

We must rethink academic expectations during the pandemic

This is my last newsletter introduction as Head of the LGBTQ Interest Group. As I reflect on the past year serving in this role, I'm feeling bummed.

Last summer, Dr. **Nathian Shae Rodriguez** and I were planning for New Orleans, hopeful that lockdowns and quarantines would be long behind us. We were excited to explore queer media together in *The Big Easy*. We discussed *Southern Decadence*, the arson at *The Upstairs Lounge*, and *Big Freedia's* role in post-Katrina bounce music.

Now, as I pass the baton to our incoming Head, Dr. **Minjie Li**, I lament our unmet goals – not just the intellectual losses, but the offsite connections that contribute to our Interest Group's strong social cohesion. I will miss seeing your faces at our research, teaching, and PF&R panels (detailed on pages 3-7). How I wish we could gather for beignets and Drag Queen Story Hour!

I want to focus on the silver lining: Another virtual conference offers safety, accessibility, and flexibility to our membership. Our Interest Group continues to produce ground-breaking scholarship on queer issues in mass communication. Importantly, the pandemic has illuminated funding disparities, childcare needs, and geographic challenges that divide AEJMC. All is not lost.

But as we've forfeited the interpersonal connections that define DIGs like ours and which are so crucial for historically marginalized scholars, we've also been asked to maintain productivity and document achievements as if 4.1 million preventable deaths hadn't happened. While COVID stole our routines and loved ones, the academic machine kept churning.

So if I'm being honest, I'm also a little pissed.

Let me leave you with the following thoughts:

RESIST

I want to encourage our Interest Group to rage against this "new normal." Consider how the cult of productivity has hampered your ability to process and grieve during the last 1.5 years. Consider how we, as a community of queer scholars, can theorize and practice an ethics of care in mass communication education.

Last month, as I submitted our 2020-2021 Annual Report (attached to this newsletter) to the Council of Divisions, Minjie and I set the following goal for LGBTQ Interest Group:

"During AY 2021-2022, we want to be realistic. We will continue to provide emotional and intellectual support for our members as they work toward tenure and promotion and navigate the academic job market. We will build programming for AEJMC 2022 that addresses the ethics and logics of neoliberalism in academia."

(continued to page 12)



CHELSEA REYNOLDS
Interest Group Head

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.

How are you doing?

How are you doing? We are more than half-way through 2021, seven months packed with vaccines, hope, and rushing back to normalcy. Along with the Delta Variant, there comes the collective burnout. If you feel restless during this summer, you are not alone.

That being said, it has been a great pleasure to serve as the Vice Head for the LGBTQ Interest Group and see the panels and off-site event that we have programmed coming into fruition gradually. A panel on transforming transgender journalism education? Check. A panel on Drag Story Hour and the First Amendment? Check. A panel on intersectional media representations of queers in the Deep South? Check. A panel on teaching cultural competencies in mass communication? Check. An actual Drag Story Hour off-site event? We got it covered.

We are ready to have these important conversations and experiences with you. On behalf of the LGBTQ Interest Group, I want to extend our gratitude to the Vice Heads and organizers that we have collaborated with to make these upcoming events happen: **Caitlin Carlson, Meg Heckman, Harrison Hove, Gwen Nisbett, Laura Castañeda, Karen Markin, Nathian Shae Rodriguez**, and many others. Check out our schedule in this newsletter to support these wonderful people by showing up and learning together.

Our leader and current IG Head **Chelsea Reynolds** will retire from her role after the 2021 convention. I will continue her unapologetic emphasis on self-care and challenging the paradigm of “achievement” so as to “build a healthier, more balanced AEJMC that understands the needs of its diverse membership.”

Sustainability and work-life balance should be the cornerstone for queer academics navigating their careers—especially for queer people of color and queer persons with disabilities who carry so much invisible labor or labor that is made invisible.

My future goals for the Interest Group evolve around visibility, space building, and reflection:

- First, I want to expand our collaboration with divisions and Interest groups across AEJMC and occupy the scholarly space where queer scholars are traditionally excluded. Of course, occupying space is not enough, which means we also need to proactively create new space for the emerging needs of our community and the field at large.
- Second, we aim to set up new mechanisms to further increase the visibility and citations of the scholarly work and professional enterprises that queer scholars and our members produce.
- Third, it's important for us to advocate graduate students through programs that provide mentorship for queer graduate students in terms research, academic/professional job market navigation, and well being.
- Fourth, most importantly, we need to reflect what really works (or not) and what success means in the context of living with the presence of COVID-19, racism, transphobia, ablism, homophobia, and many forms of discriminations inside and outside of academia.

As a queer person growing up in the late 90s and 2000s, I would like to end my newsletter entry by saying “#FreeBritney!” Best of luck to those who are bringing global attention to disability rights, reproductive rights, the abuse of conservatorship/guardianship, sexuality, gender embodiment, and the legal structure intersectionally.



MINJIE LI
Interest Group Vice Head



The LGBTQ Interest Group is proud to partner with the Electronic News Division, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Law & Policy Division, and the Entertainment Studies Interest Group for panels at the 2021 AEJMC convention.

LGBTQ Interest Group Conference Schedule at a Glance

The AEJMC 2021 conference will once again be online and the LGBTQ Interest Group has a full schedule of events slated. The conference schedule for the IG follows. All times listed are Central Daylight Time/Greenwich Mean Time.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 4, 2021

11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Law and Policy Division and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Interest Group

PF&R Panel Session
“*Librarians as Lawbreakers: Criminalization of Story Hours and Other Attempts to Restrict Library Materials and Services*”

Moderating/Presiding — **Karen Markin**,
University of Rhode Island

Panelists —

- **Vera Eidelman**, staff attorney, ACLU Speech, Privacy and Technology Project, Brooklyn, NY
- **Jonathan Hamilt**, executive director, Drag Queen Story Hour, New York City
- **Jason Shepard**, California State University, Fullerton
- **Kyla Garrett Wagner**, Syracuse University

~~~~~

1 to 2:30 p.m.  
Electronic News Division and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Interest Group

Teaching Panel Session  
“*Raising Awareness: Teaching Cultural Competencies, Diversity and Inclusion in the J-School Classroom*”

Moderating/Presiding — **Rachel Grant**,  
University of Florida



MARKIN



EIDELMAN



HAMILT



SHEPARD



GARRETT WAGNER



GRANT

(continued, next page)



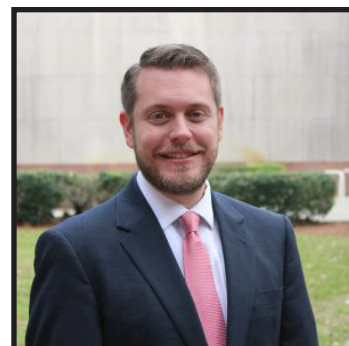
(continued from previous page)

Panelists —

- **Jesús Ayala**, *California State University, Fullerton*
- **Harrison Hove**, *University of Florida*
- **Shamarria Morrison**, *WPSD-TV, Paducah, Kentucky*
- **Aphrodite Salas**, *Concordia University*



AYALA



HOVE



MORRISON



SALAS

## THURSDAY, AUG. 5, 2021

9 to 10:30 a.m.  
LGBTQ IG Refereed Paper Session

Moderating/Presiding — **Andrew E. Stoner**,  
*California State University, Sacramento*

Presenting —  
*A Computational and Longitudinal Text Mining  
Study of Gay Marriage Legalization in Taiwan*

**Yowei Kang**, *National Taiwan Ocean  
University*  
**Kenneth C.C. Yang**, *University of Texas at El  
Paso*

*Framing Analysis of the Indian Media's  
Coverage of Section 377, Decriminalization  
of Same Sex Relationships*

**Newly Paul**, *University of North Texas*



STONER



KANG



YANG



PAUL

(continued, next page)

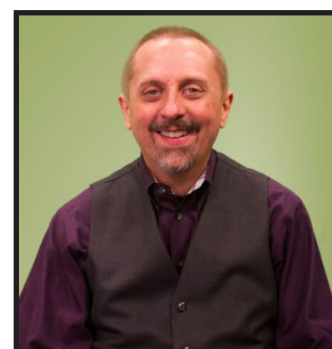
(continued from previous page)

*The Social Identities of Pete Buttigieg: How Twitter Addressed Counter-Stereotypical Attributes of a Presidential Candidate*

**Rhonda Gibson** and **Joe Bob Hester**,  
*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*



**GIBSON**



**HESTER**

Discussant — **Chelsea Reynolds**, *California State University, Fullerton*

~~~~~



REYNOLDS



HUEMMER

5 to 6:30 p.m.
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Entertainment Studies Interest Groups

Research Panel Session — Queering the Quarter: Intersectional Representations in Film, Television, & Streaming Shows

Moderating/Presiding —
Jennifer Huemmer, *Ithaca College*

Panelists —
Nathian Shae Rodriguez, *San Diego State University*

Mia L. Anderson, *Azusa Pacific University*
Gregory Adamo, *Morgan State University*
Joseph Sirianni, *Niagara University*
Beth Shiller, *Ohio University*



RODRIGUEZ



ANDERSON

(continued, next page)

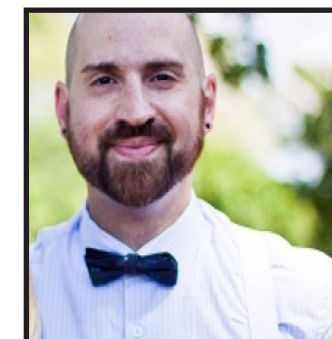
Congratulations to Dr. Li

Congratulations to Dr. **Minjie Li**, vice head of the LGBTQ Interest Group, for winning a first place award for the Advertising Division's Refereed Paper Session.

Li, an associate professor at the University of Tampa, was awarded for his paper, "*Blending Sex-Positivity and Racial Justice Advocacy in Black-Centric Health Advertising: Intersectional Health Communication Targeting High-Risk Black Cisgender Heterosexual and Black LGBTQ Populations Through a HIV Prevention Social Media Campaign.*"



ADAMO



SIRIANNI



SHILLER

THURSDAY, AUG. 5, 2021

(continued from previous page)

7 to 8:30 p.m. LGBTQ IG Top Paper Session

Moderating/Presiding — **Chelsea Reynolds**,
California State University, Fullerton

Presenting —
*Stigmatized Groups with Infectious Diseases:
Korean LGBTQ+s' Intersectional Stigma and Risk
Communication during COVID-19 Outbreaks**

Hyoyeun Jun, *Salve Regina University*
Victoria Ledford and **Jungkyu Rhys Lim**,
University of Maryland College Park

Investigating the Content of #U = U on Twitter

Joseph Schwartz, *Northeastern University*
Josh Grimm, *Louisiana State University*

*Snake in the Grass: Adapting Sex and Sexuality
from Journalistic Truth to the Silver Screen***

Patrick R. Johnson, *University of Iowa*

Discussant — **Tien T. Lee**, *Macau University*

* Top Faculty Paper
** Top Student Paper

(continued, next page)



JUN



LEDFORD



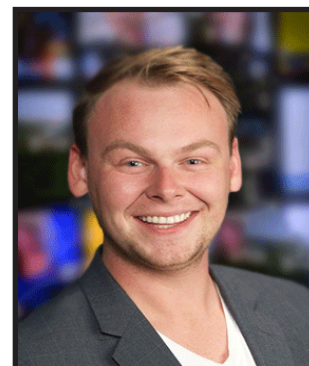
RHYS LIM



SCHWARTZ



GRIMM



JOHNSON



LEE



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

FRIDAY, AUG. 6, 2021

(continued from previous page)

5 to 6:30 p.m. Commission on the Status of Women and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Interest Group

Teaching Panel Session

Moderating/Presiding — **Laura Castañeda**,
University of Southern California-Annenberg

Presenting —
Newton Brophy, *Trans Journalists Association*

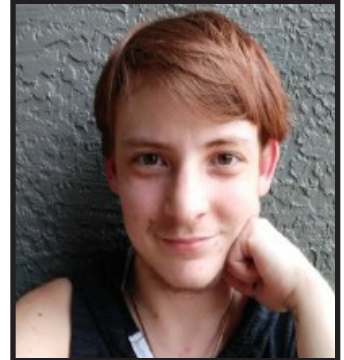
Chelsea Reynolds, *California State University-Fullerton*

T.J. Billard, *Northwestern University*

Tre'vell Anderson, *freelance journalist*



CASTANEDA



BROPHY



BILLARD



ANDERSON



Group Member's Meeting

via Zoom on Friday, July 30, at 1 p.m. CDT

Please use this AEJMC link to register.

You **MUST** register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvfu2orjwoGdyA3tzV7-LxcYSRkv8P-aU9>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

This meeting is the week before the AEJMC 2021 conference.

In search of those ‘Aha!’ moments

T rue confession: One year ago when AEJMC announced the annual conference would be “virtual” via Zoom, I was less than excited.

I’m not sure if it was just coming off the first of what would be three semesters of teaching online (decidedly, something I did not sign up for when I aspired to be a professor), or just the idea of staring at a screen on a summer day with no real interaction with others.

I stuffed my feelings of being bummed about a Zoom conference and dug in, and as has often been the case, surprised myself with how much I enjoyed the conference regardless of its method of delivery. I did what I normally do, scanned the big conference book AEJMC puts out, marking up presentations and papers from friends and colleagues, and especially highlighting ones from all the other scholars that piqued my research interest. As I’ve experienced five AEJMC conferences in the past, I was not disappointed.

The AEJMC annual conference, and those like it, are part of the rigor of being a scholar. They hopefully provide those “Aha!” moments where you hear another member of the academe state something, or analyze something in a way that truly stirs your mind. Reading journals can sometimes have this effect too. The point is being around other researchers, other teacher-scholars like yourself, is renewing and good for your mind and your heart.

As Research Chair of the LGBTQ Interest Group, my hope is that we have assembled panels that will similarly inspire or interest you. The topics are varied and provocative — as you might expect — and represent a wide range of experienced scholars and early-career scholars (including graduate students) who are on their way.

On the pages of this newsletter you’ll see our LGBTQ conference schedule detailed and I hope more than a few of them make your highlight list of “must see and hear” presentations.



ANDREW STONER
Research Chair

Wang named ‘Top Reviewer’

F or the first time, AEJMC encouraged each of the divisions and interest groups to recognize a “top reviewer” for the paper competitions sponsored across the annual conference.

For 2021, 19 total scholars participating in reviewing papers submitted to the LGBTQ Interest Group. From

those, the interest group awarded **Yidong “Steven” Wang**, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with the “Top Reviewer” award. Congratulations Steven!



Most of all, it is my hope that the annual conference once again recharges our batteries, excites and interests us about the work others are doing and provides those precious moments of pride when someone we know has a presentation that is a homerun.

So whether we’re “virtual” again in an online setting, or hopefully next year back together in person, the spirit and value of the topics explored is still there waiting to be consumed.

Fall semester will come soon enough – take a few days here in early August to charge that “scholar’s battery” and savor those “Aha!” moments.

AEJMC First Amendment Award for 2021 goes to Omar Jimenez

Omar Jimenez was named the winner of the AEJMC's First Amendment Award for 2021.

Jimenez currently works as a correspondent for CNN and was reporting for CNN's *New Day* program when he was arrested for covering the protests in Minnesota following the murder of **George Floyd**.

The incident occurred on May 29, 2020 as Jimenez was arrested by Minnesota state police while reporting live on the protests. Jimenez and his three-person news crew were arrested for failing to move back despite holding valid media credentials and agreeing to move where directed by the police. Jimenez and his crew were detained on-scene and at a local precinct before being released about an hour and a half later.

Jimenez has also reported on scene when riots occurred after the **Jacob Blake** shooting by police. Jimenez attended the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University where he was a broadcast journalism major. He also interned for CNN International in 2013 and the CNN Affiliate Content Center. He began his career in NBC News' Chicago bureau, and has worked at several other stations until landing at CNN on Aug. 7, 2017.

The First Amendment Award from AEJMC recognizes professionals with a strong commitment to freedom of the press, particularly those who practice courageous journalism. Created in 2006, the award is presented by the Professional Freedom & Responsibility Committee.

Former recipients have included **Nikole Hannah-Jones** in 2019, **Clarence Page** (2008), **Helen Thomas** (2007), and **Molly Ivins** (2006) (the very first recipient of the award). Organizations such as the First Amendment Center (2013) and Reporters Without Borders (2016) have also been honored with the award.



KAY COLLEY
PF&R Committee Chair



In this screen shot from May 29, 2020, CNN correspondent Omar Jimenez is arrested by Minnesota authorities while trying to report live on protests underway following the murder of George Floyd.

[Associated Press photo]

The ‘culture war’ reaches the classroom

A divisive culture war stoked by Florida Gov. **Ron DeSantis** (R) is encroaching on classrooms at the state’s public colleges and universities.

A new Florida law requires students be introduced to “diverse” ideas and perspectives, including ones they might disagree with. The new law will measure diversity of thought and intellectual freedom with annual surveys given to the university community, including academic personnel. Any institution that does not have an adequate amount of thought diversity could face budget cuts.

Many of my colleagues anxiously await the implementation of this law that went into effect on July 1. My institution, the University of Florida, has yet to offer faculty workshops on how to package mistruths, conspiracies, or veiled racism into classroom intellectual freedom exercises. In fact, the University of Florida administration has yet to officially communicate with faculty about the new state statute. So far, it is unclear what entity is designing this survey and if the survey is required or optional.

While the law might ultimately be symbolical in nature, attacks like this one chip away at the integrity of higher education in our state. Top-rated educators, including many on non-tenure tracks, are left feeling even more vulnerable knowing their at-will employment could be at stake.

Who stands to lose the most from this politically motivated law? I think we all know the answer: it is those educators willing to stand up for marginalized communities, acknowledging varying lived experiences (including their own), and articulate the existence of systemic racism or sexism.

One critical scholar recently shared her apprehensions with me, fearing an ability to achieve and advance in an increasingly politicized academic environment. It is a sad state of affairs, given the need to recruit and retain those very voices most often muted within the academe.

Florida law requires colleges/universities to survey for ‘intellectual freedom’ and ‘viewpoint diversity’

Florida Gov. **Ron DeSantis** has signed legislation that will require public universities and colleges to survey students, faculty and staff about their beliefs and viewpoints to support “intellectual diversity.”

The survey will discern “the extent to which competing ideas and perspectives are presented” in public universities and colleges, and seeks to find whether students, faculty and staff “feel free to express beliefs and viewpoints on campus and in the classroom,” according to the bill.

The measure, which went into effect July 1, does not specify what will be done with the survey results. But DeSantis and fellow Republican, State Sen. **Ray Rodrigues**, the sponsor of the bill, suggested that budget cuts could be looming if universities and colleges are found to be “indoctrinating” students.

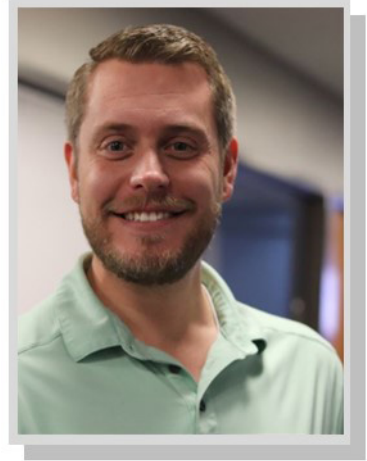
“It used to be thought that a university campus was a place where you’d be exposed to a lot of different ideas ... Unfortunately, now the norm is,

these are more intellectually repressive environments. You have orthodoxies that are promoted, and other viewpoints are shunned or even suppressed,” DeSantis said. “That’s not worth tax dollars and that’s not something that we’re going to be supporting moving forward.”

University faculty members have worried the new measure could create a chilling effect on their freedom of speech. Democratic lawmakers also have argued the bill might allow politicians to meddle in, monitor and regulate speech on campus in the future.

The University of Florida issued a statement that upheld the Gainesville-based school as a “marketplace of ideas where a wide variety of opinions are expressed and independent inquiry and vigorous academic deliberation are valued.”

“We believe the survey will reflect that, and we look forward to widespread participation across campus,” the statement said.



HARRISON HOVE
Teaching Chair

[Associated Press]

Disclosing an ‘invisible identity’

While we all are looking forward to getting past our dissertations and putting our lives in strange college towns behind us, exciting as it may be, entering the job market seems daunting. The anxiety of having to justify your scholarship, teaching style, and personal success is intimidating, and the additional fear of disclosing what can be an “invisible identity” only adds to the welling mix of emotions. Do Queer students and newly-minted scholars feel the need to disclose their identity while on the job market, or is it not a risk worth taking? I chatted with three friends with varying identities under the LGBTQ+ umbrella and at different stages in their academic careers to get their thoughts.

As a bi-sexual man in a long-term relationship with a woman, **Nathan Goodman** (he/they), an economist who studies “how different systems of rules shape social cooperation and conflict,” he chooses to disclose his identity “more with friends than with colleagues in general, though will occasionally mention it when it informs a substantive point.” However, when recently applying to jobs, Nathan’s decision to disclose his identity was dependent on “whether a job called for a diversity statement. I mention my identity in my diversity statement because I feel that my experiences as a Queer person help me relate to challenges that marginalized students may face.”

In contrast, a graduate student (she/they), who identifies as gay/ace, wishes to remain anonymous, and is studying LGBTQ+ identity, crisis communication and social media activism, as well as **Ava Francesca “AF” Battocchio** (they/them) whose research “explores the entanglement of civic infrastructure, information accessibility, and media ecology” and identifies as Queer, agree about disclosing their identities to find accepting academic communities; however, the manner and how often they disclose varies.

Anonymous shared, “I tend to not hide my identity but yet also not really disclose it until I find another LGBTQ person.” As such, she finds herself navigating “two worlds: straight and gay. My husband is transgender, so if I am in the ‘straight’ world I usually say husband and if I am in the ‘gay’ world I feel comfortable saying partner.” For interviews to enter academic spaces specifically, they admitted “that most of the time I actively try to appear as a cis het individual just to be “safe” until I [find] an LGBTQ+ or allied faculty member to talk to.”

For AF, coming out acts as a vetting process to make sure they feel comfortable entering that academic space. When applying to graduate school and jobs, AF puts their pronouns at the top of their CV because their research does not focus on Queer identity. As a non-binary Queer individual, they feel the need to disclose their identity to “avoid accidentally entering a space that is partaking in performative allyship and avoid the trauma of being misgendered.”

These three aspiring professors are paving the way for future academics and are doing their part to change culture by emphasizing representation and visibility in their own right. AF and Anonymous both touched on the need for more diversity in academia, and AF specifically pointed out the need to “normalize pronoun culture in introductions.”

Additionally, Nathan sees Queer mentorship as crucial to “spread[ing] knowledge about how people have successfully come out within professional academic spaces.” While each individual had a unique perspective, they all agree that academic institutions need to actively attempt to make spaces more open and accepting spaces for young Queer scholars.



LYRIC MANDELL
Graduate Student Outreach Chair



The Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) is a nonprofit, educational association of journalism and mass communication educators, students and media professionals. The AEJMC mission is to promote the highest possible standards for journalism and mass communication education, to cultivate the widest possible range of communication research, to encourage the implementation of a multi-cultural society in the classroom and curriculum, and to defend and maintain freedom of communication in an effort to achieve better professional practice and a better informed public.

Outgoing Head's parting words —

(continued from page 1)

That's our commitment to you as Interest Group leadership.

REST

I've been following @TheNapMinistry on Twitter for a year or two now, and would encourage you to do so too. The Black feminist activist behind the account preaches a ministry of rest as political resistance. The Nap Ministry teaches us how to push back against grind culture.

In order to tackle the pressing questions of queer media scholarship and survive cultural taxation in the academy, we must prioritize adequate sleep and time away from work. Rest isn't just a privilege; it's our right.

Friends and colleagues have also recommended **Jenny Odell's** new book, *"How To Do Nothing: Resisting the Attention Economy,"* although I haven't had time to read it yet (ack!).

REASSESS

If you have institutional power, evaluate how assessment practices must be revised at your university

and college to reflect the collective trauma experienced during COVID-19.

Minjie and I emphasized the following in our Annual Report:

"Most importantly, until COVID-19 is clearly in the rearview mirror — globally, not just for Western scholars — we reject the paradigm of 'achievement' used to structure this Annual Report. We will do the best to survive another year, show resilience and grace to our colleagues and students, and build a healthier, more balanced AEJMC that understands the needs of its diverse membership."

Our Interest Group will review its Mission Statement at this year's Business Meeting (Friday, July 30 at 1 p.m. Central). Get ready to re-think our role at AEJMC during that session.

It has been a pleasure serving as your Head this year. I want to thank our awesome chairs, **Minjie Li, Andrew Stoner, Harrison Hove, Kay Colley, and Lyric Mandell.** The future is bright for AEJMC's LGBTQ Interest Group.

In solidarity,

— Chelsea Reynolds, IG Head

Connections are key for queer students

Given the discrimination, mental distress and isolation and many other challenges faced by queer students during the pandemic, it is important to reflect on what queer theory and disability justice have to contribute to our awareness of the importance of staying connected for queer students.

Challenges for queer students

Measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have serious potential to adversely affect queer people's well-being and health. A study of how social distancing might affect gay, bisexual, queer, trans and two-spirit men in Canada notes that given that social support from friends, family and partners is a known protective factor against negative mental health outcomes among queer people, "social distancing may exacerbate negative mental health consequences."

Some queer students no longer have access to queer-friendly resources and social networks that the university campus once provided. Many found refuge in academic spaces, like student clubs and research groups and felt relief from newfound independence from family. In-person Pride events are also cancelled and events have gone digital.

Unfortunately, the pandemic's public health response might mean returning to family environments where being "out" is not possible or safe.

Chosen families

Queer people have a history of combating our unique challenges by re-imagining who is responsible for caring for one another. For example, queer people have learned to build and rely on "chosen families," ties composed of

members outside of a person's biological and legal relationships, developed to survive amidst heteronormative societies.

Queer people often have to "code switch" — change how we present ourselves and hide parts of our authentic selves — when sharing space with others in everyday life to pass as straight (or at least, "less gay"), including online socials and family obligations during the pandemic.

In addition, queer people encounter oppression and must find ways to build solidarity. Disability justice also teaches us the value of interdependence, reminding us that no-one can make it on their own.

Finding ways of staying connected

Queer students and faculty members can find inspiration from what disability justice activist and performance artist **Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha** refers to as "care webs," described as "a movement that centers the lives and leadership of sick and disabled queer, trans, Black, and brown people, with knowledge and gifts for all." From a disability justice perspective, being aware of our interconnections means seeking empowering and grassroots ways to care for each other and form communities. We reach out to those who we may not know as well to foster a connection and ensure they are OK.

Queer adaptation to thrive

We're also mindful that some queer people lack access to networks and support relevant to flourishing in their lives. As universities and existing queer networks

Continued to page 14



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

2020-21 INTEREST GROUP OFFICERS

Head

CHELSEA REYNOLDS, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

Department of Communications
California State University, Fullerton

chreynolds@fullerton.edu

Vice Head & Webmaster

MINJIE LI, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

Department of Communication
University of Tampa

mli@ut.edu

Research Chair & Newsletter Editor

ANDREW E. STONER, Ph.D.,

Associate Professor

Department of Communication Studies
California State University, Sacramento

andrew.stoner@csus.edu

PF&R Chair

KAY COLLEY, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Dept. Chair

Department of Mass Communication
Texas Wesleyan University

kcolley@txwes.edu

Teaching Chair

HARRISON HOVE, M.A.

Lecturer

College of Journalism & Communication
University of Florida

hchove@ufl.edu

Graduate Student Liaison

LYRIC MANDELL, Ph.D. Student

Manship School of Mass Communication
Louisiana State University

lmande4@lsu.edu

News

Briefs

Key panels highlighted

The AEJMC Board of Directors seeks to highlight two key conference sessions for the upcoming 104th AEJMC Annual Conference. Each of the sessions below are listed for Central Daylight Time/Greenwich Mean Time.

- **CORNERSTONE PANEL** – *Pandemic Conditions and Silenced Voices across Research Arenas* slated for 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 5, 2021.
- **PRESIDENTIAL PANEL** – *Does 'Mass Communication' Still Make Sense (or Did It Ever Make Sense) as an Academic Discipline?* scheduled for 5 to 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 5, 2021.

Electing new IG officers

At the Interest Group meeting coming up on July 30, new officers for 2021-22 will be elected. Candidates are needed for Research Chair and Teaching Chair. Declared candidates are in place for the other positions. The meeting will take place via zoom at 1 p.m. CDT (see information on page 7.)

Updates for IG members

- Congratulations to our IG Head, Dr. **Chelsea Reynolds**, and our former IG Head, Dr. **Nathian Shae Rodriguez**, who were all recently granted tenure. Reynolds is an associate professor at California State University, Fullerton and Rodriguez is an associate professor at San Diego State University.
- Congratulations to our Teaching Chair, **Harrison Hove**, named the 2020-21 Teacher of the Year at the University of Florida. Hove was also named Teacher of the Year for the UF College of Journalism and Communications, and received a UF Superior Accomplishment Award and UF Center for Teaching Excellence Rising Star Award.
- Our IG Vice Head, Dr. **Minjie Li**, was recently awarded for Outstanding Faculty Achievement in Scholarship or Creative Work by the College of Arts & Letters at the University of Tampa.
- Do you have news or information to share with Interest Group members? Feel free to share those updates for our next newsletter. You can email updates to: Andrew.Stoner@csus.edu

Queer student connections —

Continued from page 12

look ahead at supporting queer students, it is essential that communities of queer people and allies make space for marginalized voices and narratives to be a part of discussions about student health and wellness outcomes, support and the pandemic.

We need to consider those who may be more affected by systemic risks and inequalities, including those without class privilege, Black and racialized queer people and queer people with chronic health conditions.

For generations, queer people have demonstrated their adaptability to navigate life outside the status quo,

finding and supporting each other. Our creative and queer ways of fostering resiliency are not impermeable to discriminatory social conditions.

We will continue, to the best of our abilities, this legacy of queer adaptation to thrive amidst adversity. Finding ways to creatively bolster and expand our networks of care has never been as important as it is now.

— Written by *David J. Kinitz*, Ph.D. candidate, Social and Behavioral Health Sciences, University of Toronto and *Alan Santinele Martino*, instructor, Disability Studies, Carleton University



#AEJMC21

Law & Policy Division and LGBTQ Interest Group Present

Drag Story Hour

with Harmonica Sunbeam

Wed., August 4 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. CDT at #AEJMC21

* See AEJMC conference program for details
Photo Credits: theharmonicasunbeam.com

Demystifying Academic Speaker Fees: Setting Rates as Underrepresented Scholars



Conversation Starts
Monday, August 2
9am PST / 11am CST / 12pm EST

Pre-Conference Round Table Discussion Co-Sponsored by

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATION IN JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION (AEJMC)



News Engagement Day coming up on Oct. 5

News Engagement day occurs on Tuesday, Oct. 5 – an annual observation set aside to read, watch, like, tweet, post, listen to, or comment on news, and learn news reporting principles.

After first proposing News Engagement Day in her book, *Millennials, News, and Social Media: Is News Engagement a Thing of the Past?*, **Paula Poindexter**, a journalism professor at the University of Texas at Austin, developed the idea of an annual day devoted to engaging with news and revitalizing the importance of being informed.

On News Engagement Day, people of all ages across the globe are encouraged to read, watch, listen to, and discuss news as well as share News Engagement Day activities using #newsengagementday. It is also hoped that journalists and journalism educators will use News Engagement Day to help educate everyone about journalism's purpose and principles in a democratic society.

News Engagement Day is always the first Tuesday in October, a day that was selected with the hope that it would inspire the public to follow the news and get informed before November elections.

How to Participate

- Everyone is encouraged to engage with the news and participate in discussions through social media on News Engagement Day using #newsengagementday.
- Classrooms and news organizations around the world are encouraged to plan special events ranging from guest speakers to exhibits.
- Journalists and communications professionals are encouraged to visit with students to

NEWS

Engagement Day

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2021

discuss their work and many professors and teachers plan class projects that promote engagement in creative ways.

News Engagement Day is a program of the AEJMC. The mission of AEJMC is to promote the highest standards in journalism and communication education and to defend freedom of communication for better professional practice and a better informed public.