



Newsletter

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Spring 2020



“Saving the Planet through Better Media and Communications” at AEJMC’s 103rd Annual Conference in San Francisco

by Nan Yu, MCS Division Head

Dear MC&S Members,

I hope everyone is enjoying a smooth and productive spring semester. Before I start highlighting some of the key events moving forward, I want to thank everyone, our members and our Division officers, for your continuous support and contribution to our division. As the largest division of AEJMC, we work together to facilitate scholarship, mentorship, and friendship in our field.

In the past few months, we have been working on programming different panels and sessions for the upcoming Annual Conference in San Francisco. Our Vice Head Dr. Masa Yamamoto, Vice Head-Elect Dr. Kalyani Chadha, and PF&R Committee Chair Dr. Ruoxu Wang will provide some insights on some of the exciting events that will happen in August.

The Research Committee Chair Dr. Fan Yang will talk about how to submit your papers

for the paper competition. Please remember the deadline for submission this year is April 1, 2020. As the MCS members, you should have received an email regarding becoming a reviewer for our Annual Conference. If you haven’t responded to that survey, please contact our Research Committee (Dr. Fan Yang fyang@albany.edu or Dr. Xi Cui cui@cofc.edu) and help with the paper-review process.

Please also remember that the MCS Division offers a variety of opportunities for research, teaching, and service awards for our Division members. In the past, these awards have helped numerous scholars and students to advance their scholarship and careers. Dr. Weirui Wang (Awards Committee Chair) and Dr. Jack Karlis (Teaching Committee Chair) will share details of the award application process. Please make sure you also check our website for different types of awards, deadlines, and application info (<https://aejmc.us/mcs/>).

Dr. Alec Tefertiller (Midwinter Committee Chair) will share the news coming from this year’s Midwinter Conference at the University of Oklahoma. Thanks to those who have submitted a paper or reviewed for the Midwinter Conference and made it a successful one.

Lastly, I want to deliver my special appreciation to our communication officer Andrew Shumway for using his spare time to edit and put together each of our Division newsletters in the past several years, to Dr. Julia DeCook for constantly updating our Division website, and to Dr. Shana Meganck for making our Division social media outlets up-to-date. Our Division wouldn’t be united and function as one without each of your contributions. I hope that our Division members can join the 2020 Annual Conference in San Francisco and help collectively build a stronger MCS presence there. See you all soon!



Conference Programming Update

by Masahiro Yamamoto, Vice Head

This year's research, teaching, and PF&R panel sessions will be of great interest to our members. We believe that the topics will provide valuable information for practitioners, graduate students, professors, and members of other divisions.

First, we have two research panels scheduled for the upcoming conference. The first panel, "Journalism for the Powerful or the Vulnerable? How Community Structure Shapes Coverage of Critical Issues," will examine community structural influences on media functions and coverage. The second panel, "Tackling Misinformation: Academic-Community-Industry Collaborations around the World," will address the prevalence, impact, and diffusion of misinformation/disinformation online and discuss how academic research findings in this area can inform policymakers, media practitioners, and citizens.

Second, we have two great teaching panels. The first panel, "Media Entrepreneurs Meet Media Educators: How to Better Prepare the Next Generation of Media Entrepreneurs," will offer an opportunity for media entrepreneurs to share their experiences and challenges with educators who teach media entrepreneurship. The panel will address such topics as idea generation, opportunity recognition, business models, uncertainty, and funding. The second panel, "Sharing the Knowledge: Successful Strategies for Mentoring and Working with Graduate Students," will discuss strategies that seasoned faculty members have found useful for mentoring and collaborating with graduate students.

Finally, we have two PF&R panels planned this year. The first panel, "Responsible and Rigorous Scholarship: Advocating Open Research Practices in Journalism

and Mass Communication," will address open research practices in journalism and mass communication scholarship. Panelists will share their expertise in experimental, survey, qualitative, and computational approaches and how open science has allowed them to enhance the rigor of their research. The second panel, "When 'Shining a Light' is No Longer Enough: Rethinking the Social Responsibility of Journalists in the New Marketplace of Ideas," will reconsider the social responsibility of journalism in the current information environment where traditional journalistic principles and values are challenged by disinformation, market demands, and political polarization. We hope you take time to learn more about these panels as the Annual Conference approaches.

Research Panels

**Journalism for the Powerful or the Vulnerable?
How Community Structure Shapes Coverage of Critical Issues**

Tackling Misinformation: Academic-Community-Industry Collaborations around the World

Teaching Panels

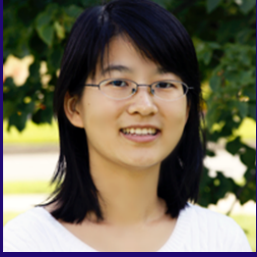
**Media Entrepreneurs Meet Media Educators:
How to Better Prepare the Next Generation of Media Entrepreneurs**

Sharing the Knowledge: Successful Strategies for Mentoring and Working with Graduate Students

PF&R Panels

**Responsible and Rigorous Scholarship:
Advocating Open Research Practices in Journalism and Mass Communication**

When "Shining a Light" is No Longer Enough: Rethinking the Social Responsibility of Journalists in the New Marketplace of Ideas



PF&R Offsite Tour to Google's San Francisco Office

by Ruoxu Wang, PF&R Committee Chair

The PF&R Committee of the Mass Communication and Society Division of AEJMC is organizing an offsite tour to Google's San Francisco office. The location of Google's SFO office is: 345 Spear St, San Francisco, CA 94105.

Google's SFO office provides flagship products like Search, Gmail, and Chrome, and notable product launches including Wallet and App Engine. The office's prime waterfront location is easily acces-

sible via public transit and offers breathtaking views of the Bay Bridge.

The offsite tour is scheduled on August 7, 2020 (specific time to be determined). We will gather in the San Francisco Marriot Hotel lobby (780 Mission St, San Francisco, CA 94103) and head off to Google's SFO office as a group. We will send out an invitation link to our members soon regarding the trip. The group size is limited to 15.

If you have any questions about this trip, please contact Ruoxu Wang at rwang4@memphis.edu.



Photo courtesy of venturebeat.com



Photo courtesy of *The San Francisco Examiner*



Annual Conference Schedule

by Kalyani Chadha, Vice Head-Elect

AEJMC's Annual Conference returns to San Francisco again in August 2020, and the Mass Communication and Society Division has several events planned.

On Friday, August 7, the MCS Division will hold its Annual Business Meeting from 6:45pm-8:15pm. This meeting gives members the opportunity to learn about the Division's activities over the past year as well as to provide input regarding future initiatives and priorities.

Following the meeting, we will proceed to an off-site social from 8:30pm-10:00pm. Details about the location of the social will follow soon, so stay tuned!

The Division will have the first of its refereed panel sessions on August 6 from 8:30am-9:45 am, while the high-density research session will also take place on Aug. 6 from 3:15pm-4:45pm.

The Scholar-to-Scholar poster session will be held on August 7 from 8:15am-9:45am while the Best of MCS Session which recognizes the top papers in the Division's paper competition is scheduled for 5:00pm-6:30pm on August 7.

The final refereed panel session will take place on Sunday, August 9 from 9:15am-10:45am.

Schedule of MCS Events at AEJMC's Annual Conference 2020

Thursday, August 6

8:30am - 9:45am First Refereed Panel Session

3:15pm - 4:45pm High-Density Research Session

Friday, August 7

8:15am - 9:45am Scholar-to-Scholar Poster Session

5:00pm - 6:30pm The Best of MCS Session

6:45pm - 8:15pm MCS Annual Business Meeting

8:30pm - 10:00pm MCS Social

Sunday, August 9

9:15am - 10:45am Final Refereed Panel Session

We invite you to attend these events and look forward to seeing you in San Francisco.



Teaching Committee Report

by Jack Karlis, Teaching Committee Chair

For those entering the job market, the Teaching Committee's awards could mean the difference between you and another candidate landing that tenure track job. The MCS Division has a longstanding tradition of awarding our membership for its pedagogy and two of our awards have been often overlooked.

Service-Learning

The MCS Division Service-Learning Grant program assists faculty by providing a \$500 stipend to use in their service-learning courses.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Only those projects that encourage students to become involved in the community while at the same time utilizing/expanding their education and expertise will be considered.
- Applicants must be members of MCS who are teaching a service-learning course in the academic 2020-2021 year.
- Winners of the Service-Learning Grant will be chosen by the Vice Head and Teaching Committee members.
- Award winners will be recognized at the Division Annual Business Meeting and Awards Luncheon (with plaque and/or certificate) at the Annual Conference in San Francisco and also be listed on the Division website.

Teaching Ideas Competition

The Teaching Ideas Competition award recognizes innovation and excellence in teaching in the field of mass communication.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must explore projects that pose hypotheses or research questions that aim to probe questions such as: what it means to teach, how learning happens, and how teachers and students can work together to enrich learning.
- Open to a wide range of qualitative and quantitative approaches, but the methods used (and their theoretical grounding) should be made explicit.

- Monetary awards of \$250 for first place, \$150 for second place, and \$75 for third place will be presented to the winners at the Annual Business Meeting and Awards Luncheon (with plaque and/or certificate) at the Annual Conference in San Francisco and also be listed on the Division website.

ELIGIBILITY:

- All entrants must be members of the MCS Division.
- All entrants must be full-time faculty, adjunct professors, and graduate student instructors who have taught at least one course in the field of mass communication.

Applications for the awards must be submitted electronically in .PDF format to the Awards Chair, Weirui Wang (weirwang@fiu.edu), by 11:59 EST on April 30, 2020. Late applications will not be accepted.

2019 Winners

Left:

1st Place
Promising Professor
Faculty Winner
Lindsay M. McCluskey

Right:

1st Place
Promising Professor
Student Winner
Minhee Choi





Enter Your Papers and Projects for the MCS Research Competition

by Fan Yang, Research Committee Chair

Greetings to everyone! Now the Spring semester is in its full swing, I'd like to draw your attention to the MCS Research Awards. The MCS Dissertation Award celebrates excellence in graduate research with a cash prize of \$3,000 and an opportunity to publish in the Division's journal *Mass Communication and Society*. A dissertation should be completed between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019 and no part of the dissertation can be "under review" or in a "revise and resubmit" status at a journal.

The MCS Division awards innovative research proposals advancing mass communication research regardless of methodologies.



Graduate Student Competitions

by Christina J. Najera, Graduate Student Liaison

Calling all graduate students! The Mass Communication and Society Division has two opportunities for graduate students to showcase their research and demonstrate their ability of independent scholarship – The Moeller Student Paper Competition and the Student Top Paper Competition.

The Moeller Student Paper Competition recognizes papers written for a class within the past year. This is a great opportunity to transform a class paper to a line on

Two faculty-led and one graduate student-led research projects will each be given \$5,000 to complete the proposed research projects. Any member of the MCS Division who is currently teaching, researching or studying mass communication full time is encouraged to apply.

If you are submitting to the MCS Division of the AEJMC 2020 Annual Conference, you are automatically considered for our MCS Top Paper Award that acknowledges excellent research in student competition (all authors must be students) and open competition category. I'd like to mention a special research award for student research separately from our regular student competition. The Moeller Student

your CV! Papers are nominated by a faculty member that instructed the class for which the paper was written. The paper will need to be submitted online and the faculty member nominating the paper will need to email the Research Chair verifying that the paper was written for his/her class. This is a great way to utilize a paper written for class and possibly have it recognized.

The Student Top Paper Competition allows for students to show-

Paper Competition Award of MCS recognizes outstanding student papers written for a class during the previous year. Moeller Competition papers must be nominated by the faculty member who taught the class and must be correctly submitted to the Moeller Competition category online.

We highly encourage interested applicants to check out the detailed instructions of all MCS research awards at <https://aejmc.us/mcs/#>. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at fyang@albany.edu, or Dr. Xi Cui at cui@cofc.edu with questions.

We wish you a big success in 2020 and hope to see you all in San Francisco!

case their original work without the help of a faculty member. This competition is a way to demonstrate a graduate student's independent scholarship. Paper submissions should be submitted online to the AEJMC site, only consist of student authors, and cover topics in the area of mass communication and society.

Top papers in each of these categories will be recognized and will receive a cash prize and one waiver to the AEJMC Annual Conference registration!



Mass Comm & Society Shines at the 2020 Midwinter Conference

by Alec Tefertiller, Midwinter Chair

Once again, the Mass Communication and Society Division was the premiere division at the annual AEJMC Midwinter Conference, which took place on March 6th and 7th. The Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Oklahoma hosted researchers and panelists from around the world, and MCS featured prominently on the conference program.

MCS led the field with 53 abstract submissions – which was almost 40% of the total submissions received by all participating divisions. In total, the Division presented 26 papers from over 50 authors in seven panels across both days of the conference. Highlights included panels addressing fake news and media credibility, political speech on social media and the latest trends in advertising.

Several authors were presented with awards for their research.

Surin Chung (Ohio University), Suman Lee (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) and Eurang Lee (Ohio University) received the top abstract award for their paper, “Lessons for crisis and risk communication: A systematic review of how to understand and combat rumors.” Top abstract awards were presented during the Opening Reception on the first night of the conference.

In addition, two graduate students, Brian Delaney, Ph.D. student at Drexel University, and Mahfuzul Haque, Ph.D. student at the University of Maryland, received Graduate Student Travel Awards from the Division to assist with travel to the Midwinter Conference. Delaney presented his paper, “Addressing transactional distance through teacher presence strategies in on-line journalism and mass communication courses.” Haque presented his paper, “Combating misinfor-

mation in Bangladesh: Roles and responsibilities as perceived by journalists, fact-checkers, and users,” on behalf of his co-authors, Ahmed Shatil Alam (University of Mississippi), Mohammad Yusuf (University of New Mexico), Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed (University of Toronto) and Naemul Hassan (University of Maryland).

The Midwinter Conference is an annual event that attracts research from AEJMC members around the globe. The event has been hosted by the Gaylord College at the University of Oklahoma for over a decade. MCS is one of nine divisions and interest groups that participate in the Midwinter Conference. Midwinter is unique in that it accepts abstract submissions, and papers presented at the conference are eligible – and encouraged – to be submitted to the AEJMC Annual Conference in August.



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