

CT&M CONCEPTS

ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATION IN JOURNALISM & MASS COMMUNICATION

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Thoughts from the Head



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The academic year 2021-2022 has been a year of transition and hybridity, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect daily lives and well-being yet society and institutions try to move on and restore “normal” routines. The challenge of being simultaneously “post-pandemic” and “in-pandemic” has placed unprecedented pressures on all of us in communication scholarship and communication industries, from teachers to students, from researchers to practitioners. Despite these pressures, our field continues to rise to the challenge, and we continue to stay engaged and productive, albeit in new ways. The pandemic has challenged and reshaped ideas about priorities and productivity.

Our leadership team in the Communication Theory and Methodology division has been hard at work this year to plan another exciting and intellectually stimulating AEJMC conference. This year will mark the return of an in-person conference. We are particularly excited to be in Detroit for AEJMC 2022. As you will see in this issue (and the next issue) of CT&M Concepts, we have a stellar lineup of sessions. Thank you to all the authors who submitted their work for consideration this year. We received high quality contributions, and a large number of our members stepped up to provide the high-quality peer review which our division prides itself on. As always, space only allows for accepting a portion of the submissions. I hope you’ll find this year’s program to be reflective of the emphasis CT&M places on rigor and innovation in theory and methods.

I would particularly like to thank the dedicated members of our leadership team. I will have a lot more to say about this excellent group of division officers in the next issue. They keep CT&M moving along, by means of their commitment to producing a quality conference program and promoting the activities and interests of the division. You can find their

information on last page of the newsletter. Please reach out to any of us if you have questions or are interested in joining our team in 2022-2023.

AEJMC is taking a great number of precautions to keep the Detroit conference as healthy and safe as possible. We have learned from experiences at other conferences that returned in-person. Please see the AEJMC website (<https://www.aejmc.org/home/events/annual-conference/>) and online community (<https://community.aejmc.org/conference/home>) for details about this year’s conference. Thank you in advance for following good pandemic etiquette during the conference.

We know that not everyone will be able to comfortably make the trip to Detroit. To maximize your ability to participate in the division, the Members’ Meeting is being held virtually the week before the event. The CT&M Members’ Meeting will be Wednesday, July 27, from 14:00-15:00 EDST (18:00-19:00 UTC) on Zoom. The link to register for the Zoom meeting has been shared with members via email. Please don’t share the link on social media, but do please reach out if you need the link or have questions.

The Best of CT&M session will take place on Friday, August 5 from 6:00-8:00pm, featuring some of our award-winning papers from this year. Immediately afterward, please join us for an off-site social from 8:15-9:45pm. Details and an RSVP link will be provided at the Members’ Meeting and via email.

Thank you for your involvement with our division, and for your commitment to impactful scholarship on communication theory and methodology. I am so eager to see you all on Zoom and in Detroit in the coming weeks.

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Looking Back at 2021

Last year's conference, original planned for New Orleans, was held virtually August 4-7, 2021. During our "Best Of" session and Members' Meeting, both held on Zoom, we recognized the top papers for the 2021 conference.

The **top faculty paper, and top method paper**, for 2021 was "*Perceived Exposure to Misinformation Fuels Emotional Concerns about COVID-19: A Cross-Country, Multi-Method Investigation*" by Jörg Matthes, *University of Vienna*; Nicoleta Corbu, *National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Romania*; Soyeon Jin, *Munich Technical*; Yannis Theocharis, *Technical University in Munich*; Christian Schemer, *University of Mainz*; Karolina Koc-Michalska, *Audencia Business School*; Peter van Aelst, *University of Antwerp*; Frank Esser, *University of Zurich*; Toril Aalberg, *Norwegian University of Science and Technology*; Ana Cardenal, *Open University of Catalonia*; Laia Castro, *University of Zurich*; Claes de Vreese, *University of Amsterdam*; David Hopmann, *University of Southern Denmark*; Tamir Sheafer, *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*; Sergio Splendore, *Università degli Studi di Milano*; James Stanyer, *Loughborough University*; Agnieszka Stępińska, *Adam Mickiewicz University*; Jesper Strömbäck, *University of Gothenburg*; and Václav Štětka, *Loughborough University*.

The 2021 **second-place paper** was "*A Multi-Trait-Multi-Perspective Conceptualization and Operationalization of Relationship: Validation of Measures for Organization-Public Relationship Types*" by Yeunjae Lee, *Miami*, and Jeong-Nam Kim, *Oklahoma*. Our **third-place paper** is "*Measuring Sexist Stereotypes about Female*

Reporters: Scale Development and Validity" by T. Franklin Waddell, Jessica Sparks, and Chelsea Moss, *Florida*.

The **top theory paper** for 2021 was "*Embodied Congruence as a Framework for Understanding User Experiences with Immersive Technologies*" by Anne Smink, *University of Amsterdam*; Lindsay Hahn, *Buffalo*; Bryan Trude, and Sun Joo (Grace) Ahn, *Georgia*.

The **Chaffee-McLeod top student** for 2021 was "*Permanently Connected: Behavior, Perception, and Their Political Implications*" by Slgi (Sage) Lee, *Michigan*. The **second-place student paper** was "*Hyperlocal Affective Polarization: Remixing Rural Understanding*" by Ava Francesca Battocchio, *Michigan State*, and the **third-place student paper** is "*Toward a Theory of Solutions Journalism and Explanation of its Effects*" by Kathryn A. Thier, *Maryland*.



Congratulations
to the AEJMC 2021
award recipients!

Best of CT&M 2021

Communication Theory & Methodology Division
awards

First Place Open Competition Paper & Top Method Paper
"Perceived Exposure to Misinformation Fuels Emotional Concerns about COVID-19:
A Cross-Country, Multi-Method Investigation"

Jörg Matthes, University of Vienna;
Nicoleta Corbu, National University of Political Studies
and Public Administration, Romania;
Soyoun Jin, Munich Technical;
Yannis Theodorakis, Technical University in Munich;
Christian Scherer, University of Mainz;
Karolina Koc-Michalaska, Audencia Business School;
Peter van Aelst, University of Antwerp;
Frank Esser, University of Zurich;
Toril Kullberg, Norwegian University of Science and Technology;

Ana Cardenal, Open University of Catalonia;
Laila Castro, University of Zurich;
Claes de Vreese, University of Amsterdam;
David Hugmann, University of Southern Denmark;
Tamir Sheffer, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem;
Sergio Spaldore, Università degli Studi di Milano;
James Stanyer, Loughborough University;
Agnieszka Stepinska, Adam Mickiewicz University;
Jesper Strömback, University of Gothenburg;
and Václav Stekler, Loughborough University

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Communication Theory & Methodology Division
awards

Sigi (Sage) Lee
University of Michigan

Chaffee-McLeod Top Student Paper Award
"Permanently Connected: Behavior, Perception, and Their Political Implications"

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Communication Theory & Methodology Division
awards

Younjae Lee, University of Miami
& *Jeong-Nam Kim*, University of Oklahoma

Second Place Open Paper Competition
"A Multi-Trait-Multi-Perspective Conceptualization and Operationalization
of Relationship: Validation of Measures for Organization-Public Relationship Types"

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Communication Theory & Methodology Division
awards

Ava Francesca Battoecchio
Michigan State University

Second Place Student Paper Award
"Hyperlocal Affective Polarization: Remixing Rural Understanding"

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Communication Theory & Methodology Division
awards

T. Franklin Waddell,
Jessica Sparks & Chelsea Moss
University of Florida

Third Place Open Competition Award
"Measuring Sexist Stereotypes about Female Reporters:
Scale Development and Validity"

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Communication Theory & Methodology Division
awards

Kathryn A. Thier
University of Maryland

Third Place Student Paper Award
"Toward a Theory of Solutions Journalism and Explanation of Its Effects"

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Communication Theory & Methodology Division
awards

Anne Smink, University of Amsterdam; *Lindsay Hahn*, University of Buffalo;
Bryan Trude and *Sun Joo (Grace) Ahn*, University of Georgia

Top Theory Paper
"Embodied Congruence as a Framework for Understanding User Experiences
with Immersive Technologies"

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2022 Barrow Minority Scholarship
Award Winner

After a robust reviewing process, Kristina Medero from the Ohio State University was selected as this year's Barrow Minority Doctoral Scholarship Award recipient. She was selected from a pool of over a dozen well-qualified candidates. Medero will receive a cash scholarship as well as a membership to the CT&M division of AEJMC.

Kristina Medero is a doctoral candidate at the School of Communication at the Ohio State University. Medero's research examines how narrative-driven interventions can reduce health disparities and stigmas associated with particular social groups and illnesses. Her research relies on theories of mediated contact to argue that narratives can be utilized to promote the agency and advocacy needed to rectify health disparities by improving attitudes towards stigmatized groups and increasing marginalized groups' efficacy in accessing health services. Specifically, Medero's work is organized along two lines. First, she utilizes a culture-centered approach to capture the health-related experiences of marginalized groups. In one particular project, Medero uses a mixed method approach to examine which types of narratives are more likely to influence attitudes and behavioral intentions toward vaccine uptake and practicing mental health. In her second line of research, Medero utilizes experimental methodology to examine how exposure to mediated representations of mental health stigma influence how people view mental illnesses. Medero's understanding of health disparities as they influence and are influenced by different social identities and social systems is shaped and inspired by her experiences as a health worker and educator in the US and South Africa. Her work has appeared in the Journal of Medical Internet Research and has been presented at the NCA as well as the ICA.

Medero's recommenders describe her as "being on track to become a leading communication scholar." Her research is described as addressing key social issues related to health and stigma, and particularly appropriate during a time when many individuals, especially members of historically marginalized groups, are skeptical of the health field. Reviewers also complement Medero on her ability to manage multiple projects, conduct qualitative and quantitative research flawlessly, and comment on her excellence in the classroom.



Kristina Medero is a doctoral candidate at the School of Communication at the Ohio State University, and the recipient of the 2021 Barrow Minority Scholarship Award.

This scholarship honors the late Professor Lionel C. Barrow, Jr., in recognition of his pioneering efforts supporting minority education in journalism and mass communication. His award is designed to aid doctoral students in these fields to complete their dissertation research and academic work. This year's scholarship was funded by the CT&M Division, the Minorities and Communication Division, the Mass Communication and Society Division, Newspaper and Online News, and the Commission on the Status of Minorities. We thank these groups for their continued support of this award, as well as our reviewers for their service in the selection process.



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CT&M CONCEPTS Teaching Panel for 2022



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The CT&M division is co-hosting one teaching panel in Detroit this summer, and we hope you'll add this one to your schedule. In collaboration with the Participatory Journalism Interest Group (PJIG), CT&M will present the panel *Helping Students Collaborate with Audiences Through Social Media* on Thursday, August 4.

This panel explores strategies for teaching social media in journalism courses, exploring topics, such as crowdsourcing, self-promotion, ethics, dealing with social media audiences, fact-checking, verification, and social media writing/production.

Panelists include **Jennifer Cox**, **Sadaf R. Ali**, and **Brian Sheridan**.

If you have questions or comments about the session, you may reach out to Lindsey Sherrill, CT&M Teaching Chair, at lsherrill2@una.edu

Professional Freedom & Responsibility Panels for 2022



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Professional Freedom and Responsibility Panels for 2022. This year, CT&M is proud to co-sponsor two exciting panels centered on Professional Responsibility and Freedom. They examine how changes in the media environment pose challenges, or even threats, to ethical communication and free speech. The panels offer a strong balance of practical and theoretical insights, with speakers from industry and academy.

Our first session, together with the Media Management, Economics and Entrepreneurship division, addresses automation, robots, and AI in media, and how they may change the calculus around media accountability. Moderator **Kelly Kaufhold** (*Texas State*) will guide the discussion with panelists **Jaime Banks** (*Texas Tech*), **Sabine Baumann** (*Jade*), **Danny Kim** (*Whip Media*), **Seth Lewis** (*Oregon*), and **Alexandra Merceron** (*Columbia*). The conversation will cover how these newer technologies are affecting the production and consumption of media. In particular, the panel will dig into implications for news reporting, media ethics, and media law. The session is Wednesday, August 3 from 4:30-6:00pm.

In our second session, held jointly with the Communicating Science, Health, Environment and Risk division, the focus is on COVID-19 misinformation. Specifically, the panel engages with questions about how to best combat inaccurate or misleading information about the virus and pandemic. Theoretical and practical perspectives will come together in this session, with particular attention to health journalism, public relations, source credibility, group identity, and emotion. The moderator for this session **María E. Len-Ríos** (*Minnesota*), who will be joined by panelists **Ingrid Bachmann** (*Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile*), **Rachel Young** (*Iowa*), **Amanda Hinnant** (*Missouri*), and **Aleszu Bajak** (senior data reporter, Data Team, Investigations, *USA Today*). This session is Thursday, August 4 from 8:30-10:00am.

We hope to see you in attendance at these excellent PF&R sessions in Detroit!

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2021-22 CT&M Officers

CT&M CONCEPTS, the newsletter of the Communication Theory & Methodology division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, is published three times per school year.

Please submit any articles to newsletter editor Slgi (Sage) Lee sg.lee@pusan.ac.kr

Back issues of the newsletter and ongoing discussions can be found at the CT&M web site, aejmc.us/ctm

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