

Note from Division Head

Engagement with the News Media, Some Reflections

The past six months have peppered my professional and personal life with questions about news, understandably.

I venture to guess I am not alone. Family and friends, colleagues and students share a renewed interest in news consumption, with a hunger I have not heard of in a while. I have also been witnessing, and hearing about, conversations about credibility, objectivity, fairness, accuracy, ethics, fake news, “state-run” media, “hyperpartisan news,” increased paid subscriptions to “reputable” news organizations, etc., as many attempt to process, analyze – or ignore – the news, and as many feel anger, confusion, and concern in today’s public sphere.

I reached out to members of our division, to ask fellow critical and cultural scholars the question of engagement with the news media today, in the hopes of painting a collective picture of how we, as researchers and teachers, grapple with the issue. Find their answers below.

For myself, I try to understand it, I try to ignore it, I try to pretend it’s a bad dream, and I try to read more – all at the same time. I also try to look at this storm of voices, opinions, and changes as opportunities for deeper conversations about what matters, which I try to take into my



Adina Schneeweis
Division Head

classroom, in the hallway between classes, on social media, in any interactions. Because if I look at the news media today as an opportunity for learning, growth, and change, then I can have hope; and only with hope, can I go on teaching, researching, and contributing to society.

You’ll find updates from our officers in this issue. Our Secretary reports on the Midwinter Conference that successfully came and went in early March; she includes reflections from graduate student attendees on the importance of this conference for their education and growth as scholars. Our Teaching Chair gives a few end-of-semester teaching tips,

Schneeweis | Continued on page 2

The official newsletter of the Cultural and Critical Studies Division of AEJMC.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Chicago Schedule	1
Teaching Tips	2
Summer Writing	2
Service Opportunity	2
News Engagement	2-7
Paper Competition	4
Panel Preview	4
Midwinter Review	5
Member News	7-10
List of Officers	9



Plan for Chicago: CCSD’s Schedule

Wednesday

Aug. 9 - five sessions

Thursday

Aug. 10 - 3 sessions PLUS
Members’ Meeting (6:45 pm)

Friday

Aug. 11 - 3 sessions

Saturday

Aug. 12 - 1 session

Teaching Tips, End of Semester

Everyone is swamped with grading at the end of the semester. I've included some advice I've received over the years to help get through this daunting period.

1 Ask students if they want feedback on final papers. Some students will want feedback, while many students just want to see the grade. If you know up front, you can save time on grading!

2 Grade assignments as students turn them on. For example, my media writing students can turn in finals until a certain date. Instead of waiting until the last day, I grade exams as they come in.

3 Create mini goals while grading. After you hit this goal, reward yourself with something.

These tips may have to be

adjusted depending on institutional demands, but I've used them to help streamline the grading process. I hope you find them helpful!



Loren Saxton
Teaching Chair

Summer Writing, Some Ideas

I am still trying to create a summer writing schedule that works, but again, I've included a list of tips that help shape my summer plan.

1 Create a plan that incorporates writing and relaxation. We work as scholars, teachers, mentors, and sometimes, counselors throughout the fall and spring semesters. It is difficult to devote time to research planning and writing. In the summer, try to create a routine that incorporates daily/weekly

writing and what I like to call "planned relaxation."

2 Look for special calls in journals, book chapter calls, grant applications to help create a writing calendar. This calendar will help you create mini-goals for writing. This always helps writing seem less daunting, and more productive for me.

3 Try to wrap up ongoing writing projects, and do preliminary research for projects you want to focus on in

the fall/spring. Conference deadlines creep up fast, and in summer, we can spend time planning conference papers so that we can meet deadlines before 11:59 pm :)

4 Engage in self-care treatment. Summer is time for writing and relaxation. Take this time to focus on yourself and try your best to do what makes you happy. We engage in critical and cultural work, which is often self-reflexive. It is necessary that we practice self-care.

Schneeweis | From page 1

and shares her plans for summer writing (I'm taking notes myself). On the research front, the Research Co-Chairs share early results from the paper competition, while the division's Vice-Head gives a brief overview of what to expect of this year's panel lineup. On the PF&R front, we are working hard on finalizing our awardee for the year; stay tuned for name revealing in our next issue.

Service Opportunity: Newsletter Editor

Are you a keen editor? Do you have an eye for design? Do you like to tinker with layout? Are you great with deadlines? Do you enjoy a sense of power? (Ok, the last question is a joke.) We are in need of a newsletter editor. Help us communicate more efficiently about the things that matter! If you are interested, email Adina Schneeweis at schneewe@oakland.edu.

As a critical and cultural scholar, how do you engage with the news media today?

Because I have a long commute, I get most of my news from public radio. In today's polarized political climate not infrequently plagued by "tweetstorms," I've been particularly appreciative of the measured tone and adherence to traditional journalistic standards that I find in public radio. Avoiding social media has helped to keep my blood pressure in check! When I do get news online, I'm trying to be even more aware of how algorithms are shaping what headlines I see. Against my better professional judgment, I still like the Google News aggregator for a quick scan of what's going on. Meanwhile, my summer project is to rethink how I teach Intro to Media Writing to underscore the importance of verifiable facts and grapple with the frequently lobbed charge of "fake news" in the Trump era. Any advice? – **Madeline Esch**, Salve Regina

Engagement as a critical scholar means leading with a media literacy perspective that combines skepticism and hope. In the ecology of news and information, we should uphold a diverse, broad and deep critique of "news" and

Engagement | Continued on page 3

As a critical and cultural scholar, how do you engage with the news media today?

the motivations of the people and institutions who produce it. At the same time, if we have faith in empowered individuals to support a just democratic life, we need to accompany cynicism with trust. So we are in a contradiction between believing in people and seeing how their motivation can trap them in epistemologies of ignorance. So one step is to see our own individual blinders, how what we do perpetuates an ignorance of the systemic effects that we perpetuate through our participation. This means taking account for how our actions can work toward a balance between the comfortable and the oppressed. We critique complicity in misinformation and historical blindness, while sharing the belief and hope in the value of the people we affect. Media literacy is a continuum that includes producers, viewers, and the people in between, who can all gain from a little more humility and a little more hope. – **Ralph Believeau**, Oklahoma

Just as my teaching reflects praxis in the belief that theory should inform practice and practice should revise theory, so does my engagement with the news media reflect a similar stereoscopic approach in its concern with the interactions of theory and practice and the distances between them in the social realms/social constructs in which the news media operate. Whether focusing on news media artifacts, practices, or both, another layer of

that engagement, of course, is an ever-present awareness of how all of this may connect to pedagogy and to students as engaged citizens and future professional practitioners. – **Jeanne Criswell**, Indianapolis

Because of my background as a professional journalist and my current status as a faculty member in journalism and mass communication, I'm constantly being asked by colleagues, students and friends about "fake news." How can we know what and whom to trust? Too frequently, they denounce all media practitioners as scurrilous and corrupt, even as they quote from news stories that are the sources of their political and social knowledge. My own critical/cultural approach to journalism and media studies is rooted in a deep commitment to the value of journalism for democratic practice, and my critique stems from a desire to see journalism practiced ethically and well. But "journalism" is a complex term these days, applied indiscriminately to practices that include fakery, hyperbole, facile commentary and rampant bias as well as the more professionalized and careful modes of reporting. In today's media environment, where anyone with Internet access can concoct something that resembles "news," it's becoming crucial for the public to discern fact from fiction, credible sources from unscrupulous ones. Interestingly, we are returning to relying on "old media" institutions like NPR and *The New York Times* – that value fact-checking, accuracy and multiperspectival approaches. We know, though, as critical/cultural scholars, that these institutions too are entrenched in systems and cultures that affect the ideological

valence of their content, so it's **3** important for news consumers to turn, as well, to alternate media sources that operate with goals of integrity and accuracy. Now, more than ever, we need media literacy education, so that people will not confuse the rantings of random bloggers and tweeters with actual journalism. These distinctions have nothing to do with the media platform but everything to do with the rigorously evaluating the practices and processes at work in the creation of the content – exactly what critical and cultural media studies has always been concerned with. – **Meenakshi Gigi Durham**, Iowa

My engagement with the news media has not changed much. I experienced a major shift in the way I viewed news creation, production, and distribution following my time in a newsroom during 9/11. I think now more than ever scholars are needed to provide tools for, and a lens through which, people can produce and consume information. I rarely watch TV news in large part because of my experience in the industry. The shift to infotainment, shortened news gathering process and speed of dissemination makes it challenging for both producers and consumers. – **Myrtle Jones**, Rochester Institute of Technology

It's been difficult watching the news lately. As my own media literacy levels increase, feelings of frustration and anger also increase. However, I feel that I have a responsibility as a media scholar and professor and a critical and cultural scholar to engage so that I can help facilitate critical think-
Engagement | Continued on page 6



Peter Gloviczki
Research Lead Chair



Ruth DeForester
Research Co-Chair

Mark your calendars!
Members' meeting
Thursday
August 10, 2017
6:45-8:15 p.m.

The 2017 conference program is shaping up with an exciting and challenging line-up of topics. Two major themes emerged organically from this year's slate of proposed panels: How do critical cultural scholars address (1) digital disruptions and opportunities in the media landscape and (2) identity and diversity – in our teaching, our professional practice, and our own media consumption. While these are evergreen topics, the ways in which these two strands intersect throughout the panel descriptions feels urgent and vital. Much has changed in our national media discourse since these panels were first proposed in September. Perhaps predictably for a conference following a presidential election year, the 2017 panels tend to

Paper Competition

We are delighted by the submissions to the paper competition.

We had 67 submissions and our reviewers were thorough, fair, prompt and detail oriented. We are hard at work on the program as we speak and we are gearing up for a fantastic convention in Chicago.

What captured our attention the most this year was the way that the papers covered a broad range of timely issues, including pop music, the political economy of sports, racial frames in news coverage, and what citizenship looks like in 2017, while also employing a variety of theoretical lenses and methodological

approaches. Our division is a special one for the way that it brings together a wide range of perspectives under a broad and inclusive umbrella.

We had only two disqualifications, both because they did not meet the uniform AEJMC paper call guidelines.

Stay tuned for the reveal of the top paper winners - look for them in our next issue of the newsletter.

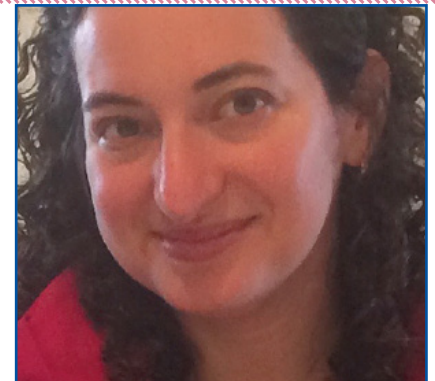
We wish to express our continued thanks to all of our members, supporters and friends of our division. Your collective efforts help make CCSD an outstanding division. We look forward to seeing you all in Chicago!

Panel Session

focus domestically rather than globally, though certainly the implications and interconnections are far-reaching.

Whether it's navigating the ethics of native advertising, shifting our understandings of community journalism for a networked global audience, or devising innovative assignments for digital native millennial students, panels in Chicago will address digital disruptions and implications for professional practice, research, and teaching.

So too, issues of diversity and gender and racial identity saturate our slate of panels, across the three areas of teaching, research, and professional freedom and responsibility. From research on postfeminist discourse in women's magazines to reflections on teaching about marginalization in the traditional reporting class, CCS panelists will be taking new looks at familiar questions. I'm particularly excited about a panel spotlighting the experiences of Black faculty members embedding discussions of race and culture in foundational mass



Madeleine Esch
Vice Head

communication classes.

I'm also excited about a new panel format we're trying out this year. Based on the success of the high-density sessions for referred papers, we're expanding that model for one pre-constituted mega-panel. When CCSD and the Commission on the Status of Women put forth nearly identically-themed proposals already fully enrolled with eager panelists, we thought it just made sense to merge them. With 10 panelists (full disclosure: I'm one of them), this will be a roundtable-style discussion of specific case studies in the gendered marketing of children's products. Be sure to let us

[Panel Session | Continued on page 5](#)

know what you think of the experimental format.

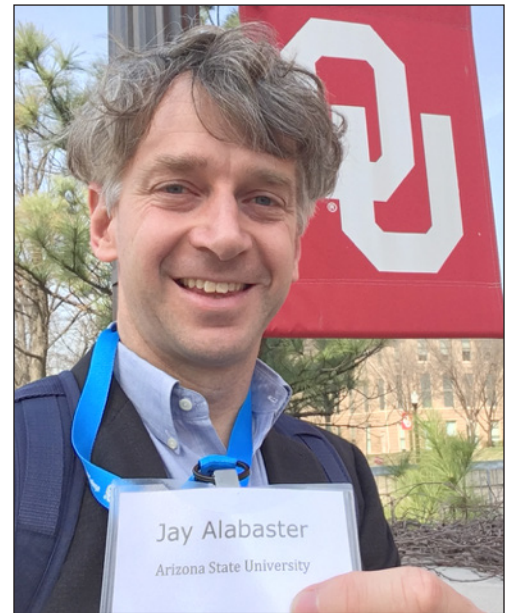
My sincere thanks to everyone who proposed a panel this year and especially to those CCSD members who've taken on the task of facilitating panel development (here, in alphabetical order): Ralph Believeau, Oklahoma, Loren Saxton Coleman, Southern Mississippi, Janice Marie Collins, Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Katie Foss, Middle Tennessee, Theodore L. Glasser, Stanford, and Jessica Maddox, Georgia.

Midwinter Conference Provides Graduate Students Unique Experience 5

Once again, The Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication at University of Oklahoma hosted in early March the 2017 Midwinter Conference. CCSD had 14 presentations on a wide array of topics. The top abstract

award went to Jay Alabaster, of Arizona State, for his paper titled, "Two Taijis: Conflicting Documentaries and Reflexive Ethics." Congratulations Jay!

Alabaster said about the Midwinter: "For a PhD student like me that is still



Above: Jay Alabaster at the 2017 AEJMC Midwinter Conference (Photo Jay Alabaster)

Left: Building connections with scholars from around the world (Photo Ololade Afolabi)

is still finding my way, the Midwinter Conference was a great opportunity. It is smaller and more intimate than the larger conferences. All of the presenters got great feedback, and many of us hung around after we spoke to trade ideas about our research. I received concrete advice that I am working into my research - it was definitely a valuable trip to Oklahoma for me."

Ololade Afolabi, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, who also attended the Midwinter Conference, said: "The 2017 AEJMC Midwinter was

such an eye-opening experience for me. Being my very first time to attend and present in an academic conference, I saw the need to be more involved in such activities as it widened my knowledge beyond the classroom walls. The conference connected me with other researchers in my field of expertise and similar research areas. The feeling that what I learn, read, write about and discuss in the classroom are not abstract was great! I met with many other scholars from different parts of the country and from other parts of the world who came to share their knowledge and it was so

interesting to see how people come up with a very strong study using different theories and methods. Aside from meeting other scholars, the Midwinter conference broadened my horizon about the academic environment. It enabled me to see that scholars are not just writers but people who are passionate about change in the society. From gathering samples and contextualizing it into the bigger picture of the societal problems like security, human trafficking, women, race and class, we see that such issues cannot be overlooked in media research

and the promptness needed to solve those problems.

On the fun side, I met new people, created new friendship, dined together, discussed travelling, and future conferences. The venue of the conference is also a beautiful campus with a big journalism building. It was fun going through the campus and attending those sessions in the different rooms of the Gaylord College. Honestly, I enjoyed every bit of the conference that I wished we had more time. I have started working on my next paper for 2018 conference and can't wait to be there again."

Engagement | From page 3

ing and informed citizenry among my students. I typically watch television cable news in the morning to remain up-to-date with current events to discuss in classes with students. I read online news, usually shared on my Twitter feed. I've limited the number of stories that I engage with on Facebook, and I do not participate in online debates about news media. Like I tell my students, I try my best to consult varying sources on topics so that I understand multiple viewpoints, and develop a more substantive critique. – **Loren Saxton Coleman**, Southern Mississippi

To be an engaged critical and cultural scholar is to work toward a fuller understanding of the many dynamics – economic, social, political, theoretical and methodological – that undergird the changing communication environment. This is a challenging pursuit and one that is both a daily effort and an ongoing, long-term experience. – **Peter Joseph Głowiczki**, Coker College

It's been hard to be a media scholar lately. So many times, I want to completely unplug, but my job and my duty to my students requires I stay informed. I avoid a lot of TV news, and I prefer to get a lot of my news from Twitter (and always follow links to articles on their home sites). I seek out journalists who do good, informative, work, and whose opinions may not always directly match up to mine. Following news on social media is a good way to get trapped in echo chambers or filter bubbles, so I make a conscious effort to branch out. It's tough – sometimes it's hard to practice what we know to be best practices within our own lives, particularly in this climate. But, nowadays, the effort in trying seems to be more important than ever. – **Jess Hennenfent Maddox**, Georgia

Back at the turn of the century, when newspapers were still healthy, and which consequently meant that routines of fact checking, however imperfect, were still in play, we would talk about the "problem" of pack journalism. The theory then was that reportage of national news was too similar, and that journalists reported in the same way, with the same biases and weltanschauung. How far away that all seems today. As problematic as the news was then, as much as it tended to represent primarily elite discourse, it was nonetheless generally factually accurate and driven by real governmental affairs. When newspapers declined, online news that replaced printed papers failed to find a way to reach wide audiences and still make a profit. The Internet also enabled anyone to reach wide audiences and hold

forth on any topic, often without research or fact checking of any kind. Internet news outlets do very little "shoeleather" journalism, and are concerned only with raw salience. The number of likes and clicks is for them the only measure of economic success. Also, lacking peer-based measures of excellence such as the Pulitzer or Peabody, these sites traffic in biased, sensational opinion mongering designed to appeal to people who seek only confirmation of their own world view. That has led to a decline in traditional measures of factuality or relevance. Even though it is possible to read news with a diversity of views, the truth is that people generally do not. There is no longer any faith that news can be reported reliably and factually. – **J. Patrick McGrail**, Jacksonville State

Teaching Intro to Journalism, I came to the disheartening realization that students today have very little faith in the credibility of news media. Many use the broad concept of "fake news" to explain their distrust toward the news industry. Can you blame them for being so cynical? No. I share that resentment. Knowing that the age of Walter Cronkite, a time when journalists set the moral standards for this country, is not coming back, we need to learn how to engage with news media today. Media literacy will become our foremost defense to discern quality journalistic information from pseudo journalism. Furthermore, exposing ourselves to multiple mainstream news sources will be vital to helping us avoid confirmation bias and see a more holistic picture. Finally, assessing alter-

native news platforms, such as Democracy Now and RT, will give us a chance to see news stories produced outside of the neoliberal logic. – **Chiaoning Su**, Oakland

I have tried to avoid getting too wrapped up in the day-to-day drama over fake news. Although the current indifference to truth and evidence is maddening, it is not entirely new. For critical/cultural scholars, the relationship between news and reality has always been fraught with uncertainty. I worry that criticisms of fake news can too easily become a way for news media to renormalize their routine practices. Here are two more positive strategies that I have followed. First, this is a good moment to talk more about journalism, as a valued social practice in democracy, and less about news per se. *The New Yorker*, for

example, is doing fine interpretive journalism every day in its blogs without succumbing to the news cycle. Second, I am trying to read intellectually serious conservative critiques of the new regime. The arguments of Andrew Sullivan at *New York Magazine* and David Frum at *The Atlantic* have been helpful in this regard. – **John Pauly**, Marquette

In reporting courses, I ask my students to examine sourcing practices and lede-writing strategies employed by diverse media. Each week we talk about how similar stories were framed across the ideological spectrum. I stream CBS News live every morning as I finish course prep and read news on my social feeds. I'll be following the AHCA bill this month and thinking about the systemic oppression of women and POCs. Happy stuff. – **Chelsea Reynolds**, DePaul

I tend to ask who has power in news media today. I do not mean the "typical" question of power within news production that we used to have pre-2016 US election. I mean, who has the power to shape the discourse around what constitutes news media and how that power is gained, maintained, and challenged. The press and the free agency of the press are sacrosanct to the function of a modern democracy. In that regard, this present anti-news media climate is particularly troubling. Rather than the legitimate and helpful honing critique that critical scholarship provided in the past, the news media face the wholesale assault on news media's legitimacy. In turn, this must be understood as an assault on modern democracy itself. It is through this lens that I engage with the news media. – **Sam Srauy**, Oakland

Member News

(listed in alphabetical order)

Ralph Beliveau, of Oklahoma, co-authored *International Horror Film Directors: Global Fear* (Intellect Ltd., distributed by University of Chicago Press). Horror films have for decades commanded major global audiences, tapping into deep-rooted fears that cross national and cultural boundaries in their ability to spark terror. This book brings together a group of scholars to explore the ways that this fear is utilized and played upon by a wide range of filmmakers. Contributors take up such major figures as Guillermo del Toro, Lars Von Trier, and David Cronenberg, and they also offer introductions to lesser-known talents such as Richard Franklin, Kiyoshi

Kurosawa, Juan López Moctezuma, and Alexandre Aja. Scholars and fans alike dipping into this collection will discover plenty of insight into what chills us.



Four University of Iowa faculty members have won the 2017 President and Provost Award for Teaching Excellence in recognition of their years of outstanding teaching. The recipients include **Meenakshi Gigi Durham**, professor of journalism and mass

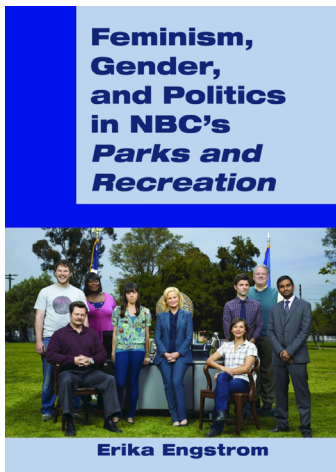
communication in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Durham is a dedicated and effective teacher whose work in the classroom has inspired a generation of professional communicators, community leaders, and citizens. Teaching an impressive variety of courses on writing and on topics such as gender in the media, children and adolescents and the media, and media ethics, Durham connects intellectual concepts to real-world issues. Her *Writing Across Cultures* course, which teaches students how to recognize and transcend bias when reporting on cultures other than their own, has become one of the most popular offerings in the major and has helped many students go on to excel within the profession. She has also brought her passion for teaching to graduate student-development workshops in the Graduate College, workshops for K-12 teachers about girls' relationships with media images, and work-

Member News | Continued on page 8

shops for the Center for Teaching on a variety of topics. Her many teaching honors include the 2015 Honors Thesis Mentor Award.



Erika Engstrom, of Nevada, Las Vegas, is the author of *Feminism, Gender, and Politics in NBC's Parks and Recreation* (Peter Lang, New York). This book analyzes the various ways the series presented feminism as a positive force, such as the satirical portrayal of patriarchy; alternative depictions of masculinity; the feminist ideology and political career of main character Leslie Knope; the inclusion of actual political figures; and depictions of love and romance as related to feminism.



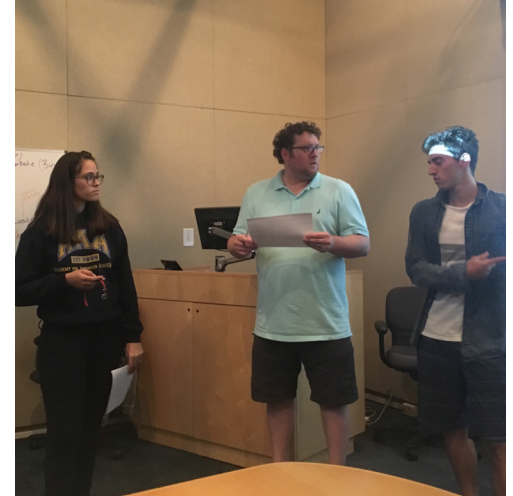
Peter Joseph Gliviczki recently received Coker College's South Caro-

lina Independent Colleges and Universities 2017 Excellence in Teaching Award. He works as an assistant professor of communication at Coker College in Hartsville, South Carolina, where he also serves as coordinator of the communication program.



Florida International University journalism and media professor **Robert E. Gutsche, Jr.** has been named a recipient of the 2017 Images and Voices of Hope Award from the Images and Voices of Hope group for his work with journalism and digital media studies students to create solution-based, community storytelling related to sea level rise and climate change in South Florida. According to IVOH, "These annual awards recognize media professionals who have done exceptional work with storytelling aimed at strengthening people, communities and media as a whole. We also recognize individuals who show commitment to promoting constructive social change... Images and Voices of Hope is a global community of journalists, photojournalists, filmmakers, digital pioneers, professors, artists and innovators in arts and culture whose mission is to strengthen the role of media as agents of world benefit." Gutsche will receive the award during a media summit in Upstate New York in June. Gutsche has also been awarded an Honorable Mention in the Best Practices in Service Learning in Journalism and Mass Communication competition

for "Seeing the Unseen: Using Virtual Reality and Expression to Connect Communities" through the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. The award will be delivered in August and is related to the student-led Mobile Virtual Reality Lab in CARTA.



Students work with journalism professor Dr. Robert Gutsche, Jr. to create solution-based stories about climate change that apply virtual reality technology and multimedia elements.

Don Hurwitz, of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, is retiring from Emerson College at the end of the 2016-17 academic year. After beginning his teaching career in Illinois' Journalism Department, he initiated an advertising sequence at Boston College in the Department of Speech, Communication & Theatre, now the largest undergrad major at the school. He then spent two decades as a practitioner in advertising agencies, marketing and internet consultancies. Most recently, he served as Chair of the Department of Marketing Communication at Emerson for five years, and he retires from his post there as Sr. Executive-in-Residence. Going forward, he can be reached at donald.hurwitz@gmail.com.

2016-2017

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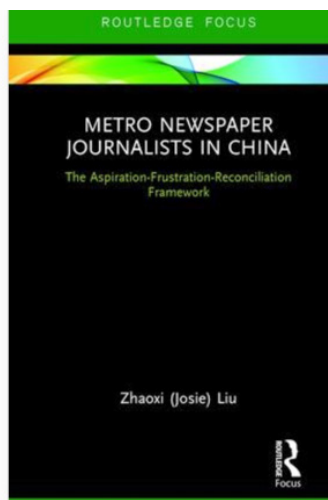
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CCSNOTES

Member News | From page 8

Myrtle Jones, Assistant Professor at Rochester Institute of Technology, co-authored “You Can’t Do That! A Case Study of Rural and Urban Media Entrepreneur Experience,” in the latest issue of *International Journal on Media Management*. Media researchers have called for new business models that could be the salvation of news. This article builds on case studies of two local media entrepreneurs, one in a very rural location and one in the most urban area of the United States, and how they looked beyond the barriers that were presented to them to create successful media organizations. The theory of the creative class has argued that location is important for entrepreneurial behavior, but it is too one-dimensional to capture context dimensions in more detail. These two cases are polar opposites and represent different contexts, yet both are successful, calling for more cautiousness in interpreting statistical probabilities for entrepreneurship policy or support.

Josie Liu, of Trinity, recently published a book about the occupational culture of journalists in local newspapers in China, titled *Metro Newspaper Journalists in China: The Aspiration, Frustration and Reconciliation Framework*, and published by Routledge. Through examining the entan-



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gument of particular aspirations, frustrations and reconciliations, the book explores how these journalists, who work for market-oriented tabloids rather than party organs, give meaning to their work. The book is based on a field study in four newsrooms in Kunming, China.

Jess Hennenfent Maddox, graduate student at Georgia, published two articles in 2017, “Guns Don’t Kill People... Selfies Do”: Rethinking Narcissism as Exhibitionism in Selfie-Related Deaths” in *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, and “Of Internet Born: Idolatry, the Slender Man meme, and the feminization of digital spaces” in *Feminist Media Studies*.

Erika Polson, of Denver, published *Privileged Mobilities: Professional Migration, Geo-Social Media, and a New Global Middle Class* (Peter Lang, 2016). As corporations ramp up “workforce globalization” and young professionals increasingly pursue opportunities to work abroad, social entrepreneurs use online digital platforms to create offline social events where foreigners can meet face-to-face. Through ethnographic study of such groups in Paris, Singapore, and Bangalore, Polson illustrates how, as a new generation of expatriates uses location technologies to create mobile “places,” a new global middle class is emerging. While there are many differences in the specifics between the expat groups, they share certain characteristics that indicate a larger logic to the way that the increasing mobility of professional career paths is connected to new subjectivities and changing forms of community among a diverse and growing demographic. This book opens up a new field of study, one which pays more atten-

Member News | Continued on page 10

tion to middle class mobility while questioning the privileging of mobility more generally.

Adina Schneeweis, of Oakland, and **Katie Foss**, of Middle Tennessee State, published “Gypsies, Tramps & Thieves’: Examining Representations of Roma Culture in 70 Years of American Television” in *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*. Most Americans know little about the “Gypsies,” or Roma, other than what they learn in the media. Although research shows that media have perpetuated stereotypes, there is thin anthropological attention to the representation of Gypsies in American media. This study examines portrayals of Gypsies in fictional and reality television programs 1953-2014, and reveals that American television has reinforced stereotypes, suggesting that Gypsies are consistently different, a closed ethnic community resistant to change. More recent representations convey that Gypsies may be misunderstood due to their cultural history, yet this considerably less visible depiction emerges as a mere nod toward tolerance. First published online Jan. 9, 2017.



On March 4, **Bob Trumpbour**, Associate Professor of Communications

at Penn State Altoona, was invited to Phoenix, AZ, to accept the Seymour Medal from the Society for American Baseball Research. The Seymour Medal is presented to the authors of the top baseball history book produced in the prior year. Trumpbour and Kenneth Womack (Monmouth University) authored a book entitled *The Eighth Wonder of the World: The Life of Houston’s Iconic Astrodome*. The book describes the complexities of the Astrodome’s eventual construction in Houston, TX, while providing a critical overview of how the Astrodome changed the dynamic of sports spectatorship in America. The book also received the Pete Delohery Award for top sports book of 2016.

Kathleen Wickham, professor of journalism at The University of Mississippi, published “Gov. William Winter and The Clarion-Ledger: A Symbiotic Relationship during the Adoption of the 1982 Education Reform Act” in the fall *Southern Quarterly* and has six entries on various Mississippi journalists in *The Mississippi Encyclopedia*, published by the Center for Southern Culture in the spring. Scheduled for publication are: “Steel Magnolia: Sidna Brower Mitchell And The 1962 Integration Crisis at Ole Miss” in the summer edition of *Journalism History* and her fourth

See you in Chicago!



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Robby Byrd
Website Manager