

AEJMC MIDWINTER CONFERENCE 2027
Freshly Brewed: New City. New Connections. Knowledge Made Together.

March 4-6, 2027
Diederich College of Communication | Marquette University
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

General Call for Paper Abstracts, Panel Proposals, and GIFTs

Website: <https://www.marquette.edu/communication/aejmc-2027.php>
Registration: <https://aejmc2.wufoo.com/forms/2027-aejmc-midwinter-conference>

For the first time in nearly two decades, AEJMC Midwinter is heading to a new city. In March 2027, the Diederich College of Communication at Marquette University will welcome the Midwinter community to Milwaukee for Freshly Brewed: New City. New Connections. Knowledge Made Together.

Midwinter has long offered something valuable within AEJMC: a place to bring developing research into conversation, receive substantive feedback, meet scholars beyond our usual circles, and leave with work changed by those exchanges. Our 2027 theme builds on that tradition. “Knowledge Made Together” recognizes that scholarship and teaching develop through conversation, critique, experimentation, mentoring, and the chance to share work with people who may approach the same questions differently.

The theme describes the spirit of the conference rather than a required topic. Paper abstracts, panels, and GIFTs do not need to address the conference theme. We welcome work across the full range of journalism and mass communication scholarship and teaching.

And something is brewing in the Cream City. Alongside research sessions and panels, Milwaukee Midwinter will include a conference-wide teaching track, professional development, an international journalism keynote, and more intentional opportunities for attendees to meet and spend time together. After nearly two decades in the same location, we are excited to bring Midwinter to a fresh setting while keeping the close conversation and developing work that have long defined the conference.

Paper Abstract Submissions

Authors are invited to submit research paper abstracts of 600–800 words through one of two routes:

- Participating DIG Competition: Submit to the AEJMC division or interest group most appropriate for your research.
- Open Paper Competition (see below)

Abstracts should give reviewers a clear sense of the project and should address, as appropriate:

- relevant literature, concepts, or theoretical framework;
- research questions, objectives, or argument;
- methodological approach;

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- the current stage of the project, including conceptual development, data collection, analysis, or completed research;
- preliminary or completed findings when available; and
- the contribution the project seeks to make.

Midwinter welcomes research at different stages of development. Projects do not need to be completed at the time of abstract submission. Authors are encouraged to use the conference as a place to test ideas, receive meaningful feedback, develop works in progress, and strengthen research for future publication or submission to the AEJMC annual conference.

Submission deadline: December 15, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Central Time.

All paper abstract submissions will be completed through the AEJMC Community site. Authors will select either a participating DIG or the Open Paper Competition when submitting. A specific paper abstract may be submitted to only one competition. Authors may not submit the same abstract to multiple DIGs or to both a DIG and the Open Paper Competition. Duplicate submissions will be withdrawn from the review process.

Please submit an abstract rather than a complete paper. Abstracts must be between 600 and 800 words and should contain enough information for reviewers to evaluate the project. Authors must remove identifying information from the submitted abstract.

Authors of accepted abstracts will be notified in early January 2027. Research presented at Midwinter remains eligible for presentation at the AEJMC annual conference. Authors whose abstracts are accepted are encouraged to submit a complete paper of no more than 30 pages to the discussant for their conference session at least two weeks before Midwinter. The appropriate Midwinter research chair will provide authors with the name and contact information of the session discussant.

At least one author of each accepted paper must register for and attend the conference to present the research. Conference registration will be completed through the AEJMC Community site. Papers without a registered presenting author by the registration deadline will be removed from the program. No on-site registration will be available.

Some participating DIGs may offer travel support, graduate student funding, paper awards, or other opportunities. Authors should contact the appropriate Midwinter chair for information about opportunities available through individual groups.

The Open Paper Competition

The Open Paper Competition is for research that fits the broader fields of journalism, mass communication, or media studies, but does not clearly align with one of the participating AEJMC divisions or interest groups.

Authors may also choose the Open Paper Competition when their work crosses several areas of JMC, and no single participating DIG feels like the right home. Submissions should still meet the same expectations as other Midwinter research abstracts and will go through the conference review

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process. The Open Paper Competition is intended to make room for strong work that belongs at Midwinter even when there is not a natural participating DIG for it.

Authors should submit to the participating DIG that best fits their work when one is available; the Open Paper Competition provides a conference-wide option for relevant JMC research without a clear DIG home.

Panel Proposals

The conference also welcomes panel proposals. Panels may be proposed through a participating DIG and should be submitted directly to the appropriate Midwinter chair rather than through the paper abstract competition.

Panel proposals should include the panel title, a description of the session's focus and the issues or questions to be discussed, and the names and affiliations of confirmed and prospective panelists. Proposals should also indicate how the session fits the interests of the sponsoring group or contributes to the broader Midwinter conversation.

Panel proposals should not exceed two double-spaced pages.

Panel proposal deadline: December 15, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Central Time.

Teaching, Professional Development, and Connection

Milwaukee Midwinter will also feature a conference-wide GIFTs program focused on practical teaching ideas that can move JMC classrooms forward.

Rather than separate GIFT competitions sponsored by individual DIGs, the 2027 conference will bring instructors from across JMC together in a shared teaching space. Selected presenters will demonstrate an idea, activity, assignment, project, online module, or teaching approach that other educators can understand, adapt, and use.

The goal is simple: show us something you do with students that helps them learn.

Submissions might feature a classroom activity that changed how students understood a difficult idea, an assignment redesigned around new technology or professional practice, a hands-on exercise that gets students producing or making decisions, an online learning activity that actually works, or another teaching approach that colleagues could adapt for their own courses. GIFT submissions are open to faculty of all academic ranks and graduate student instructors across journalism and mass communication.

Proposals should briefly explain:

- what students are learning;
- what the instructor does;
- what students actually do;
- how the activity or approach improves student learning; and
- what another instructor would need to adapt it for a different course or setting.

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GIFT proposals will be submitted through the AEJMC Community site. Selected GIFTs will be presented as part of the conference teaching track, with an emphasis on seeing teaching in action rather than simply hearing someone describe it.

GIFT proposals will be reviewed for how clearly they present a practical teaching idea that can improve student learning. Strong submissions should identify what students are expected to learn, explain why the activity or approach is useful, and give reviewers a clear picture of what both the instructor and students actually do.

Reviewers will also consider how the proposed activity supports student learning, whether it offers an engaging or useful approach to teaching, and how readily another instructor could adapt the idea for a different course, institution, or classroom setting. Proposals should be clear and organized enough that reviewers can understand how the teaching approach works in practice.

Because GIFTs: Teaching in Action is intended to help educators learn from one another, submissions should move beyond describing a general teaching philosophy or course. *The strongest proposals will give colleagues something concrete they can see, understand, and potentially use in their own teaching.*

Reviewers will also provide brief qualitative feedback identifying a submission's strongest feature and offering constructive suggestions that can help authors further develop the teaching idea for future presentation, resubmission, or publication.

GIFT Oversight:

- Katie Miller, katharine.miller@marquette.edu
- Virginia Sanchez, virginia.sanchez@marquette.edu

GIFT submission deadline: December 15, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Central Time.

Our Milwaukee Midwinter will also include two hands-on teaching workshops designed to give participants ideas and resources they can take directly back to their classrooms. Because both sessions are designed around active participation and discussion, attendees who want to participate will be asked to preregister for the workshops through the AEJMC Community site as part of conference registration.

- **Journalist Safety in the Classroom: Using the Foley Safety Modules**: How do we prepare students for the risks they may encounter before they enter the field? This workshop will introduce participants to the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation's journalist safety modules and explore practical ways to incorporate safety, risk assessment, preparation, and decision-making into journalism courses. Participants will work with materials from the modules and consider where safety education can fit within existing reporting, production, ethics, or professional-practice courses. The goal is for attendees to leave with resources and concrete ideas they can adapt for their own students.
- **Designing Service-Learning and Community-Engaged JMC Courses**: Community-engaged teaching can give students meaningful opportunities to apply what they are learning while building relationships beyond campus, but strong partnerships require more than adding a community client or reporting assignment to a syllabus. This workshop will help participants

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think through how to design service-learning and community-engaged JMC courses around clear learning goals, reciprocity, sustainable partnerships, and the needs of both students and community partners. Participants will consider course design, partner relationships, assignments, assessment, and practical questions that arise when students work with communities.

Workshop preregistration will be available when conference registration opens through the AEJMC Community site. The workshops will be scheduled to maximize participation.

Milwaukee has a long history as a city where things are made. We want Midwinter to carry some of that spirit as well, creating room for research, teaching, ideas, and professional relationships to be made and remade together.

Opening Keynote + Reception

We'll kick off Midwinter on Thursday, March 4, with an opening keynote from Sylvie Coudray, Director for Freedom of Expression, Media Development and Media and Information Literacy at UNESCO and Secretary of the International Programme for the Development of Communication. Coudray's international work on press freedom, media development, journalist safety, and media and information literacy speaks directly to many of the questions shaping JMC scholarship, teaching, and professional practice.

And because this is Freshly Brewed, we wanted our opening night to feel like Milwaukee.

The keynote and opening reception will take place at 3rd Street Market Hall in downtown Milwaukee, a gathering place with more than 20 food vendors and spaces designed for eating, playing, and spending time together. The Market Hall brings plenty of Milwaukee personality under one roof, with local food and drink alongside shuffleboard, yard games, a gaming lounge, and other activities.

Come for the keynote, stay for dinner, and give yourself some time to meet people before the paper sessions begin. We want Thursday night to set the tone for the weekend: serious ideas, good conversation, and enough room to actually enjoy being together.

3rd Street Market Hall is located at 275 W. Wisconsin Ave. in the heart of downtown Milwaukee and describes itself as a destination for bringing people together; its larger event spaces are designed specifically for receptions, presentations, and networking gatherings. The venue is RIGHT NEXT DOOR to the conference hotels.

Coming to Milwaukee

Marquette University is located near downtown Milwaukee, approximately 10 miles from Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport, making the trip from the airport to campus and conference hotels relatively quick.

Marquette is also a short ride from the Milwaukee Intermodal Station, which provides Amtrak and intercity bus connections. Chicago is approximately 90 miles from Milwaukee, giving attendees additional travel options through Chicago and its airports. For attendees whose spring break begins around Midwinter, Milwaukee can also serve as an easy starting point for extending the trip into Chicago or traveling onward from there.

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Conference hotel blocks have already been secured. We have two conference hotels, with room blocks opening the day of conference submissions.

- The Marc Hotel: \$139/night
- DoubleTree Milwaukee Downtown: \$159/night

And we hope attendees will make some time for Milwaukee itself. Midwinter falls during basketball season, with Marquette and the Milwaukee Bucks bringing plenty of energy downtown. Restaurants, breweries, the Milwaukee Public Market, the Historic Third Ward, Deer District, arts and cultural venues, and other gathering spaces offer plenty of options for Friday and Saturday evening.

Marquette also has a long connection to AEJMC. The university was a founding institutional member of the American Association of Teachers of Journalism, the organization that would eventually become AEJMC. Hosting Midwinter gives us the chance to welcome the association back to Milwaukee while beginning a new chapter for the conference.

Participating AEJMC Groups

Paper abstracts will be submitted through the AEJMC Community site (see page 8 for links), where authors will select either a participating division or interest group or the Open Paper Competition.

- **Commission on Graduate Education:** Elizabeth Cox and Matthew Martin | escocx@ku.edu; m.e.martin@usm.edu
- **Commission on LGBTQ Communities:** Kix Patterson | apatterson19@una.edu
- **Commission on the Status of Women:** Deborah Danuser and Dinfin Mulupi | deborah.danuser@gmail.com; dinfin.mulupi@colorado.edu
- **Communication Technology Division:** Haiyan Jia | haiyan.jia@lehigh.edu
- **Community Journalism Interest Group:** Jessica Walsh and Mushfique Wadud | jessica.walsh@unl.edu; mushfique.wadud@colorado.edu
- **Cultural and Critical Studies Division:** Steven Wang, Rebecca Kern-Stone, and Dasia Clemente | ywang22@ltu.edu; rkernstone@gmail.com; dasia.clemente@bison.howard.edu
- **Entertainment Studies Interest Group:** Lauren van Gerwen | lauren.auverset@louisiana.edu
- **International Communication Division:** Zhaoxi Liu | zliu@trinity.edu
- **Mass Communication and Society:** Yan Huang (chair), Stephenson Waters (associate chair), Tamar Wilner (member) | yhuang63@uh.edu; stephenson.waters@louisiana.edu; tamar.wilner@ku.edu
- **Media Ethics Division:** Lisa Krantz | liskrantz@missouri.edu
- **Media Management, Economics and Entrepreneurship Division:** Monica Chadha | monicachadha@arizona.edu
- **Minorities and Communication Division:** Monique Luisi | luisim@missouri.edu
- **Political Communication Division:** Hakan Karaaytu | karaaytu@alfred.edu
- **Religion and Media Interest Group:** Rick Moore | rmoore@boisestate.edu
- **OPEN call:** Young Kim | young.kim@marquette.edu

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- **GIFT competition:** Katie Miller, Virginia Sanchez | katharine.miller@marquette.edu; virginia.sanchez@marquette.edu

Additional information about submissions, registration, hotel accommodations, transportation, conference programming, and Milwaukee will be posted through the [conference website](#) and AEJMC Community site as it becomes available.

Looking forward to seeing you all in the 414!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick R. Johnson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Patrick R. Johnson, Ph.D., MJE

Conference Chair

Assistant Professor of Journalism

Diederich College of Communication, Marquette University

patrick.johnson@marquette.edu

Bring your work. Share what you know. Meet your people. Make something better together in Milwaukee.

2027 Midwinter Conference DIG Research Chair Submission Links

Communication Technology Division —

SUBMISSION PORTAL: <https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/solicitations/103032/home>

[CHAIR] Haiyan Jia, Haiyan.jia@lehigh.edu

CTEC Review Sign-Up Link:

<https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/judgeSolicitationProfiles/create?solicitationId=103032>

Cultural and Critical Studies Division —

SUBMISSION PORTAL: <https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/solicitations/103021/home>

[CHAIR] Steven Wang, ywang22@ltu.edu

Rebecca Kern-Stone, rkernstone@gmail.com

Dasia Clemente, dasia.clemente@bison.howard.edu

CCSD Review Sign-Up Link:

<https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/judgeSolicitationProfiles/create?solicitationId=103021>

International Communication Division —

SUBMISSION PORTAL: <https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/solicitations/103033/home>

[CHAIR] Zhaoxi Liu, zliu@trinity.edu

INTC Review Sign-Up Link:

<https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/judgeSolicitationProfiles/create?solicitationId=103033>

Mass Communication and Society Division —

SUBMISSION PORTAL: <https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/solicitations/103034/home>

[CHAIR] Yan Huang, yhuang63@uh.edu

[ASSOCIATE CHAIR] Stephenson Waters, stephenson.waters@louisiana.edu

Tamar Wilner, tamar.wilner@ku.edu

MCSD Review Sign-Up Link:

<https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/judgeSolicitationProfiles/create?solicitationId=103034>

Media Ethics Division —

SUBMISSION PORTAL: <https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/solicitations/103043/home>

Lisa Krantz, liskrantz@missouri.edu

ETHC Reviewer Sign-Up Link:

<https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/judgeSolicitationProfiles/create?solicitationId=103043>

Media Management, Economics & Entrepreneurship Division —

SUBMISSION PORTAL: <https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/solicitations/103035/home>

[CHAIR] Monica Chadha, monicachadha@arizona.edu

MMEE Review Sign-Up Link:

<https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/judgeSolicitationProfiles/create?solicitationId=103035>

Minorities and Communications Division —

SUBMISSION PORTAL: <https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/solicitations/103036/home>

[CHAIR] Monique Luisi, luisim@missouri.edu

MACD Review Sign-Up Link:

<https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/judgeSolicitationProfiles/create?solicitationId=103036>

Political Communication Division —

SUBMISSION PORTAL: <https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/solicitations/103031/home>

[CHAIR] Hakan Karaaytu, karaaytu@alfred.edu

PLCD Review Sign-Up Link:

<https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/judgeSolicitationProfiles/create?solicitationId=103031>

Community Journalism Interest Group —

SUBMISSION PORTAL: <https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/solicitations/103037/home>

[CHAIR] Mushfique Wadud, mwdipu@gmail.com

Jessica Walsh, jessica.walsh@unl.edu

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COMJ Review Sign-Up Link:

<https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/judgeSolicitationProfiles/create?solicitationId=103037>

Entertainment Studies Interest Group —

SUBMISSION PORTAL: <https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/solicitations/103042/home>

[CHAIR] Lauren Auverset van Gerwen, lauren.auverset@louisiana.edu

ESIG Review Sign-Up Link:

<https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/judgeSolicitationProfiles/create?solicitationId=103042>

Religion and Media Interest Group —

SUBMISSION PORTAL: <https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/solicitations/103038/home>

[CHAIR] Rick Moore, rmoore@boisestate.edu

RMIG Review Sign-Up Link:

<https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/judgeSolicitationProfiles/create?solicitationId=103038>

Commission on Graduate Education —

SUBMISSION PORTAL: <https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/solicitations/103039/home>

Elizabeth Cox, escox@ku.edu

Matthew Martin, m.e.martin@usm.edu

CSGE Review Sign-Up Link:

<https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/judgeSolicitationProfiles/create?solicitationId=103039>

Commission on LGBTQIA+ Communities —

SUBMISSION PORTAL: <https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/solicitations/103040/home>

[CHAIR] Kix Patterson, apatterson19@una.edu

Chelsea Reynolds, Chelsea.J.Reynolds@asu.edu

Cassie Hayes, casshayes1024@gmail.com

LGBTQ Review Sign-Up Link:

<https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/judgeSolicitationProfiles/create?solicitationId=103040>

Commission on the Status of Women —

SUBMISSION PORTAL: <https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/solicitations/103041/home>

[CHAIR] Deborah Danuser, deborah.danuser@gmail.com

[CHAIR] Dinfin Mulupi, dinfin.mulupi@colorado.edu

Laura Willis, laura.willis@quinnipiac.edu

Kelsey Mesmer, Kelsey.mesmer@slu.edu

CSWM Review Sign-Up Link:

<https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/judgeSolicitationProfiles/create?solicitationId=103041>

Midwinter GIFT Competition —

SUBMISSION PORTAL: <https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/solicitations/103030/home>

Katie Miller, Katharine.miller@marquette.edu

Virginia Sanchez, Virginia.sanchez@marquette.edu

GIFT Review Sign-Up Link:

<https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/judgeSolicitationProfiles/create?solicitationId=103030>

Open Paper Competition —

SUBMISSION PORTAL: <https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/solicitations/103044/home>

Young Kim, young.kim@marquette.edu

Open Competition Reviewer Sign-Up Link:

<https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site/judgeSolicitationProfiles/create?solicitationId=103044>