

in [QUEER]ies

An AEJMC Newsletter Addressing LGBTQ Issues and Interests

Volume 14, Issue 2

ABOUT THE LGBTQ INTEREST GROUP

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer interest group (LGBTQ) was established in 2003 with the desire and ability to create dialogue and support scholarship about LGBTQ concerns that should be discussed in classrooms nationwide.

Our mission is to help journalism and mass communications professors integrate LGBTQ issues and perspectives into JMC education and to support research into these issues and perspectives.



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Pot of Gold at the End of the Rainbow

Happy Pride Month!

It's a special time of year when for a solid month LGBTQ+ visibility is through the roof and everyone seems to like us—especially big corporations. Funny how that works.

All of the love made me think back to my childhood and my teen years. I don't think I even knew what Pride was — maybe not really until I was in college. I know, I know. But I grew up in rural Mississippi where the closest thing to Pride we had was the local floral shop's window displays—oh and they were pretty fierce windows.

But no one really talked about the two men who owned the shop or put together the displays. Folk in town were just happy to whisper about Earl and Jim and let them decorate the hell out of every special occasion.

But back to why I'm writing the piece.

I guess I'm just feeling conflicted. On the one hand, we have all of these new "allies" who are helping to spread the word and visuals of Pride to all corners of the map. Even kids in rural Mississippi have probably seen a rainbow logo this year — a lot more than my floral display.

But on the other hand, what does all of this corporatization of Pride do to us? Who does it exclude? What history does it tell? What brand of Queer is it selling to the public?

I'm the first one to get a little sentimental when I see a "Love is Greater than Hate" or "Love Wins" slogan on a rainbow, but is that Pride? Or is it just that Pride sells?

I know that's more questions than answers or opinions in this piece, but I think these are things we as LGBTQ+ researchers need to think about. This is how we need to interrogate corporate Pride.

I don't have the answers in this column, but ...

Luckily for us there's an entire research panel on this during the Toronto conference. It's on Saturday. I know a lot of you might be heading to the airport that day, but if you can hang around to come by and participate, that would be great.



ROBBY BYRD
Interest Group Head

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Intersectional approaches to teaching, research and professional freedom

My research focus on media and identity often has me viewing mediated texts that I might not otherwise watch for leisure.

This Pride Month, I had the privilege of watching a Netflix series that overlaps both. *Tales of the City*, a reboot of the 1993 miniseries based on the novel series by **Armistead Maupin**, centers on a group of LGBTQ identifying individuals living in a present-day San Francisco community.

While the show arguably delivers a diverse and intersectional depiction of the queer community, I will save the critical critique for another time and space, hopefully a journal publication. What I do want to highlight is the Pride flag that flashes at the end of every episode, right before the credits play.

Originally, the Pride flag boasted eight horizontal stripes, each having its own meaning, and was designed by San Francisco artist **Gilbert Baker** in 1978. For economical and symmetrical reasons, the flag was reduced to six stripes in 1979: red for life, orange for healing, yellow for sunlight, green for nature, blue for harmony, and purple for spirit. This six-striped version is perhaps the best known version of the flag and is what you might see flying over businesses and homes, especially during Pride Month.

Since 1979, the Pride flag has undergone many modifications and has been used symbolically for LGBTQ rights. The most recent modification of the Pride flag adds black and brown stripes to the other colors, updating the iconic symbol to one that is more intersectional and inclusive of people of color.

The present flag was unveiled in 2017 in Philadelphia and was created by the Philadelphia Office of LGBT Affairs' More Color, More Pride Campaign. Although the flag was met with mixed reactions, it has been embraced strongly by the

LGBTQ community and advocates as a symbolic representation to combat racism, sexism, and genderism. This is the flag that is seen at the end of each *Tales of the City* episode.

I bring this up to evidence the role of intersectionality in both pragmatic and professional

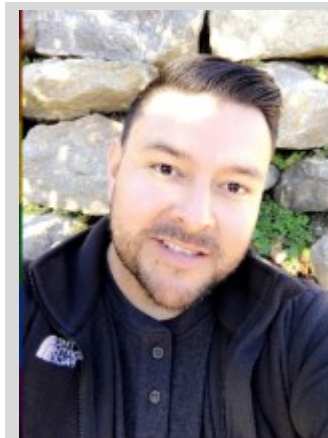
spaces. In this post-2016 socio-political atmosphere, intersectional representation in media, politics, and social spaces is more important than ever.

The LGBTQ Interest Group is committed to intersectional approaches in teaching, research, and professional freedom and responsibility. This year, we have teamed up with divisions and interest groups across AEJMC to bring you a variety of intersectional programming:

□ **Wednesday, Aug. 7**

3:15 to 4:45 p.m. — ***“Community Partnership as Pathway to Combatting Transphobic and Transnormative Media Narratives.”*** Research panel cohosted with the Minorities and Communication Division.

Panelists will highlight significant areas of concern for transgender and gender non-conforming (TGNC) identified individuals seeking health care, as well as offer avenues to address methods of responsible community-based research. This panel brings together **Erica Ciszek**, University of Texas at Austin;



NATHIAN SHAE RODRIGUEZ
Interest Group Vice Head

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A busy research year wraps up in August

It was a busy spring as Research Chair for the LGBTQ Interest Group.

We had 17 paper submissions for the Toronto conference, nine of which were selected for presentation in either our Scholar-to-Scholar poster session Friday morning, or our Top Papers Session Friday evening, of the conference.

More than 20 of you served as peer reviewers for those papers, upholding our reputation as a home for mentorship among professors, junior faculty and graduate students at AEJMC. Thank you to all who provided thoughtful feedback on those manuscripts.

Let's also be sure to congratulate our Top Faculty Award co-authors, **Tien-Tsung Lee** of the University of Kansas, and **Gary Hicks** of Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville, as well as our Top Student Award winner, **Michelle Dreiling** of the University of Oregon. Hip hip, hooray!

The Interest Group has continued to build visibility for underrepresented scholars and research areas at AEJMC. We have encouraged research submissions focusing on trans issues, bisexuality, and other lesser-known queer identities, and we have continued to support research on international queer communities and political issues in queer publishing.

As my work as Research Chair is winding down, the rest of you are gearing up for a whirlwind week in The 6 later this summer. (Fun Fact: The 6 is what former *Degrassi* star **Drake** calls Toronto).

Alongside our refereed paper sessions, our summer programming will also feature five additional research, teaching, and PF&R sessions on topics ranging from corporate media's queer-

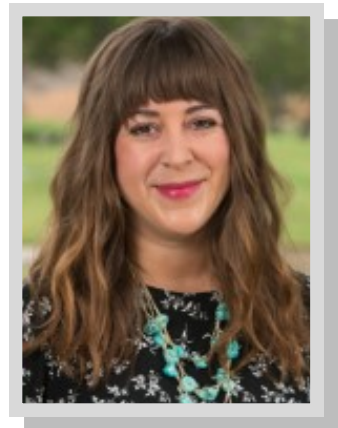
baiting tactics to integrating trans-inclusive narratives into community media.

The Interest Group partnered with the Minorities & Communication Division, Commission on the Status of Women, Cultural & Critical Studies Division, and Religion and Media Interest Group on numerous panels, demonstrating our continued efforts to build relationships with other underrepresented research groups at AEJMC.

As you prepare for our summer meeting, please set time aside to attend the Members' Meeting from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 9.

Keep an eye out for announcements regarding happy hours and things to do in Toronto. I look forward to connecting with friends new and old over Labatt Blue and poutine, so please introduce yourself if you see me putzing around the Sheraton in August.

Three cheers for another excellent year of LGBTQ research via our AEJMC Interest Group!



CHELSEA REYNOLDS
Research Committee Chair

LET'S GET SOCIAL!

**Friday, Aug. 9
8:30 p.m.
LGBTQ Interest
Group Social**

Join us in the center of LGBTQ Toronto!



518 Church St., Toronto
www.ogradyschurch.com

Going beyond the buzzwords: Forming true allyship

Here comes June again— people across the globe join their local parades to celebrate Pride Month.

From clothes, bandanas, rainbow flags, parade floats, to the rainbow-embedded version of every corporate logo on your mobile devices; everything visible is virtually branded and sponsored. While such commodification recognizes the LGBTQ community's commercial value and buying power, it also elicits mixed emotions and responses.

Critical audiences have accused the companies and brands of “rainbow washing.” Rainbow washing occurs when a brand uses LGBTQ symbols to signal their support through advertisements and product designs, without meaningful engagements that further the movements and causes of the community.

Such “performative allyship” oftentimes aims to generate profits as opposed to creating meaningful social change for the marginalized social groups related to the cause. Some demonstrations that diversity has become a genre of media content, branding and marketing:

- The rise of outspoken cultural figures like **Cardi B, Logic, Lizzo, and Kacey Musgraves**;
- The mainstreaming of radical editorial directions for media outlets (e.g., *Teen Vogue's* shift to focusing on social justice reporting being established as a next-generation digital outlet that adapts queer discourses); and,
- The brand fixation of prosocial campaign strategies (e.g., Dove's female empowerment, Gillett's redefining masculinity).

Such shifting paradigm also influences how academics navigate their research, teaching, and service. Diversity and social change/justice often become the buzzwords that institutions and professors throw around without meaningfully engaging the specific issues. A lot of institutions have set up multicultural departments/divisions, hosted workshops, or offered standalone diversity

courses in their curricula to advocate relevant issues and/or to educate their faculty, staff, and students.

Sadly, most people showing up in the rooms for these programs are members of marginalized social groups. As a result, these programs become more of an echo chamber than an amplifier.

While these endeavors undoubtedly have tremendous value in terms of helping minority students find a sense of community, what can institutions and professors do to make sure that the individual faculty, staff, and student members from the majority social group also engage in these programs and incorporate diversity in their professional practice as well? In other words, what should we do to prevent such diversity advocacies at both institutional and individual levels from becoming the academic edition of “performative allyship” and “rainbow washing?”

Of course, this question is so big that it is impossible to offer constructive answers and suggestions in a newsletter. But it is so important for us to reiterate and open such discussions in our AEJMC programs.

This year, in Toronto, many excellent sessions sponsored by the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Interest Group will tap into the wrestling between professional freedom and responsibility. Among them, one particular research panel titled “*Queerbaiting and Rainbow-washing: Have Corporate Media Improved Representation or Co-opted LGBTQ Communities?*” (co-sponsored by the LGBTQ IG and Cultural and Critical Studies Division) tackles the previously mentioned rainbow-washing phenomenon directly. Believe it or not, this is only one of many discussions to come that will go beyond criticism and seek solutions for this issue.



MINJIE LI
PF&R Committee Chair

Coming out as queer in the classroom

Academia provides a complex laboratory for identity development that unfolds on a daily basis.

Being a gay professor at a public university is still quite a dichotomy. I have found myself struggling over the years with how to identify myself and live authentically but also not alienate my students in the process. This is tricky because I do have students that do not support the gay community and a separate subset of students that are identifiably not supportive of the trans community. I also have openly gay and closeted students.

I want students to respect me but I also want them to feel comfortable being themselves even if that means their perceptions are the ultimate antithesis of my lived reality as a gay man.

The greater question is how do I educate students on the importance of doing good journalism even in the wake of their own lived biases? I find it becoming more difficult to get them to set aside their own reservations.

I recently had a situation where I was suggesting story ideas for my multimedia class and one story I suggested was to do something related to all the programming that was happening on campus in support of trans students. I was taken aback when the executive producer of the campus broadcast loudly proclaimed the fact that they did not support the rights of trans students and they would never air a story focused on that.

Now the student does have the right to sequester a story under the protections of student free press rights, but I was surprised they did not see the difference between the importance of journalistic coverage of all things happening on campus and

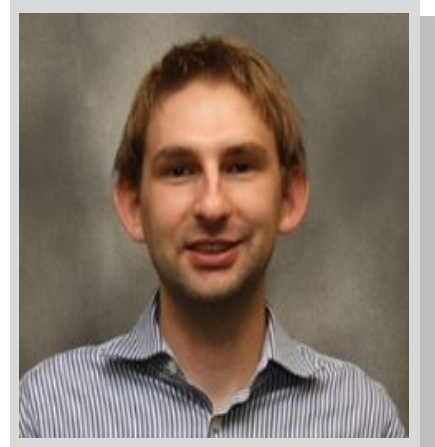
their own freedom of speech to oppose trans rights.

It puzzled me that students today often do not understand the importance of a free press and the difference in relation to an individual's freedom of speech. I have

now realized that there are important moments where I must be vocal in order to use my own experiences to educate my students about the struggles faced by members of the LGBT community.

This past March I was in New York City with a group of students for the National College Media Convention. I passively mentioned the Stonewall Inn as a landmark that tourists often visit when they come to the city. I was somewhat surprised that my students who are college-age had never learned about the Stonewall Riots and the resulting launch of the gay rights movement. It felt like an almost queer erasure. The students were at least taught revisionist history about the civil rights movement but they had never heard of Stonewall. And this was on the dawn of the 50th anniversary of the tragic events that happened at the Stonewall Inn in 1969.

Immediately, they started googling about Stonewall and I took a couple of them to visit the landmark. I feel like I had a small impact on something I took for granted as a highly educated



JAMES CARVIO
Teaching Chair

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Coming out as queer in the classroom

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person that has went beyond the confines of what was presented to me in my K-12 education. Admittedly, I am 34 years old and the mere mention of gay was taboo when I was in school. Rather, it was used as a tool to bully and police masculinity but never was uttered in the classroom by a teacher. It took me so long to even be able to say the word and live as my true self.

Another situation happened this past year where I had a student that was “out” in the classroom and even had their own YouTube channel, but then it turned out they were not “out” to their parents. The yearbook staff wanted to interview them for a spread that featured personal narratives of students on their experience with the “coming out” process. While the student declined to participate and explained why, it made me think of the importance of educating our students on how dynamic it is to be “out of the closet” and also how there are certain individuals/groups of people that we will never be fully out to for one reason or another.

The students on the yearbook staff saw this as their colleague who had always been openly gay to them without question while the reality was more nuanced as this student appeared to have been out to the community of people that surrounded them with acceptance while also not maintaining that same openness with other folks in their life.

As a journalism educator, I feel it’s important to be vocal about the struggles faced by the LGBT community. While I don’t know if we have all the

answers, the dialogue and recognition that our students have members of the LGBT community in their classes and as their professors can have a powerful impact in softening their discord.

It is also helpful for us to work to get our students to recognize and understand the dynamics of identity and relationships. This is often brought out as they develop their voices as professional storytellers, but sometimes lost in their relationships with one another.

I believe it’s our obligation to shed as much light as we can on the complexity of identity and their obligation to bring objectivity to their coverage of the LGBT community.



**Friday Night—Aug. 9
is LGBTQ Night at AEJMC!**

4:45 p.m. — LGBTQ Top Paper Session
**6:30 p.m. — Aarons Award presentation
and IG business meeting**
8:30 p.m. — LGBTQ Social at O’Grady’s

All are welcome—come join us!



AEJMC's 102nd Annual Conference, "Investing in our Futures," runs Aug. 7-10, 2019 in beautiful Toronto, Ontario.

<http://aejmc.org/events/toronto19/>



L.G.B.T.Q.
INTEREST GROUP
ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATION IN JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

Full LGBTQ Interest Group Toronto Schedule

□ Wednesday, Aug. 7

1:30 to 2:45 p.m.

Excursion to The ArQuives: Canada's LGBTQ2+ Archives in Toronto — The excursion costs \$10 to participate. We will leave from the lobby of the hotel at 12:45 p.m. to walk over to the space. Email Robby Byrd rdbyrd@memphis.edu for questions or to register.

3:15 to 4:45 p.m.

LGBTQ Interest Group and Minorities and Communication Division — Research Panel Session: "Community Partnership as Pathway to Combatting Transphobic and Transnormative Media Narratives."

The transgender and gender non-conforming communities face pervasive stigma from media narratives, which pervade all aspects of life and manifest into health disparities. The panel highlights areas of concern for TGNC individuals seeking health care.

□ Thursday, Aug. 8

3:15 to 4:45 p.m.

Minorities and Communication Division and LGBTQ Interest Group — PF&R Panel Session: "Strange Fruit: Diversity and Storytelling Across the Podcasting Platform."

No matter your interests, in the modern moment, there's likely a podcast to meet them. The range of programs, topics and storytelling styles has exploded in recent years. As digital technology and delivery services evolve, diverse audiences are finding a wide range of voices and safe spaces often absent from mainstream broadcasting. From **Sam Sanders** ("It's Been a Minute") to **Jonathan Van Ness** ("Getting Curious") to **Jaison Gardner** and **Kaila Story** ("Strange Fruit") and beyond,

this panel explores the intersection of race, class, gender and sexual orientation in the podcast ecosystem.

□ Friday, Aug. 9

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

AEJMC Scholar-to-Scholar Refereed Paper/Poster Sessions

"Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Interest Group Results from a follow-up Pilot of Patient Self Advocacy Workshops for Transgender and Gender Diverse Individuals" — **Richard Mocarski**, University of Nebraska at Kearney; **Sim Butler**, **Nathan Wooduff**, **Robyn King**, **Debra Hope**, **Natalie Holt**, **Sarah Price** and **Jody Kellas**, University of Alabama.

"Co-constructing a Media Narrative: Interviews with LGBT Activists from the 1960s and 1970s in New Zealand" — **Linda-Jean Kenix** and **Suvojit Bandhopadhyaya**, University of Canterbury.

"Getting Bi: An Analysis of Bisexual Characters' Depiction on the Television Network the CW" — **Lyric Mandell** and **Francesca Ervin**, University of Houston.

"Information Seeking and MSM's Attitudes Toward HIV and Condoms" — **Joseph Schwartz**, Northeastern University and **Josh Grimm**, Louisiana State University.

"Is India Authentic or Progressive? American Media Framing of India Decriminalizing Gay-Sex from a Colonial and Post-Colonial Perspective" — **Noura Al-Duaijani**, University of South Carolina.

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Full LGBTQ Interest Group Toronto Schedule

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□ Friday, Aug. 9

1:15 to 2:45 p.m.

Commission on the Status of Women and LGBTQ Interest Group — Teaching Panel Session: *“Testing Tolerance and Tough Topics in the Classroom and on College Campuses.”*

This is the fourth iteration of this annual panel. It is now being turned into a book published by Rowman Littlefield. This panel will discuss the overall atmosphere on college campuses regarding controversial topics such as race, gender, abuse, mental health, violence, and sex.

3 to 4:30 p.m.

Religion and Media and LGBTQ Interest Groups — Teaching Panel Session: *“Teaching and Reporting on the Intersection of Religion and Sexuality.”*

Some of the more sensitive topics that appear in the media involve religion and sexuality. This session seeks to examine how we can teach and report on the intersection of the two groups in media coverage.

4:45 to 6:15 p.m.

LGBTQ Interest Group — Refereed Paper Session

Top Faculty Paper: *“Learning to be Inclusive? Testing the Effects of Media Diet on Attitudes toward LGT Equality,”* **Tien-Tsung Lee**, University of Kansas and **Gary Hicks**, University of Southern Illinois-Edwardsville

Other Faculty Papers:

“Is Anyone Surprised? How Journalists Frame the Coming Out of Women Athletes,” **Bill Cassidy**, Northern Illinois University.

“Changing Body Ideals of Marginalized Identities and the Proliferation of Social and Entertainment Media,” **Cristina Azocar** and **Ivana Markova**, California State University, San Francisco.

Top Student Paper: *“What’s In a Name?: Cultural Meanings of the X-Marker,”* **Michelle Dreiling**, University of Oregon.

6:30 to 8 p.m.

LGBTQ Interest Group — Business Session and Members’ Meeting. IG Head **Robby Byrd**, University of Memphis, presiding.

8:30 to 10 p.m.

LGBTQ Interest Group — Off-site Social. O’Grady’s, 518 Church St., Toronto, Ontario.

□ Saturday, Aug. 10

9:15 to 10:45 a.m.

LGBTQ Interest Group and Cultural and Critical Studies Division — Research Panel Session: *“Queerbaiting and Rainbow-washing: Have Corporate Media Improved Representation or Co-opted LGBTQ Communities?”*

From Target superstore advertisements featuring gay dads to anal sex how-to articles in *Teen Vogue*, mass media across platforms are finding new ways to appeal to LGBTQ audiences.

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Conference panels announced

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Sim Butler, University of Alabama; **Sharon Obasi**, University of Nebraska, Kearney; and **Selley Craig**, University of Toronto, to share their own experiences in this fight and to highlight the vital nature of community-based research collaboratives. **Richard MocarSKI**, University of Nebraska, Kearney, will preside as moderator.

□ Thursday, Aug. 8

3:15 to 4:45 p.m. — *“Strange Fruit: Podcasting and Diverse Stories from GLBT Community.”* PF&R Panel Cohosted with Minorities and Communication Division.

This panel addresses the unique issues of racial minorities in the mass media, using podcasting as a platform for diverse storytelling. Intersectional identities in queer worldmaking podcasting, Black podcasts, Latinx podcasts, and diverse storytelling will be highlighted.

Panelists include **Robert Byrd**, University of Memphis; **Kim Fox**, American University in Cairo; **Nathian Shae Rodriguez**, California State University, San Diego; and **Jen Christensen** of CNN. **Laura Smith**, University of South Carolina, will preside as moderator.

□ Friday, Aug. 9

1:15 to 2:45 p.m. — *“Testing Tolerance and Tough Topics in the Classroom and on College Campuses.”* Teaching panel cohosted with the Council on the Status of Women.

Panelists include **Laura Castañeda**, University of Southern California; **Steve Fox**, University of Massachusetts-Amherst; **Meg Heckman**, Northeastern University; **Meredith Clark**, University of Virginia; **Victoria LaPoe**, Ohio University; and **Chad Curtis**, University of Kansas.

This panel will discuss the overall atmosphere on college campuses regarding controversial topics such as race, gender, abuse, mental health, violence, and sex. **Candi Carter Olson**, Utah State University, and **Tracy Everbach**, University of North Texas, will preside as moderators.

□ Friday, Aug. 9

3 to 4:30 p.m. — *“Teaching and Reporting on the Intersection of Religion and Sexuality.”* Teaching panel cohosted with the Religion and Media Interest Group.

This panel was created in response to the juxtaposition of traditional religious views toward LGBTQ individuals and modern world religious leaders coming out in support of LGBTQ issues. Panelists include **Rhonda Gibson**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; **Jade Metzger**, Wayne State University; **Steve Kilar**, Arizona State University; and **Leigh Moscowitz**, California State University, Fullerton. **Miriam Alkazemi**, Virginia Commonwealth University, and **Nathian Shae Rodriguez**, California State University, San Diego, will be the moderators.

□ Saturday, Aug. 10

9:15 to 10:45 a.m. — *“Queerbaiting and Rainbow-washing: Have Corporate Media Improved Representation or Co-opted LGBTQ Communities.”* A research panel cohosted with the Cultural and the Critical Studies Division.

This research panel will focus on queer-targeted corporate media. More information about this panel is included on page 10.

I feel it important to leave you with one final, imperative thought. Intersectionality isn't merely about diverse, intersecting identities; it's about the systemic oppressions tied to each of those identities and how they intersect to make an individual's lived experiences qualitatively different from another. As civil rights scholar **Kimberlé Crenshaw** said, “Intersectionality is a lens through which you can see where power comes and collides, where it interlocks and intersects.” All of our panels and panelists this year have the common thread of looking at power and its effects on the LGBTQ community in and through a myriad of mediated spaces.

Hart named Aarons Award recipient

The LGBTQ Interest Group is excited to announce that Dr. **Kylo-Patrick R. Hart** has been selected to receive the Leroy F. Aarons Award for 2019.



Kylo-Patrick R. Hart

Hart will be on hand in August to accept the award during the annual LGBTQ IG business meeting at the AEJMC annual conference in Toronto, Ontario.

Hart, who earned his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, is chair of the Department of Film, Television and Digital Media at Texas Christian University.

At TCU he teaches courses in film and television history, theory, and criticism; film screenwriting; popular culture; and queer media studies. He is also a core faculty member with TCU's Department of Women and Gender Studies.

Professor Hart is the author or editor of several books about media, including:

- *The AIDS Movie: Representing a Pandemic in Film and Television;*
- *Film and Sexual Politics;*
- *Film and Television Stardom;*
- *Images for a Generation Doomed: The Films and Career of Gregg Araki;*
- *Living in the Limelight: Dynamics of the Celebrity Experience;*
- *Mediated Deviance and Social Otherness: Interrogating Influential Representations;*
- *Queer Males in Contemporary Cinema: Becoming Visible;* and
- *Queer TV in the 21st Century: Essays on Broadcasting from Taboo to Acceptance.*

Hart is also the founding co-editor (with **Bruce Drushel**, Miami University) of the academic journal *Queer Studies in Media & Popular Culture*.

Previously, Professor Hart established and served as chair of the Department of Communication and

Media Studies at Plymouth State University in New Hampshire, where he was the first-ever recipient of the Plymouth State University Award for Distinguished Scholarship.

The Leroy F. Aarons Award is given by the LGBTQ Interest Group every two years for career achievement in education and research affecting the LGBTQ community. The recipient is not required to be an AEJMC member or be LGBTQ.

The award is named in honor of **LeRoy F. Aarons** (1933-2004), journalist, editor, author, playwright and founder of the National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association (NLGJA) and a founding member of the Raymond C. Maynard Institute for Journalism Education.

Past recipients of the Aarons Award have included, in alphabetical order, **Edward Alwood**, Quinnipiac University; **Fred Fejes**, Florida Atlantic University; **Loren Ghiglione**, Northwestern University; **Larry Gross**, University of Southern California; **Lisa Henderson**, University of Massachusetts-Amherst; **Rodger Streitmatter**, American University; and **Gust Yep**, California State University, San Francisco.

The award presentation will take place during the business meeting at 6:30 p.m., Friday, Aug. 9 (see the conference program for the exact room number).

"We will keep the LGBTQ Interest Group business meeting brief in order for those present to hear from Dr. Hart," said **Robby Byrd**, University of Memphis, serving as the head of the LGBTQ Interest Group.

"Please keep this time open when you're planning your conference," Byrd said. "I know there are many meetings going on at the same time, but we're doing a little more than selecting new officers this year and are pleased for a chance to honor Dr. Hart."



L.G.B.T.Q.
INTEREST GROUP
ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATION IN JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

Hi, I'm a grad student, I'm new here!

It's conference season at AEJMC and I'm sure you're experiencing excitement, fear and slight anxiety as you descend upon the Toronto streets.

While academic conferences can be all of those things, they are also places where you can completely geek out and talk to other academic nerds and industry professionals about the things you study. Academic conferences are also the places to help you refine your scholarly identity.

Throughout my time in grad school I've attended multiple conferences; the one thing that has been the most valuable lesson is recognizing that every conference will have unique qualities that make it special.

I hope everyone has a great conference. If this is your first time at AEJMC, welcome. If you're not new here, welcome back!

It is my hope for you that the people at AEJMC become your people. It is my hope you take advantage of the different learning opportunities whether formal at paper/poster sessions or informally at university hosted socials and receptions. It is my hope that by the end of the conference you leave inspired and motivated to pursue your research projects. It is my hope that you will appreciate and love AEJMC as much as I do. Have a great conference!

While I encourage you to get out there and do your own thing, here are some things that might help enhance your

conference experience:

- Make sure you've got that elevator chat down! Part of successfully navigating the academic conference is being able to effectively communicate who you are, where you go to school, what you study, your research interests and/or current projects you're working on.

- Connect via social media.

Upon registration make sure you've downloaded the conference app AND are following on your preferred social media platform. AEJMC has a great social media presence, another great opportunity for you to network.

- Be engaged. Whether you're an audience member in a presentation, a body in a seat at the business meeting or chatting with folks at a reception, it is important to show that you're interested in what's happening. It can mean you're asking questions or responding, but being present and engaged will make your conference experience one to remember.



ARYANA GOOLEY
Graduate Student Liaison

Digging into Canada's LGBTQ2+ history

Looking for a little nerdy excursion while you're in Toronto for AEJMC?

A trip to see the world's largest collection of LGBTQ2+ periodicals maybe? If that sounds like something you might be interested in, the History Division and the LGBTQ Interest Group would love to have you join us at The ArQuives: Canada's LGBTQ2+ Archives in Toronto.

The ArQuives was founded in 1973 to collect and preserve Canadian LGBTQ2+ history. Along with a rather extensive periodicals archive, The ArQuives also has more than 33,000 vertical files, photographs, posters, sound recordings, and artifacts—among other collections.



LGBTQ IG and History Division members are eligible for a special tour of The ArQuives beginning at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 7.

Those interested in attending plan to meet up in the lobby of the Sheraton Hotel at around 12:45 p.m. and walk over the archive, which is about 1.5 miles or a 30-minute walk. If you would rather not walk, there are other means to get to the archives (including a short Uber or subway ride).

The cost of the tour, which is open to all conference attendees, is \$10. There is still space available, so please register on or before June 28. To register, contact **Robby Byrd** at rdbyrd@memphis.edu.

'Corporate Pride'

Continued from page 1.

These scholars probably have way more insights into this issue than I. I'm looking forward to attending this one. Here are the details:

■ **Saturday, Aug. 10, 9:15 to 10:45 a.m. — LGBTQ Interest Group & Critical Studies Division Research Panel "Queerbaiting and Rainbow-Washing: Have Corporate Media Improved Representation or Co-Opted LGBTQ Communities?"**

Moderating/presiding over the session will be **Chelsea Reynolds**, California State University, Fullerton. Panelists include:

- **Erica Ciszek**, University of Texas at Austin
- **Minjie Li**, University of Tampa
- **Jade Metzger**, Wayne State University
- **Andrew Stoner**, California State University, Sacramento

In the spirit of this panel, and because I love memes, I've put together a little top five list for you all—eat your heart out BuzzFeed.

"Corporations during Pride" was trending the other day on Twitter. The memes were everything, so I grabbed a few to share with you. These all either made me laugh or made me feel seen.

5

Actor **Steve Buscemi** with a hint of *30 Rock* and all of the snark I'd hope for in a roasting meme. If this doesn't just sum it all up for us, I don't know what does.

Companies during Pride week



4

Because actor **Willem Dafoe** just looks like the quintessential villain, and who doesn't love **Tobey Maguire** as Spiderman?

Companies when pride month hits



3

SpongeBob SquarePants pulls no punches, just truth.



Sage Chamberlain @Sagechambes

Me: rainbow capitalism for pride month is bad :(

Also me: look! A rainbow!!



12:31 PM · 6/13/19 · Twitter for iPhone

2

Because at our house we have so much Pride gear and product. Easy money!



Cyberpunk 1981 @fwmj

Me: Companies using Pride to sell you rainbow printed or colored shit you don't need to further line their pockets is trash. Capitalism won't liberate us.

Also me: *Notify Me*



1

Because I think academics is all we have at this moment. You critique the hell out of something, but just can't get enough of it at the same time. I was two clicks away from buying these shoes myself, but no size 9!

Happy Pride! See you in Toronto!

Polley