

Get Ready for Montreal 2014



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COMMUNICATION & JOURNALISM
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN
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RESEARCH CHAIR



Call for Papers: AEJMC 2014 The CT&M Division accepts original research papers that advance the literature in mass communication theory, research methods, or both. CT&M welcomes both conceptual and data-based papers and is open to all methodological approaches. Please refer to the Summer 2013 CT&M newsletter for a complete list of topics and papers presented last year to get a better idea of the potential “fit” of your paper: <http://aejmc.net/ctm/wpcontent/uploads/2013/06/summer2013.pdf>.

Recent CT&M papers include research in political communication, health communication, environmental communication, computer-mediated communication, international communication, and broader media effects.

Paper Competitions

Papers submitted to CT&M can be submitted to the open-call competition or the student paper competition. Winners of all awards will be recognized in the conference program and/or at the CT&M members’ meeting in Montreal.

In addition to the open-call and student competitions, CT&M recognizes the top theoretical submission to the division each year. A theory paper may extend what is known about the current workings of a theory by including a data analysis section, or strictly extend the current theory literature without including data. Papers submitted in the top theory paper competition will also be considered for awards in the open-call and student competitions, as applicable.

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We strongly encourage submissions by students. Winners of the Chaffee-McLeod Award for Top Student Paper will be awarded \$250; two additional top student papers will also receive cash prizes. To be considered for the student paper competition, all authors must be students, and the author(s) must type "Student Paper Competition" in the upper right-hand corner of first page of text.

Requirements

Please limit papers to no more than 25-pages (double-spaced) in length, excluding tables and references. Papers should follow APA style, have 1-inch margins, and use 12 point Times New Roman font. Please limit papers to a total of 35 pages total (including text, tables, and references). Please refer to the AEJMC general paper call for this year's online submission guidelines. Please

make sure there is no identifying information in the body of the paper or in the document properties. Co-authors cannot be added after a paper has been reviewed. At least one author of an accepted faculty paper must attend the conference to present the paper. If student authors cannot be present, they must make arrangements for the paper to be presented by someone else. Failure to be present or provide a presenter for any paper will result in a one-year ban on the review of papers for all of the authors involved. Authors of accepted papers are required to forward papers to discussants and moderators prior to the conference.

If you have any questions, please direct them to the research chair, Kjerstin Thorson (kjerstin.thorson@usc.edu).

CT&M Programming for AEJMC 2014

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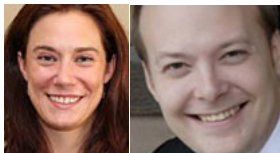
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The paperwork has all been completed and the schedule for this summer's conference is now set. We are continuing with our tradition of methods-themed pre-conferences. This year we are teaming up with the Political Communication Interest Group to bring in Deen Freelon, who will teach us all about how to use big data on Tuesday, August 5. You can find more information about the pre-conference in the article on page 4. In addition to the pre-conference, we have also put together a slate of regular sessions we hope will be of interest to the membership. Our teaching chair, Stephanie Edgerly, and our PF&R chair, Jorg Matthes, have both put together some promising panels. Both teaching sessions and one of the PF&R panels are scheduled for Wednesday, August 6. The remaining PF&R panel is on Thursday, August 7.

On Friday, August 8, CT&M will hold its members' meeting from 7 to 8:30. We believe that this time conflicts with far fewer other divisions and interest groups in recent years, and we hope to see you all in attendance because of this. As is traditional, we will hold the "Best of CT&M" research session directly before the members' meeting.

This is the first year that AEJMC has used its new online process for selecting slots. While we were delighted to avoid a flight across the country, the process still has some kinks. One issue is that AEJMC automatically gave scheduling priority to shared sessions, which for CT&M has traditionally meant teaching and PF&R panels. Furthermore, we had little say in when sessions were scheduled. As a result, many groups, including CT&M, have a number of research panels clustered on the last day. We actually feel that CT&M was more successful than some groups at ensuring we have research presentations distributed throughout the conference. We certainly believe that the diversity and quality of scholarship presented in those sessions is a major reason why our members value the division.

Overall, we think the Montreal schedule promises to be filled with helpful, thought-provoking sessions. We hope you plan to attend throughout the conference, from the Tuesday pre-conference right through to the last research panel on Saturday afternoon. Of course, don't forget your passport and your French phrase book, and we'll see you in Quebec!

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CT&M Programming for AEJMC 2014

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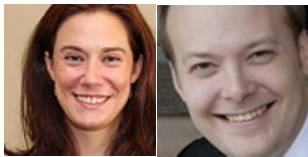
Day	Time	Session Type	Title & Sponsor
Tuesday, August 5	1 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Pre-conference	Programming as a Research Method: Munging Social Media Data with Python with PCIG
Wednesday, August 6	10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Teaching	Lessons from Web U: Tips for Creating Online Classroom Experiences with CTEC
	11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.	Teaching	The "Three Pillars": Strategies for how to effectively manage research, teaching, and service with ComSHER
	3:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.	PF&R	"Big Data": Professional and field-wide challenges with PCIG
	5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Research Panel	
Thursday, August 7	5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	PF&R	Open Access: The Future of Publishing? with PR
Friday, August 8	8:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	Research Panel	
	3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Research Posters	
	5:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.	Research Panel	"Best Of CT&M"
	7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Members Meeting	
Saturday, August 8	9:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Research Panel	
	12:45 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	Research Panel	



Matthias Berthet

Freelon to Offer Pre-conference Workshop on Big Data

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Are you ready to mung? Yes, that's right, mung. CT&M's methods pre-conference this year will dive into the world of big data and teach scholars the basics of data munging – that is transforming raw data from large data sets into a structured, usable format. The session, co-sponsored with the Political Communication Interest Group, will be taught by Deen Freelon from American University who has extensive experience utilizing social network and other large data sets to discover patterns. The pre-conference will take place Tuesday, August 5th from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. The cost is \$55 for regular members and \$30 for students. This session will be of interest for scholars who are looking to explore the world of big data, in addition to those who just want to better understand what

big data is and how it is being used.

Freelon is an assistant professor in the School of Communication at American University. His research focuses on the intersection of technology and politics with a special interest in interactive media. Much of his research focuses on using big data sources to bring new insights to long standing questions in political communication. Additionally, he is the creator of ReCal – an online intercoder reliability tool which has been used extensively by other scholars. Prior to his academic career, he worked as a technology trainer, web designer and multimedia consultant. More information about him can be found at dfreelon.org.

CT&M Sprang from a Rump: Some Mid-Century History

ROSANNE SCHOLL
MANSHIP SCHOOL OF MASS
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LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
DIVISION HEAD



My training is in theory and methodology, but I really enjoyed the work of a journalism historian while reading a 1977 AEJ paper by Thomas A. Bowers, which tells the story of how the Division came to be and how it survived its early years. Bowers went on to be a dean at UNC-Chapel Hill and the 1988-89 president of AEJMC. Here is a brief history, drawn from this gem of a paper.

CT&M was simply T&M in its early years. It was the child of two other alphabet soup groups, the CCR and the QRG. The Council on Communication Research was founded in 1950 along with AEJ

itself, but actually dates from an older association of J-Schools. The QRG was a group of rebels who agitated for more research sessions at AEJ, beyond the limited number the CCR was able to provide.

Bowers (1997) explains, "In a 1971 letter, Westley described the status of quantitative researchers in the mid-1950's: 'We were a spurned minority a few years ago—even had to form a rump session in AEJ in order to be able to hear about each other's research.' Jack McLeod recalls that the rump sessions began as a 'response to the meager amount of convention time that was accorded to empirical research in the mid-1950's.' ...Guido Stempel recalls that the rump group had no real status within AEJ and therefore had to operate outside the framework of the convention."

Why did the outlaw QRG persist even though the officially sanctioned-CCR did sponsor some empirical research presentations? The paper explains that QRG was

"...the T&M Division was the first division to publish a newsletter, sponsor a scholarship for diverse students, host a student paper competition, and even use discussants!"

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CT&M Sprang from a Rump

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something to belong to, rather than a series of offerings from above. QRG offered its rump sessions to expand the number of presentation slots as well as to focus on theory and methodology that applied across a variety of specific contexts. Both number and cross-applicable focus continue to be priorities for CT&M today.

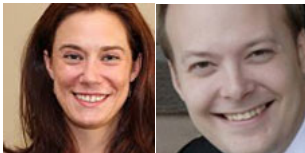
At the 1959 convention, the rump group became an official part of the AEJ proceedings for the first time. Then in 1964, AEJ reorganized to include the now-familiar divisions and interest groups, spurred in part by the growth of independent groups like QRG. With

this reorganization, CCR and QRG were able to combine to become T&M at the 1965 convention on August 23rd. Perhaps because of its head start, the T&M Division was the first division to publish a newsletter, sponsor a scholarship for diverse students, host a student paper competition, and even use discussants!

As CT&M looks to the future, I hope you have enjoyed this look back as much as I did. Taking the 1965 birth year, the 2015 conference should be a 50th birthday party!

Call for Barrow Minority Scholarship Applicants

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Applications are now being accepted for the 2014 Barrow Minority Doctoral Student Scholarship. The scholarship includes a \$2,000 award and a free one-year membership in the Communication Theory and Methodology Division (CT&M) of AEJMC.

The scholarship honors the late Professor Lionel C. Barrow, Jr., of Howard University, in recognition of his pioneering efforts in support of minority education in journalism and mass communication. Reflections on Dr. Barrow from previous scholarship winners are available in the Spring 2009 edition of CT&M Concepts, available at <http://aejmc.net/ctm/newsletter/>. The award is designed to aid doctoral students in journalism or mass communication programs to complete their dissertation research and academic studies. The students' work does not need to address issues of race.

The award is sponsored by the CT&M Division and is made possible in part through contributions from the Minorities and Communication Division, the Commission on the Status of Minorities and personal donations.

Racial or ethnic minority students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents and are enrolled in a Ph.D. program in journalism or mass

communication are encouraged to apply. Applicants need not be members of AEJMC or the CT&M Division.

Applications will be evaluated on the basis of candidates' capacity for making significant contributions to communication theory and methodology. To be considered for this scholarship, please provide the following: (1) a letter outlining research interests and career plans, (2) a curriculum vitae, and (3) two letters of recommendation. The letter and CV should be sent via e-mail to Dr. Mike Schmierbach, Barrow Scholarship Chair, mgs15@psu.edu. The letters of recommendation should be sent directly by the recommender to the same address. Letters of recommendation only may also be sent via regular mail if that is the preference of the recommender; letters can be mailed to Mike Schmierbach, Ph.D., Barrow Scholarship Chair, Assistant Professor, College of Communications, Carnegie Building, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802.

Submissions must be postmarked no later than May 1, 2014. Questions may be addressed to Dr. Schmierbach at mgs15@psu.edu.

The scholarship will be awarded at the 2014 AEJMC Conference in Montreal, August 6-9.

Communication Methods & Measures Special Issue: "Questionable Research and Publication Practices in Communication Science"

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR SHORT PAPERS:
SEPTEMBER 1, 2014

EDITORS OF SPECIAL ISSUE:

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The Problem

Across the globe, scientific research communities are engaged in heated debates about scientific conduct and questionable research and publication practices (often referred to as the "sloppy science" debate). This debate centers on the prevalence of questionable scientific practices and on the extent to which such practices hinder scientific progress. Although the debate originated in other research fields, such as Medicine (Ioannidis, 2005), Criminology (Eisner, 2009), and Psychology (see, e.g., the November 2012 issue of *Perspectives in Psychological Science*), it clearly is relevant to the practice of communication science. This special issue of *Communication Method & Measures* aims to spark a discussion about "sloppy science" in communication research - a critical reflection on our common research and reporting practices - with the goal of potentially improving our standards heading into the future.

Misconduct vs. questionable research

practices: Most scholars would hope if not also agree that blatant scientific misconduct such as data fabrication or plagiarism is fairly rare. Although better ways of improving fraud detection perhaps need our attention, we believe a much more interesting and impactful debate concerns more common practices that are "questionable" rather than illegitimate. A compelling demonstration of the consequences of employing such borderline practices is provided by Simmons et al. (2011), who show that undisclosed flexibility in data collection and analysis allows researchers to "present anything as significant" (p. 1359). Questionable research practices (e.g., developing hypotheses after data analysis, Kerr, 1998; increasing sample size until results get significant; not reporting problematic cases, variables, experimental conditions) may be implicitly encouraged by publication practices that focus on significant findings and "good stories" (Kerr, 1998; Simmons et al., 2011; Levelt Committee et al., 2012). Pressure to publish may also encourage researchers to polish their manuscripts and

to push aside ethical concerns about research practices. As a result, many "false positive" findings end up published (Nelson, Simmons, & Simonsohn, 2012) that are unlikely to replicate if such replication attempts are undertaken (Francis, 2012).

We believe that communication science is a field just as likely to suffer from questionable practices as any other field of research. Therefore, we seek to compile a special issue of *Communication Method & Measures* that contributes to a constructive debate focused on the prevalence, determinants, forms, instances of, and successful interventions against questionable research practices within communication science. The goal is to increase awareness of questionable research practices in our field, to illuminate the problem of false positives and reproducibility in our field, and to contribute to the ongoing discussion about how to further enhance our research and reporting practices.

Thus, we issue this call for short empirical research reports that examine questionable research and reporting practices in Communication Science (for format issues please refer to the submission guidelines of the journal). Papers that qualify for consideration include those that...

(1) Document the prevalence of and reasons for questionable research and reporting practices:

- We encourage the submission of empirical papers that address the prevalence of or reasons for questionable research and reporting practices in communication science. For example, we could imagine an adaptation of the study about questionable research practices conducted by John et al. (2012) to communication science.
- In addition, we think it is also helpful to empirically examine potentially problematic publication practices (e.g., a focus on "good stories", significant findings, accepted hypotheses, concise methodological reporting, "new" stories rather than replications, detrimental incentives for authors, reviewers,

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Communication Methods & Measures Special Issue

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editors, etc.), as well as the effectiveness of possible solutions (e.g., study pre-registration, publication of data sets, supplementary material, etc.).

- We also encourage content-analytical studies that examine to what extent articles in leading Communication journals report sufficient methodological information (e.g., confidence intervals, steps in handling data like dropping of cases or variables, etc., see Simmons et al., 2011). Also relevant in the present context is to what extent communication scholars produce cumulative and comparable knowledge by using standardized measurement instruments, or instead tend to adapt existing instruments or develop them “ad-hoc”.
- Furthermore, we are very much open to other ideas to empirically address these issues.

or

(2) Reflect on Replication

- Another set of short empirical reports may concern attempts to replicate central research insights of communication science. Such attempts could help the field to reflect on specific reproducibility problems within the field and on possible solutions to improve reproducibility (Koole & Lakens, 2012).

We like to encourage scholars to pick a central communication study, try to exactly replicate it, and then to not only report the replication but particularly also to reflect upon the replication attempt (e.g., encountered problems, etc.). Acceptance of replication studies will be based entirely on the quality of submitted research proposals, pre-registered through the Open Science Framework – hence before data collection and regardless of their outcomes (see below).

- Replication reports may be submitted as shorter papers, about 18 pages, double-spaced, 12 point, including references.

Submission Procedure

- Early feedback about the general idea (until February 1st 2014): To minimize overlap, we strive to prevent different scholars interested in contributing to the special issue from submitting papers on the same topic. Therefore, we suggest that potential contributors send a short and informal email (see email contact above) to one or both of editors of the special issue in which they roughly sketch their submission idea.

Editors will indicate whether such a submission would fit the special issue, and whether the contributor would be willing to collaborate with others who propose a similar submission. Replicating authors will receive further instructions on how to submit and pre-register a full replication proposal.

- Submission deadline for replication proposals: June 1st 2014
- Submission deadline for other short empirical reports: September 1st 2014
- Review of submitted replication proposals and empirical reports: Following standard procedures of *Communication Method & Measures*, all submissions will be evaluated in a blinded peer-review by two reviewers. Editorial decisions ought to be announced within about 14 weeks after submission deadlines.

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