Subject Line:  
ICA Mass Communication Division: "All Things Media" newsletter, November 2023

Dear ICA Mass Communication Members,

This is the "All Things Media" newsletter for November 2023.

The news of this month can all be found below:

1. Reminder of MCD member survey
2. Introductory message from our new SEC Representative, Femke Konings
3. Message from Mark Boukes, Vice-Chair and Division Planner for the 2024 conference
4. Grant highlights of our members

Feel free to always contact me with any news you’d like me to share in the next newsletter. Please don’t hesitate—we are excited to know about calls for papers/book chapters/etc., calls for nominations/applications for awards, and much more! If you have any news to be included in the upcoming newsletter, please email me at isabelle.freiling@utah.edu.

Isabelle Freiling

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(1) Reminder of MCD member survey

Dear MCD Members,

If you have not yet filled out our short survey (3-5 minutes) to help us better understand the identity, needs, and vision of our membership, please do so. We will use the results from this survey to help us better align the MCD’s priorities with our current and future objectives, as well as solidify the significant role of the Division within ICA. Thanks to all who have already responded to the survey!

Link to survey: https://templeklein.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8cEmXw0mwbK4V4a

Your MCD officers, Dana Mastro (Chair), Mark Boukes (Vice Chair), Isabelle Freiling (Secretary), and Meghnaa Tallapragada (International Liaison)

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(2) Introductory message from our new SEC Representative, Femke Konings

Dear Members of the Mass Communication Division,
My name is Femke Konings, a Ph.D. candidate from the KU Leuven School of Mass Communication Research in Belgium. My research centers around the digitization of romantic relationships and the well-being of young adults. In 2022, I had the pleasure of attending my first in-person ICA conference in Paris, where I was deeply impressed by the warmth and inclusivity of the Mass Communication division. As an early career scholar, this experience gave me a strong sense of belonging within the wider research community. I am thrilled to follow in the footsteps of Isabelle Freiling as I take on the role of representing students and early career scholars (SECs) within the Mass Communication division.

During my tenure as the Student-and Early Career Representative, my aim is to contribute to the ongoing growth of an inviting academic environment, one where emerging scholars are welcomed, supported, and empowered as they pursue their academic ambitions. To further promote our sense of community and connection beyond the annual conferences, I'm excited to propose the initiation of a series of "SECs in the Spotlight" interviews. In these interviews, SEC scholars will have the opportunity to introduce themselves and share insights into their research. These interviews will be featured in this newsletter.

I encourage you to reach out to me with any thoughts, questions, or ideas you'd like to bring up within the division. Your input is valuable, and I'm here to facilitate a vibrant and inclusive environment for all.

Best regards,
Femke Konings

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(3) Message from Mark Boukes, Vice-Chair and Division Planner for the 2024 conference

Thanks to all those who signed up for reviewing! I am very pleased to see the turnout. This really shows the strength of us as a division. Reviewer assignment is well under way now, and with the current number of reviewers I was able to assign 3 papers maximally to each reviewer for our division (if you signed up for other divisions, you might also receive review assignments from there). Reviewing assignments become public on 8-9 November and you have until 3 December to complete them. Thanks a lot for all the engagement and support.

Best wishes,
Mark

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(4) Grant highlights of our members

Please find two grant highlights of our members below.

(A) Lara Zwarun (University of Missouri - St. Louis) and Richard N. Canevez (Michigan Technical University) received a 2023-2024 Waterhouse Family Institute grant for their project on the Commodification of Religious Iconography as Resistance in Saint Javelin (Award: $6,625). The project is about the use of memes as resistance in
Russia’s war on Ukraine, with a particular focus on Saint Javelin, a non-profit whose merch combines religious iconography with modern day weaponry, and how their images are processed, particularly by the Ukrainian diaspora.

For more information: https://www1.villanova.edu/university/liberal-arts-sciences/scholarship/centers/waterhouse/grants-outreach.html

(B) A new, $1.5 million research grant from the John Templeton Foundation, led by UW-Madison LSC professors and Morgridge Research Institute Investigators Dietram Scheufele and Dominique Brossard, will study more effective ways of facilitating cooperation and compromise across diverse societal stakeholders, especially in the context of controversial science. “AI or human genome editing are scientific breakthroughs that will exacerbate value-based disagreements about science and technology in the U.S.,” says principal investigator Dietram Scheufele, “and this project lays the social scientific foundation for a meaningful and sustained infrastructure for overdue societal conversations.”

For more information: https://lsc.wisc.edu/2023/10/05/lsc-faculty-awarded-1-5-million-to-bridge-science-society-divides/

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