to 26)
- Number of student research paper submissions: 27; number of acceptances: 13; 48.15%. Papers with student authors only were considered student research paper submissions. The overall acceptance rate for the division was 54.79%.
- Reviewers are effective and efficient
- CT&M thanks 74 reviewers, who each judged an average of 2.84 papers. All submitted papers were reviewed by three reviewers.
- As always, reviewers gave extensive comments in addition to assigning numeric ratings
- A big thanks to the division's excellent reviewers!

g) *Social Media* (Magdalena Saldana)

- We are being followed, but have a problem with engagement; people see but don't like or comment.
- FACEBOOK page (# of likes): 267 (2015), 538 (2016)
- TWITTER profile (# of followers): 250 (2015), 347 (2016)
- Please engage!

#### **4. Paper Awards (Melissa Gottlieb)**

- Communication Methods and Measures Article of the Year Competition Article of the Year  
"Possible Solution to Publication Bias Through Bayesian Statistics, Including Proper Null Hypothesis Testing"  
Elly A. Konijn, Rens van de Schoot, Sonja D. Winter & Christopher J. Ferguson

- Student Competition

Chafee-McLeod Award for the top student paper of the year:

"Defying censorship: A framework for reactance and learning in the face of media controls" by

Golnoosh Behrouzian, Emma Fete, & Aysenur Dal, Ohio State University

Top 2 student paper

"The First Decision for My Child": Mechanisms through which Parents of Children with and without Autism Decide on Their Children's Vaccination by Juwon Hwang, University of Wisconsin - Madison

Top 3 student paper

"Testing Intergenerational Transmission of News Content Preference: A South Korean Case" by

Minchul Kim, Indiana University

- Open Competition Top Faculty Paper

"A Meta-Analysis of News Media's Agenda-Setting Effects, 1972-2015", by Yunjuan Luo, Hansel Burley, & Alexander Moe, Texas Tech University  
Mingxiao Sui, Louisiana State University

- Open Competition Top Theory Paper

"A Meta-Analysis of News Media's Agenda-Setting Effects, 1972-2015" by Yunjuan Luo, Hansel Burley, & Alexander Moe, Texas Tech University  
Mingxiao Sui, Louisiana State University

- Open Competition Second Place Faculty Paper

"Agreement between Humans and Machines? -- A Reliability Check among Computational Content Analysis Programs" by Jacob Rohde & Denis Wu, Boston University

- Open Competition Third Place Faculty Paper

"Evaluating a sexual health text message service using short message service (SMS) surveys with adolescents" by

Jessica Willoughby, Washington State University

Kelly L'Engle, University of San Francisco

Kennon Jackson, Sexual Health Initiatives For Teens

Jared Brickman, Washington State University

## 5. Nominations and Elections (Michel Haigh):

- Head, Jörg Matthes
- Vice-Head, Melissa Gottlieb
- Research Chair, Elizabeth Stoycheff elected (Michael Beam did not run)
- Kristen Landreville and Jen Hoewe remained on the board

- Executive Committee: two open seats.
- Matthew Barnidge was nominated via a call to the membership before the conference. Nominations from the floor: Brett Sherrick. Barnidge and Sherrick were elected.

#### **6. New Business**

- none

#### **9. Adjournment at 8:30 p.m.**