



# Political Communication Division (PLCD)

Summer 2021

Annual PLCD Newsletter

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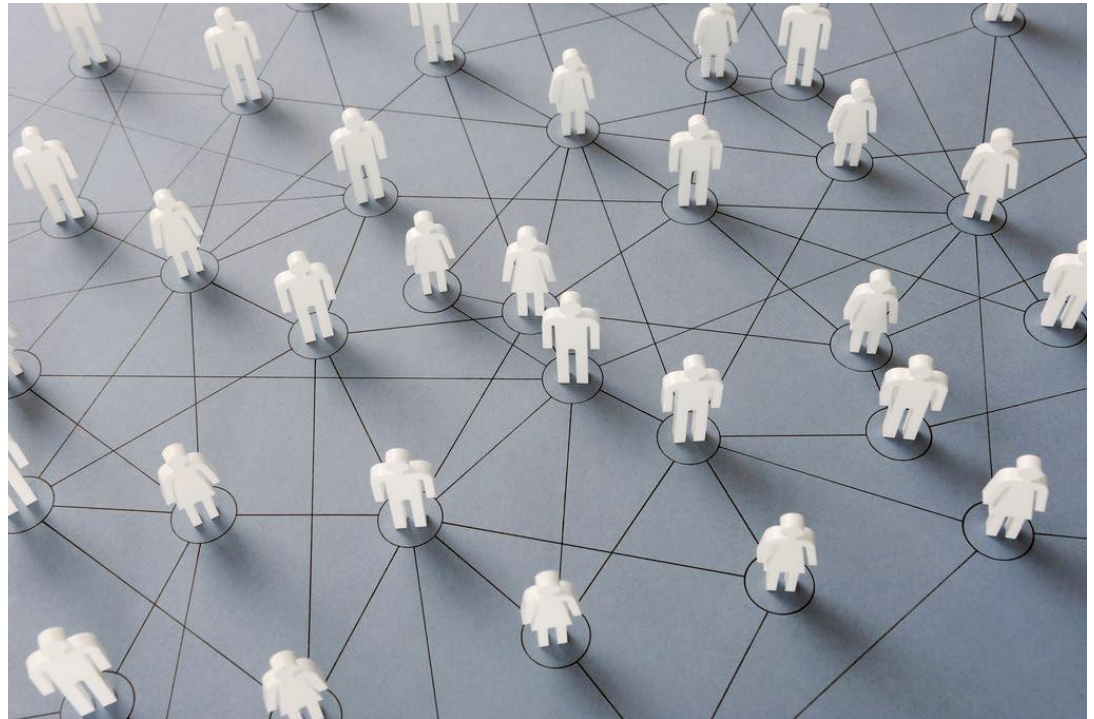
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## Message from Division Head

■ Sherice Gearhart, Ph.D.

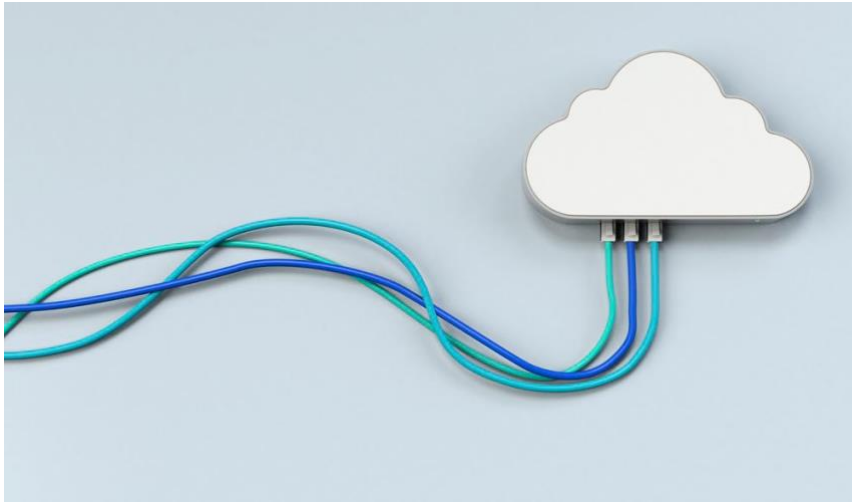
Welcome to our 2<sup>nd</sup> year of virtual conference! While we would all like things to go on with less disruption, we are still grateful to come together at the 2021 Annual AEJMC Conference for our second year as a full-fledged division.

Political communication is never a boring field of study. Our dynamic media environment and events around the globe have brought us unparalleled opportunities to demonstrate our value as both scholars and practitioners. While we have not yet had the opportunity to celebrate and network at an in-person event, PLCD grows our footprint. We have continued to position ourselves as an outlet for innovative political communication research. In fact, this year we proceeded with our planned participation in the 2021 AEJMC Midwinter Conference hosted by the Gaylord College of Journalism & Mass Communication at The University of Oklahoma. PLCD received the 2<sup>nd</sup> most submissions of the 11 participating DIGs and plan to continue involvement in the years ahead.

As for the annual conference, I am pleased to announce that we grew submissions year-to-year. Our programming features sessions focusing on everything from misinformation to tackling tough topics in the classroom and appeals to an international audience of scholars. Once again, we are thankful to the AEJMC board and the Council of Divisions for their continued effort to transition the conference to a virtual format. We look forward to our expanded programming and seeing all of you online and in person at the next conference.

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## Vice Head

■ By Tim Macafee, Ph.D.

### Political Communication Division 2020-2021

The Political Communication Division (PLCD) finishes its second year as a division, and we continue to further education in political communication. PLCD also continues to hold high standards for programming, including accepted manuscripts and various panels. Although we cannot wait to meet in-person in the future, we are looking forward to a great virtual conference.

This year we are pleased to offer 8 panels, 3 professional freedom and responsibility, 3 research, and 2 teaching. Our panels span topics such as media representation of women political candidates, influence of media ownership, information tension in Baltic States, and faith and media discussions in the classroom. We also will be showcasing scholarship in one poster session and 3 traditional research sessions.

Our "Best of" paper session highlights this year's accepted papers and will occur 7 to 8:30pm Friday. We will have 4 of the top open competition papers and the top student paper. Following this session, we will have our Members' Meeting to discuss the year's accomplishments, future directions for the division, and elect new leadership positions. We encourage anyone interested in serving the Political Communication Division to attend the meeting.

Our division's success depends on our leadership, and this year's team did a fantastic job. We thank our Research Chairs, Mallory Perryman and Megan Duncan, Teaching Chair Maria De Moya, and PF&R Chair Oluseyi Adegbola. Finally, Sherice Gearhart led our division admirably this past year, and we thank her for this and past years of service to the interest group/division.

## The Lynda Lee Kaid (LLK) Award

■ By Megan Duncan, Ph.D.

The winner of the 2020 Lynda Lee Kaid Best Published Article in Political Communication Award this year goes to the authors of "Resilience to Online Disinformation: A Framework for Cross-National Comparative Research," Edda Humprecht, Frank Esser, and Peter Van Aelst. Their article, published in the July issue of the *International Journal of Press/Politics*, looks at the characteristics of 18 democracies and uses a cluster analysis to advance theory about what makes the people of a country resistant to misinformation. They develop a framework that helps understand the complexities of misinformation on a nation state level and makes a strong case for more comparative research in this important and timely area. Judges noted "the article provides a more complete explanation for how and to what extent different biases guide exposure to information." The award comes with a \$100 prize awarded at the PLCD business meeting.



### From the PLCD Research Chairs

■ By Mallory Perryman, Ph.D. & Megan Duncan, Ph.D.

Conference submissions to the Political Communication Division this year included illuminating research, moving forward existing scholarship, and developing emergent research areas. The division received 108 total submissions, including 39 extended abstracts and 69 full papers, and we accepted 54 of them.

Our research programming begins Thursday morning (9-10:30am) with a panel focusing on mixed methods in public scholarship co-sponsored by the Communication Technology Division. Thursday evening (5-6:30), we co-host a panel with the International Communication Division on information wars in the Baltic states. Our Thursday programming ends with our scholar-to-scholar session (7- 8:30pm).

Our refereed research panels will all be held on Friday, beginning with a high-density session Friday afternoon (1-2:30pm) focusing on polarization and partisanship, moderated by Dr. Josephine Lukito. The panel includes our second-place student paper. An evening session (5-6:30pm) focusing on filter bubbles and conspiratorial thinking continues the programming, moderated by one of our top student paper winners, Jian Shi, with Dr. Megan Duncan serving as discussant.

Our "Best of" Political Communication Division refereed session (7-8:30pm) highlights Friday's programming, moderated by Dr. Mallory Perryman and Dr. Timothy Macafee serving as discussant. The session features our top student paper and top four overall papers (see left for this year's awards). Our members' meeting immediately follows this session (8:45-10:15pm).

The programming concludes Sunday morning (9:15-10:45am) with a research panel, "From Silicon Valley Virtual Communities to Trump Twitter Networks: Political Social Networks Visualized," co-sponsored by the Communication Technology Division.

The division wants to thank all reviewers who served the division this year. We always appreciate their hard work, but we are especially grateful given this year's circumstances. Over 100 reviewers provided feedback to this year's submissions. We look forward to great programming during the conference.

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## Professional Freedom & Responsibility (PF&R) - Schedule

For the 2021 conference, PLCD is co-sponsoring three PF&R sessions - "Questionable Research Practice and Risk of Bias in Communication Research," presented in coordination with the Communication Theory and Methodology Division. PLCD is also co-sponsoring a PF&R panel with the Commission on the Status of Women titled "#Campaigning While Female: Presentation Strategies and Media Representations in the 2020 Presidential Campaign." This panel features Vanessa Williams, a reporter for *The Washington Post*, alongside scholars. Co-sponsored by the Electronic News Division, PLCD is also co-sponsoring a session titled "The Sinclair Effect: Issues of Media Ownership and Framing of Protests in Local Television News." This panel features local reporter/anchor for *News 15*, the Fox/NBC affiliate in Lafayette, LA along with scholars who focus on the implications for audiences. These timely panels address critical topics and fulfill the PF&R Committee's focuses on media criticism and accountability, inclusiveness, and ethics.



## AEJMC Midwinter Conference

■ By Jo Lukito, Ph.D.

### Held Virtually March 5-6, 2021

Following a vote from membership during the 2020 AEJMC virtual conference, the PLCD registered to participate in the 2021 AEJMC Midwinter Conference hosted by the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication at The University of Oklahoma. Our promotional efforts led PLCD to receive the second most submissions of all the participating divisions and recruited 26 reviewers to assess the submissions. In our first year of participation, the division accepted 20 papers and featured five research panels, which provided research on: (a) media produced by politicians and governments; (b) electronic communication and politics; (c) news distrust, misinformation, and polarization; (d) international political communication; and (e) social media and political communication. While the conference was held virtually this year, all accepted papers had presenting authors who registered for and attended the conference. Our division also awarded a Top Abstract Award to Oluseyi Adegbola of DePaul University for his paper "Investigating the Nature and Antecedents of Political Participation: Evidence from an Emerging Democracy."

The division views participation in the AEJMC Midwinter Conference a successful complement to the annual conference that will aid our membership development as we continue to prosper as a new division, which was approved during the 2019 annual conference in Toronto.

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## Teaching Program - Schedule

### ■ Teaching Panels

PLCD has partnered with greater diversity of DIGs on teaching panels for the 2021 annual conference.

Our teaching partnership with ComSHER continues with Panel titled "Assisting the Student in Crisis: How to Identify Resources, Balance Expectations and Needs and Support Well-being for Students Facing Difficult Challenges."

**Wednesday, August 4, 2021  
1 to 2:30 p.m. / W028**

#### **Moderating/Presiding**

Ashley Anderson, Colorado State

#### **Panelists**

Deni Chamberlin, Iowa State

Michelle Dusseau, Central Florida

Teresa Mastin, Michigan State

Katherine McComas, Cornell

We have also partnered with the Religion and Media Interest Group for a Teaching Panel "Beyond tolerance: Getting real with meaningful classroom conversations about faith and media."

**Thursday, August 5, 2021  
11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. / T026**

#### **Moderating/Presiding**

Michael Longinow, Biola

#### **Panelists**

Mimi Perrault, Eastern Tenn. State

Rebecca Frazer, Rebecca Frazer

Paul Glader, King's College

Each of these teaching panels focuses on topics that are current, important, and often misunderstood areas, supporting the focus of PLCD on course content and teaching methods.