

Note from the Division Head

Looking Forward to DC

When friends and family ask about my summer travel plans, I tell them “DC in August!” They ruefully comment on the heat and humidity.

“True,” I say, “but I’m looking forward to the air-conditioned conference rooms of the Renaissance Hotel,” where I expect five days of energizing AEJMC programming. (Admittedly, friends and family outside of academia are still baffled by my enthusiasm.)

CCSD has a great lineup of refereed research, planned panels and other opportunities slated for Aug. 5-9, 2018, which you can read all about in this newsletter.

I’m particularly excited about our Professional Freedom and Responsibility Award Winner, Miami Herald columnist Leonard Pitts! Pitts will speak Wednesday as part of a panel titled “Reading Between the Lies: Addressing a Lack of Truth in Today’s Political Discourse.”

That comes on the heels of a Tuesday panel titled “Making Sense of Media in the Trump Era.” Notice a theme?

We’re rounding out those panels with other research panel sessions on politics, comedy and outrage; “Online Antagonisms”; and “The Politics of Voice, Visibility and Transparency.” Given all the political news breaking this summer (family separations at the U.S. border, the off-again-on-again North Korea summit, ongoing twists in the Mueller probe and, of course, tweetstorms) these sessions feel all-too prescient and ripped from the headlines.

At the 2017 Chicago conference, we launched our CCSD tote bags with the slogan “Critically Resist, Creatively Engage.” (I’ve got just a few more to pass out in DC).



Madeleine Esch
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CCSD members have spent the past year figuring out how to do that and applying their considerable research skills to making sense of media, identity and social change in the Trump era. Where better to do that but in hot and humid Washington, DC?

I need to hear their voices and their insights right about now. We also have great research and teaching sessions on media and celebrity, feminist theory and media and more.

And to blow off some steam, we have a Member Social planned for Wednesday night at Busboys and Poets’ 5th & K location, just a short walk from the conference hotel. According to the café’s mission statement, Busboys and Poets is “a community where racial and cultural connections are consciously uplifted...a place to take a deliberate pause and feed your mind, body and soul...a space for art, culture and politics to intentionally collide.” That sounds about right for us. Hope to see you there after our Membership Meeting.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2018 PF&R Award	2
Mentor Program, Coffee Klatch	3
At-a-Glance	
Schedule for DC	4
Member Profile	6
Top Paper Awards	7
Editor’s Note	8
Member News	8

AEJMC **cultural & critical** STUDIES DIVISION

