

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication

CTEC

Communication Technology Division

Newsletter

Winter 2015

Hello CTEC!

It has been an active year for your Communication Technology Division already, and we have a lot of great things ahead.

The first big news is that we finally have a journal. A long series of CTEC heads has been exploring the possibilities with publishers, working on putting together an editorial board and ultimately getting the larger association to approve our publishing a new journal to highlight the important scholarly work done in the field. Past Head Jacob Groshek has led the last push, and it was formally approved by AEJMC's board of directors in December. Elsewhere in this newsletter, look for how you can be involved in making the Journal of Communication Technology strong.

Second, the association as a whole had a competition for an additional programming slot in San Francisco focus on an internationally relevant issue and we won. Our co-sponsored panel Obscurity and the Right to Be Forgotten: The Promise and Peril of Digital Ephemera will get special funding and promotion. Vice Head Bart Wodjynski has worked with the law and policy division to put together a great panel that looks at the ongoing questions in digital privacy across national lines.

Our usual great activities like the MidWinter Conference and our ongoing discussions on Facebook and Twitter continue, and I hope you'll continue to be involved. CTEC goes up for AEJMC re-approval this summer, and we are in a very strong position because of the energy and commitment of our members. Thank you all so much.

Sincerely,

Amanda Sturgill
CTEC-Head
Associate Professor of Communications
Elon University

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AEJMC Call for Papers

<http://aejmcctec.com/call-for-papers/>

The Communication Technology Division encourages research submissions where the central focus is technology and changes in the communication process resulting from technology. The division welcomes theoretical and conceptual papers and a diversity of methodological approaches.

Student Papers:

Papers solely authored by students are especially encouraged and are eligible to be entered for the Jung-Sook Lee Student Paper competition. The Jung-Sook Lee Award recognizes the best student paper, which makes “a substantial contribution to the substance or method on a topic related to communication technology and policy.” The award honors the division’s 1997-1998 research chair, Jung-Sook Lee of the University of Southwestern Louisiana, who died soon after the Baltimore conference in 1998. Authors of the top three student papers will receive a cash award. In addition, the author of the best student paper will have his or her conference registration fee paid by the division. For a paper to be considered for this award, all of the authors must be undergraduate or graduate students enrolled during the 2014-2016 academic year. Authors must type “Jung-Sook Lee Competition” in the upper-right corner of the first page of text to be considered for the award.

Faculty Papers:

The division is pleased to present the annual Gene Burd Top Faculty Research Paper Award, made possible by the generosity of Prof. Burd from the



University of Texas – Austin. The \$1,000 award recognizes the best faculty paper submitted to the division. For a paper to be considered for this award, at least one of the authors must be faculty. Authors must type “Gene Burd Competition” in the upper-right corner of the first page of text to be considered for the award.

Winners of both awards will receive their prize and be recognized at the San Francisco, CA conference. Submissions that do not win recognition in the Jung- Sook Lee Award or the Gene Burd Award are still considered for acceptance along with open competition submissions. Open Competition: All other papers submitted to the division will be reviewed in an open competition. Please limit papers to no more than 25 pages (doublespaced) in length, excluding tables and references. If you have any questions or require more information about the submission process, please contact Porismita Borah, CTEC research chair, at porismita@gmail.com

CTEC News

Great news - we finally have a journal. Our long-sought journal for CTEC was approved by the AEMJC Board of Directors at the December meeting, and plans are underway to publish the first issue this year.

We ended up revising the publication plan, so our journal will be created, edited, hosted and delivered by CTEC online, with an option to select a print-on-demand version.

The editorial staff wants to start the journal with a strong link to the division, and will accept the top CTEC papers from the annual conference for expedited publication review for the journal.

Thanks to past heads Sri Kalyanaraman, Marcus Messner, Jimmy Ivory, Homero Gil de Zuniga, Jacob Groshek and Carmen Stavrositu for their work over the years in getting the journal concept formed and launched. It is great to have a new outlet for communication technology scholarship.

AEJMC Annual Meeting Paper Submission

Porismita Borah, Research Chair

Here are a few guidelines to remember while making your AEJMC submission. If you are submitting using Word, kindly check Felicia's instructions for ensuring blind review. She has clear instructions for many programs/operating systems. Here is the link:

<http://www.aejmc.org/home/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Ensure-a-Blind-Review.pdf>

But if you are uploading a pdf file, it might not very easy to ensure blind review. Bart Wojdyski, our vice head shared some excellent information regarding the issue.

“The catch here is that even if you strip out data in Word, it's likely that your PDF will have author information from your conversion program or Acrobat plug-in. How you remove this depends on your

software. If you have Acrobat Pro: Click “Tools” in the tab on the right, then go down to the “Protection” section, and click “Remove Hidden Information. If you do not have Acrobat Pro, but have Safari or Firefox: Open your PDF using your browser. Go to File > Print, and in the Print dialog box, click “PDF” in the bottom left. This will save your file as a new PDF, but allow you to edit the title and author info manually (delete the Author Name here). If neither option above works for you (and you still want to submit a PDF), you can download a free third-party PDF creator, and re-create your PDF while saving the information in there.”

Hope this information will be useful for you as you prepare to submit your papers for AEJMC.

Porismita Borah is an Assistant Professor at Washington State University and can be reached at porismita@gmail.com

#JeSuisCharlie: ICTs as tools of speech and war

My grandparents became adults in an era of a physical all-encompassing war. They flew planes, manned ships, and treated the injured while their families bought war bonds and cut back on luxury goods. They depended on newspaper reports and radio broadcasts for delayed updates on who was winning or loosing on each of the war's fronts.

Decades later, my entire adult life has taken place in the context of a war, too. But this one is much, much different. [Very few of us serve in the military and are directly involved in the war on terror.](#) But when there is an update on any front, we can hear about it nearly instantaneously thanks to digital technology and the 24-7 news cycle.

In this war with amorphous and mobile non-state entities and no obvious end in sight, media of all types are our primary source of nearly instant information about the war. Another difference between these eras is that the public, even though not directly involved, can

easily comment, critique, support, or equivocate about the state of terrorism and anti-terrorism efforts.

Sadly, media scholars had a chance recently to observe all of these news and interactive media features in the context of modern geopolitical tensions in the aftermath of the gruesome attacks on staffers at the French satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo. The publication had a long history of running cartoons that portrayed the Prophet Mohammed, an act viewed as blasphemy by many Muslims.

On Tuesday, January 7, two gunmen who identified themselves as belonging to the Yemeni branch of Al-Qaeda barged into Charlie Hebdo's Paris office and shot 22 people, killing 12. A manhunt ensued and two days later, after an intense hostage situation, French



law enforcement returned fire and shot and killed the two suspects.

On January 11, 40 world leaders and 2 million other people rallied in Paris to show international unity against terrorism and to support free speech rights. Online, Twitter users employed the hashtag #JeSuisCharlie to show support for the French people and express solidarity with the newspaper.

In the days following the attack, the international “hacktivist” group Anonymous announced its own plan to take revenge on the Charlie Hebdo attackers. A Belgian branch of Anonymous posted [a video to YouTube](#) detailing the plans. The group proclaimed it would bring down websites associated with Islamic extremists and terrorist groups ISIL and Al-Qaeda, using language such as “expect us.”

The video, featuring a digitally altered voice and the group’s trademark use of a Guy Faux mask, told viewers “Attacking freedom of speech is attacking Anonymous. We will not permit it. Any organizations or enterprises linked to those terrorists attacks should expect a massive reaction from Anonymous. We are tracking you down. We will find you and not leave you any rest.”

Organizing its efforts around the hashtag #OpCharlieHebdo, the group quickly proved successful in its quest for vengeance. Anonymous hacked at least 10 websites associated with jihadi movements.

It did not take long for Islamic hackers to respond and launch their own online attacks. A Palestinian group called AnonGhost hacked numerous French websites under what it calls #OpFrance. Many of the Islamic groups targeted by Anonymous also argued that #OpCharlieHebdo was a racist attack on Arabs.

Many social media users called Anonymous hypocritical for proclaiming to defend free speech while censoring the speech of others.

And, [as the Washington Post reports](#), France now finds itself searching for a new, post-attack balance between free speech and public safety. Since the attack on Charlie Hebdo, French officials have arrested dozens

of individuals for making statements that glorified terrorism.

As the struggle to find the elusive balance continues between elected officials and the public who debate such issues on social media, groups like Anonymous and AnonGhost will continue to actively suppress opposing views. And other organizations, like ISIL and Al-Qaeda, will continue to plan much more harm than taking over a Twitter account.

What role do communication technology scholars and instructors have to play in this context? Conversations organized by hashtags can be culled and analyzed for content and sentiment, Twitter users and other members of the public can be surveyed about views on free speech, terrorism, racism and more, international laws related to free speech, surveillance, and public safety can be compared and scrutinized, and many more avenues exist for studying these global issues.

Regardless of the methodology, it’s clear that digital media has become more than a delivery mechanism for propaganda. It is a new battlefield in modern wars, one where symbolic victories and losses can be tallied. The use of social media and websites to recruit terrorists and the use of other social media messages to protest terrorism will likely continue for the foreseeable future. As scholars and teachers, it is our job to help the public and our students better understand the role of communication technology in the midst of mediated portrayals of the war on terror. CTEC members have the expertise to make many meaningful contributions to this conversation.

Jessica Gall Myrick, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in the Indiana University Media School. She can be reached at jgmyrick@indiana.edu

Best of the Web 2015 Competition

As this year's Best of the Web CTEC Chair I want to put this year's competition on everyone's radar as you prepare for your 2015 research endeavors. For those of you who may be unfamiliar with this competition this article will provide you an overview of what it is, how to apply, and some examples of last year's winners.

What is Best of the Web?

The Best of the Web competition is an annual web and app design contest offered in collaboration between the Communication Technology and Visual Communication Divisions of the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communication (AEJMC). Web or app entries submitted to this competition must advance education or research in journalism and/or mass communication. The contest is open to faculty and students who work for or attend an institution that is accredited by AEJMC, or are current members of AEJMC.

Best of the Web 2015 Competition Overview

The submission deadline for this year's competition is [April 1, 2015](#). Projects may be entered into only one of four categories: Individual/Team/Single class designation for web and app, and Multiple class/Institution designation for web and app. The Individual/team/single class categories consist of entries that have been designed and created by an individual, a small team or a single class. The Multiple class/institution categories consist of entries that have been designed and created by several classes collaborating on a single project or by a school or department collaborating on a single project. Web and app design professionals and academics with a background in web and app design technology are

responsible for judging the competition. Judging primarily focuses on the design, presentation and technological components of the project.

Examples of last year's winners

The Living Galapagos project by Pat Davison at UNC Chapel Hill is an excellent example of great web design that advances education and research in mass communication. This project is a student-authored multi-media website that addresses the intersection of environmental needs and consumer culture in one of the most unique areas of the world. The site features beautiful videos, images and stories from the project in both English and Spanish.

A great journalism example from the Multiple class/Institution app category is Steve Davis' (Syracuse University) submission for the VOX Magazine app. The app was designed to report on efforts that are being taken to support healthy habits in low-income areas around Syracuse, to include physical, emotional, social, spiritual, and intellectual components of a healthy well-being.

This year promises to bring another batch of quality web and app design projects into these categories. Division members, please help spread the word and encourage teachers and students in your department to submit their best work.

See you in San Francisco!

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