


[HOME](#)
[THE GATEKEEPER NEWSLETTER](#)
[2024 OFFICERS](#)
[CALL FOR REVIEWERS](#)
[AWARD NOMINATIONS](#)
[AWARDS AND TOP PAPERS](#)
[BY LAWS](#)
[NCA HOME](#)
[HELPFUL LINKS](#)

The Gatekeeper Newsletter – Fall 2023



Official Newsletter for the Mass Communication Division



Sponsored by

**SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE UNIVERSITY**

School of Communication and Journalism

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[Welcome from the Chair](#) – [Editor's Note](#) – [Announcements](#) – [Award Winners](#) – [Elections](#) – [Division Officers](#) – [Gatekeeper Archives](#)

Welcome from the Chair

I want to express my sincere appreciation for everyone who has served the division during this past year, including officers, reviewers, panel respondents and chairs, as well as those who have submitted research and participated in panels at our annual convention. This year's meeting of NCA went smoothly and I am excited for the next steps that our division takes. In light of this, I want to emphasize a couple of points moving forward, which I plan to help implement with our incoming division chair, Dr. Matt Lapierre.

- **IDEA.** We must continue the action around IDEA initiatives. Talking about it is not enough – there must be action. This year, we had a panel about how to [conduct inclusive research](#), and we also discussed other creative ways to improve IDEA priorities. How can we make NCA, for example, more accessible to those students who do not have funding? Let's keep working.
- **Mentorship.** I am personally going to champion this over the next year and see if we can get this program up and moving, so I'm asking each of you to consider being a part of the mentorship group. The idea is to pair students/early career scholars with mid/late career scholars, so that conversations can be had around scholarship, teaching, professional development, job searching, and rank & tenure. If you are interested in participating in this program, as either a mentor or a mentee, please complete [this form](#). Opportunities to participate range from attending a single event at NCA to developing a Zoom relationship over the year with a mentor/mentee.
- **Awards.** We changed our [bylaws](#) this year to be more explicit and transparent about how we select [awards](#) for our division, but more work is needed to communicate with applicants and winners. As the immediate past chair, I promise to work more on this as we move forward.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve our division, and I look forward to the progress we will make as the future unfolds. If you have other ideas or concerns that feel need addressing, please reach out to me and I'll do my best to work with the other officers to develop creative and fair solutions.

Happy Holidays to those who celebrate, and please have a wonderful conclusion to your semesters.



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Editor's Note

Hopefully by now you have noticed the redesign in the newsletter and the website. The change did not happen as quickly as I had hoped, however the site is now updated and all past content is still available. I mentioned at the MCD meeting that our page views have increased by 60% since the new design.

The Facebook page was also redesigned, and I changed the posting policy to require approval. I did this because we were getting some spam posts. You can still post on that page, and I will approve it when I can. You can also email me whatever announcements you want posted and I am happy to do that.

As always, I am looking for ideas for future Scholar Chat features. The next edition of this newsletter will be in Spring 2024, with updates on our various paper calls and featuring our newly elected officers.



Sincerely,



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Announcements

Proposal for Mentoring Program

The Mass Communication division is proposing a new program designed to pair graduate students and early career professionals with seasoned veterans in the division to help with mentorship in scholarship, teaching, and service. If you are interested in being a mentor or working with a mentor, please complete the form at the link below:

[NCA Mass Communication Division Mentorship Interest](#)

Call for Reviewers

Please consider signing up to review next years conference paper submissions at the link below. The survey takes less than 5 minutes.

On the survey, please select ALL the theoretical, conceptual, contextual, and methodological areas you believe you could review, not just those that you specialize in. This will help us match reviewers to submissions.

Sign up to be an NCA Mass Comm Division conference reviewer through our brief Google form below, and we'll send you a handful of papers/panels to review in the spring of 2024. As a reviewer, you can help fellow scholars by giving your feedback *and* be the first to learn about new research.

[NCA Mass Communication Division Conference Reviewer Sign-Up](#)

If you have any questions, please reach out to Hilary Gamble, Second Vice-Chair of the Research Committee, at hgamble@aum.edu

Job Openings

The [Department of Communication at Columbus State University](#) seeks applicants for a [full-time, tenure-track, Assistant Professor position to support instruction in the Integrated Media and Film Production \(undergraduate\) and Creative Services Management \(graduate\) tracks](#). The position will begin on August 1, 2024.

Columbus State University provides a creative, personalized, and relevant college experience. Serving the Southeast, while attracting students from around the world, Columbus State thrives on community partnerships to deliver excellence for students who want to achieve personal and professional success in an increasingly global environment. Just 100 miles southwest of Atlanta, Columbus State University is a proud member of the University System of Georgia, enrolling more than 8,00 students in a wide variety of degree programs, from online degrees to a doctorate in education.

The [Department of Communication at Lake Forest College](#) seeks applicants for a part-time lecturer position for the spring semester of 2024, and into the future.

The person hired to this position should be able to teach an introductory journalism (practice-oriented) course and an upper-level course that builds on the practices taught in the introductory course.

A highly selective liberal arts college located on Chicago's North Shore, Lake Forest College enrolls approximately 1,700 students from more than 40 states and from more than 100 countries. Lake Forest is one of the most diverse small colleges in the Midwest with nearly 40% of our student body comprised of domestic students of color and international students. At Lake Forest College, the quality of a faculty member's teaching is the most important criterion for evaluation. Lake Forest College embraces diversity and encourages applications from women, members of historically underrepresented groups, veterans, and individuals with disabilities.

Send a letter of application and a curriculum vitae to [Camille Yale](mailto:yale@lakeforest.edu), Chair of the Journalism Program, at yale@lakeforest.edu. Consideration of applicants will begin as soon as these materials are received, and the search will come to a close as soon as a successful applicant is found.

[Wayne State College](#) is seeking a [Communication Arts Faculty member](#). This is a Tenure Track position.

The ideal candidate will have a passion for teaching a variety of communication courses in an open enrollment setting and joining a thriving community of scholars. Applications received by January 15, 2024, will receive the highest priority. To learn more and apply, visit: <https://nscs.peopleadmin.com/postings/11341>

[Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication](#) at [The University of Oklahoma](#) has several opportunities for [full-time and part time employment](#) For more details, visit <https://www.ou.edu/gaylord/job-board>.

The [School of Communication and Media at Montclair State University](#) invites applications for an [assistant/associate tenure-track professor in communication and media studies](#). A primary role of this position will be in advancing student research activities. Accordingly, candidates are expected to have expertise in quantitative or mixed methods applied to pressing areas such as (but not limited to) political communication (including the politics of race and gender), health communication, social media, and communication technologies. They are particularly interested in candidates that can work collaboratively across disciplines and areas of our School and forge integrations with (for example) their Center for Cooperative Media, Center for Strategic Communication, News Lab, and Hawk+ streaming platform. To apply, click [here](#).

The [Oregon State University College of Liberal Arts](#), School of Communication invites applications for a full-time, 9-month, tenure-track (Annual) [Assistant Professor of Emerging Media and Technology](#) position.

The role of Assistant Professor of Emerging Media and Technology will be a new media scholar in the social sciences



with a PhD in communication or media studies who specializes in emerging media, with topic interdisciplinary research areas that could include human-computer interaction, artificial intelligence, robotics, machine learning, search engines, gaming, and related developments. To apply, click [here](#).

Call for Submissions

Special Issue of Behavioral Science on Social Media as Interpersonal and Masspersonal

The emergence of social media platforms has not only altered the way that individuals are informed and entertained but has also shifted the means by which relationships are developed and maintained. Social media platforms have provided new windows through which individuals engage with those with whom they have offline relationships. The same platforms have also allowed for parasocial connections to develop between social media influencers and their followers. Many canonical theories of interpersonal communication have been mapped onto social media to explain how social media affordances have woven into our interpersonal relationships. Moreover, new terminology such as “masspersonal” has been developed to explain links between new media, interpersonal relationships, and how each has redefined the other. The purpose of this Special Issue is to highlight insightful, innovative research that uses social scientific approaches to further our understanding of interpersonal and masspersonal perceptions in social media. Authors should note that “social media,” “relationships,” “interpersonal perceptions,” and “masspersonal” are broadly defined for the purpose of this special issue. All social scientific methodological approaches are welcome.

Scholars challenging the application of interpersonal theories to social media platforms are particularly encouraged to submit. Scholars investing interpersonal perceptions, social media, and IDEA (inclusion, diversity, equity, and access) are also strongly encouraged to submit.

Submissions will be considered on an on-going basis until July 31, 2024.

National Conference Division Award Winners

Congratulations to all of our division award winners from this year’s national conference!

2023 – Freedom – National Harbor, MD



MCD Teaching and Service Awards

MCD Teaching Award Recipient – Allison Eden, Ph.D.

MCD Service Award Recipient – Laramie Taylor, Ph.D.

MCD Top Paper Award – Bradley J. Bond, Ph.D. (not pictured)

Top Papers

Enacted Replotting, Narrative Persuasion, and Colorectal Cancer: A Longitudinal Message Experiment with U.S. Adults: Kristal May, Helen M. Lillie, Chelsea Ratcliff & Jakob D. Jensen

I help you, you help me: Interracial reciprocity in situation comedies influences racial attitudes: Morgan Ellithorpe, Shay Xuejing Yao, David Ewoldsen, Lanier Holt

Identifying Loss and Grief in Children’s Animated Films: Katherine Sheets, Elizabeth B. Jones,

Media for Coping, Media as Comfort: Sara M. Grady, Allison L. Eden, Lara Wolfers

Reconceptualizing Selective Moral Disengagement Mechanisms as Continuums of Moral Influence: A Theoretical Expansion: Rebecca Frazer, Matthew Grizzard





Top Student Papers

Peyton John Bonine: "Whiteness as Supreme, Homosexuals as Sinful: Terri Joe's Satirical TikTok Fantasy of Christian Womanhood"

Keely Diebold: "Exploring the Effects of Individuals' Perceived Prototypicality Within a Fandom"

Jessica L. Gehrke: "#ReclaimMLK and #IHaveADream: Remembering King's Dream on Twitter"

Xiaoya Fu: "Myth and Reflection: "Authenticity" of Visual Communication and Its Regulation"

Hyeonchang Gim: "Improving Attitudes toward Asians through a Foreign Film with Dubbing (vs. Subtitling): From the Perspective of Communication Accommodation and the Fluency Principle"

Division Elections

The leadership of the Mass Communication Division brings forward the following positions for member review. The deadline to vote is Friday, December 22 at 3:00 AM Eastern. Go to [this link](#) to vote.

Vice Chair-Elect of the Division

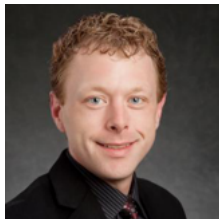
Cassandra Alexopoulos



Dr. Cassandra Alexopoulos received her PhD in Communication from the University of California Davis in 2017. She is currently Associate Professor in the Communication Department at the University of Massachusetts Boston. As a media and relational communication researcher, she is interested in the factors that influence romantic and sexual decision-making, exploring the conditions under which entertainment media (e.g., television) and new media (e.g., dating apps) can influence people's sexual attitudes, perceptions, and intentions. She has been a member of NCA since 2014, has served on the MCD Nominating Committee, and is excited by the opportunity to continue contributing to this wonderful organization!

Secretary Elect of the Division

Christopher Josey



Christopher Josey Ph.D. (University of Illinois) is a Faculty Fellow for Undergraduate Research, Director of Honors Programs and Undergraduate Research, and Associate Teaching Professor at the University of Missouri. My research and teaching examine the intersection of mediated portrayals of marginalized groups in news. My research lab is currently bringing light to the prosocial impact of social identity focused news sites through a longitudinal content analysis, surveys, and experiments. We also are conducting interviews with the editors and writers of these sites to better understand their practices. We hope to develop a framework of practices based upon our data to improve portrayals across the greater news landscape. I have been a member, presenter, and reviewer for the MCD since beginning graduate school. I welcome the opportunity to serve the MCD as secretary elect.

Shaimaa Khanam



Shai (pronounced: "shy") is a PhD student in the Department of Communication at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign. She is a Florida native, and takes an intersectional feminist and ecological approach to investigate systemic social injustice. Shai notes mass communication as offering a mesospheric opportunity for social movements to engage in transformative justice. Her work examines how the macro level (laws/ systems/ ideology & hegemonic norms) interacts with the micro level (ideas of "self" and "others"/ interpersonal interactions/ experiences with violence) to reinforce and recreate harmful social systems. Shai builds on radical black feminist traditions, and carries forward their ideas about solutions to complex social problems. In her doctoral work, Shai investigates racial and gender-based violence, and the consciousness raising potential of edutainment media, social media, and AI. She focuses on sexual violence specifically as a window into a personal and complex social problem that is worth re-examining for root causes and true solutions.

Second Vice Chair-Elect of the Research Committee



Debora D. Pérez Torres



My name is Debora D. Pérez Torres, I am an assistant professor in the Department of Communication Studies at the California State University, San Bernardino. My research focuses on emotion, stress and coping, social identity, and media effects, particularly in the context of minority populations, namely Latinos. My research has been published in peer-reviewed journals including *Journal of Applied Communication Research*, *Health Communication*, and *Media Psychology*. I teach strategic communication, media effects, quantitative research methods, risk communication, health communication, and emotion.

I have been a member of the Mass Communication Division since 2013, presenting my work as well as serving as reviewer, chair, and respondent for panels. I look forward to using my expertise and experience in mass communication and its effects on diverse populations to guide and support our division. I am eager to serve our division in my role as Second Vice Chair-Elect of the Research Committee.

Vice Chair-Elect of the Nominating Committee of the Division

John J. Brooks



John J. Brooks, Ph.D. (2023, Northwestern University) is a postdoctoral associate in the Department of Communication at the University at Buffalo. As the outgoing Graduate Student Representative for the Mass Communication Division, he is grateful to have had the opportunity to serve the division for the past two years and looks forward to further service by helping to identify and nominate candidates who will advance our mission. John's research primarily pertains to mass communication at the intersection of health and politics—in particular, it centers the depiction of socially important (and often divisive) issues in mass media and the potential for mediated storytelling to communicate across social, political and affective divides. In addition to research, John is an enthusiastic educator: He previously received the Northwestern University School of Communication's "Outstanding Graduate Instructor Award" for his courses, A History of Mass Media Influence and Entertainment-Education & Social Change. John values the Mass Communication Division as his academic home at NCA, and he would be honored to serve as the Vice-Chair Elect of the Nominating Committee.

Dhiman Chattopadhyay



Dhiman Chattopadhyay (Ph.D. Bowling Green State University) is Associate Professor, Department of Communication, Journalism & Media at Shippensburg University, PA. He is also Director of Ethnic Studies at Ship. A former journalist with 20 years' experience as a reporter and editor/managing editor at some of India's largest media groups, he teaches courses in Diversity & Media, News Reporting, Lifestyle Journalism, Issues in Communication Management, and Global Strategic Communication, at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Dhiman's two core areas of research are (a) mass communication & social change and (b) marginalized students and communication factors affecting their campus belongingness. His first book "Indian Journalism and the Impact of Social Media" was published by Palgrave-Macmillan in 2022 as part of their *Journalism in the Global South* series. His upcoming book, an edited volume (with contributors from 11 nations) titled: "Global Journalism in Comparative Perspectives: Case Studies" is currently in press (Routledge, Feb.2024). In 2021, NCA's APAC & Division recognized him as one of the two "Emerging Scholars" from North America, for his contribution to IDEA-focused research. His grant-funded work on factors affecting college students' campus belongingness has been published in peer-reviewed journals. Dhiman is keen to expand the reach of the MCD to a wider range of institutions within North America, and also spread the word among his academic colleagues and contacts across South Asia.

Leah Dajches



Hello! My name is Leah Dajches, and I am a postdoctoral scholar in the Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications at the Pennsylvania State University. As a member of the Mass Communication Division of the National Communication Association, I request your vote as the Vice Chair-Elect of the Nominating Committee. Broadly, my research examines popular culture and media as accessible, everyday contexts for empowering vulnerable populations (e.g., adolescents) and marginalized communities (e.g., LGBTQ+, BIPOC). I identify forms of communication-related empowerment that demonstrate how individuals can engage with popular media in beneficial ways. My interest in communication-related empowerment not only describes my research, but my approach to service as well. I am passionate about our field and this opportunity to help provide representation for the diverse perspectives, identities, and research within our division through the election process. Over the past six years, I've actively engaged in numerous service opportunities at NCA (e.g., volunteer, reviewer) and I've held leadership positions in varying capacities (e.g., Grad Student Organization President, Research Mentor). Because of these experiences, I am well-suited for this position, and I am enthusiastic to become even more involved in our division and to work closely with our members.

Graduate Student Representative Elect

Max Erdemandi



I am Max Erdemandi – a fourth-year dual Ph.D./M.S. candidate in Communication Science & Social Cognition, and Quantitative Methodology, Measurement and Statistics at the University of Maryland. As your nominee for the graduate student representative in the Mass Communication division, I bring a wealth of teaching and research experience in mass communication, coupled with on-campus service experience as a student body representative and student government officer. Coming from a first-gen, low-income, queer and immigrant background, I am committed to ensuring that un- and underrepresented students find a welcoming space within our community. A former Top Student Paper award recipient in our division, which I consider my intellectual home within NCA, I have been actively involved by presenting numerous papers, serving as a reviewer and panel chair, and attending business meetings. The personal relationships I have built within our division have immensely shaped my own scholarly identity and research focusing on the role of mass media in extreme belief systems and improving psychometric practices in our field. I am excited about the opportunity to deepen my service to our vibrant community by engaging and representing the interests of my fellow graduate students.

Nancy Molina-Rogers



Nancy Molina-Rogers is a graduate student in the Department of Communication. She received her B.A. in Global Studies and Spanish from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2013, and earned a M.A. in Communication Studies from California State University, Northridge in 2016. Her academic and research interests include Media communication and exploring how portrayals of women on television impact perceptions of identity in children, adolescents, and adults.

Representative to the NCA Nominating Committee

Q. McElroy



Greetings everyone. My name is Q. McElroy, and I am honored to be considered for a role with the NCA Mass Communication Division.

I am a graduate student at Brenau University and expect to earn my MA in Communication and Media Studies next Spring. I received my journalism degree from the University of Georgia and am actively applying to doctoral programs. My current research interests focus on the interplay between mass media and culture, with an emphasis on representation and media effects. I also am interested in the hegemonic contexts of gender and race across different media sectors.

I am a faculty associate at Arizona State University, where I taught an online undergraduate course this Fall. I also lead training and development seminars for media professionals through the Poynter Media Institute. Before entering academia, I spent 15+ years as a digital media leader and strategist with Cox Media Group.

I am confident that my experience and background make me a strong candidate for this role, and I am committed to fulfilling the required duties.

Please feel free to review [my LinkedIn profile \(https://www.linkedin.com/in/qmcelroy/\)](https://www.linkedin.com/in/qmcelroy/) for additional information, or just to connect.

Thank you for your consideration,

Q. McElroy

Legislative Assembly Representative



Valerie Kretz

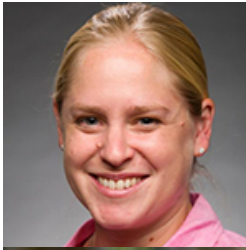


It was my pleasure to attend legislative assembly as the Chair and Immediate Past Chair of the Mass Communication Division during the last two years. I appreciated the opportunity to learn more about NCA's operations, represent our interests, and report back to you. Thank you for considering me for Legislative Assembly Representative.

Elections are open until Friday, December 22 at 3:00am Eastern. You can vote at [2023 Mass Communication Division Election | National Communication Association \(natcom.org\)](https://www.ncamass.org/?page_id=645).

2023-2024 Division Officers

Executive Committee



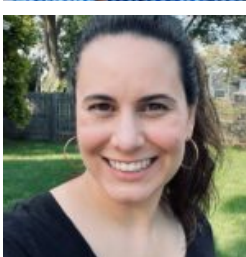
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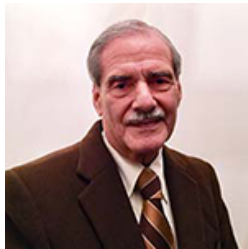


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National Communication Association Representatives



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id:

ABOUT US

The dual purpose of the National Communication Association Mass Communication Division is to;

Advance the study and teaching of mass communication media, their languages, images, codes, uses, roles, functions, effects, and audiences, and to bring to bear on the mass media the critical/ analytical insights provided through academic study.

Provide a forum in which scholars and teachers with diverse interests and approaches can come together to contribute to the study of mass communication.

