

Call for papers Transnational Journalism History

Traditionally, journalism history has been studied from a national perspective. This tendency has been spurred on by the work of Benedict Anderson, who argued that newspapers were one of the chief instruments for creating nations. Yet, journalism has never truly been bounded by geography. Practices, technologies, and journalists have flowed fluidly across the globe at least since Gutenberg invented movable type.

Journalism historians have rarely looked at their field from this broader perspective. Studies of international journalism history have generally treated foreign news as news of the “other” that the correspondent interprets for the home audience. Transnational journalism history would examine those more than merely the transmission of foreign news to a home audience. It would also examine those practices, technologies, and professional values that transcend nation and that treat news consumers across national boundaries as the home audience. A good example of this would be America’s first newspaper, *Publick Occurrences Both Foreign and Domestic*. This paper consisted primarily of English news for an audience who thought of themselves as English men and women but who were living on another continent.

The value of transnational journalism history is that it rises above nationalist approaches and historiographies. It does not privilege one people over another; it examines local applications of global developments and phenomena in journalism as being relevant across borders. Consequently, this conference is seeking presentations that transcend Anderson and considers people, practices and technologies across national borders.

This inaugural conference on Transnational Journalism History is seeking papers that deal with any aspect of the subject; however, we are particularly interested in work that examines the flow of those journalistic developments, people, and phenomena between Ireland and the United States. The work from this conference, and a second one anticipated for 2017, will form the basis of at least two volumes, one of which will deal with the flow of news, news personnel, and news developments between Ireland and the United States. The second conference will be more global in scope.

The conference will be February 25-27, 2016 at Georgia Regents University in Augusta, Ga. Saturday will include an optional tour of historic sites in and around Augusta. Conference sponsors include Georgia Regents University, Dublin City University, the History Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, and the Newspapers and Periodicals History Forum of Ireland. Conference organizers are Debbie van Tuyll (dvantuyll@gru.edu) and Mark O’Brien (mark.obrien@dcu.edu). Please contact either Debbie or Mark if you have questions.

The conference is accepting proposals for research sessions (submit a completed paper); work-in-progress sessions (250-word abstract); and panels. Completed papers and panel proposals should be submitted electronically to van Tuyll by Oct. 1, 2015. Abstracts of research in progress may also be submitted. Each submission will be evaluated in a blind review process.